

1 Introduced by Council Member Ferraro and Co-Sponsored by Council
2 Members Newby, Diamond, Howland, Becton & Morgan:

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5 **RESOLUTION 2022-523-A**

6 A RESOLUTION HONORING AND COMMENDING UNIVERSITY
7 OF NORTH FLORIDA STUDENT MORGAN RAY ON WINNING
8 A SILVER MEDAL IN THE MEN'S 100-METER
9 BREASTSTROKE IN THE 2022 WORLD PARA SWIMMING
10 CHAMPIONSHIPS IN PORTUGAL; PROVIDING AN
11 EFFECTIVE DATE.

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13 **WHEREAS**, Morgan Ray, a St. Johns County native, graduated from
14 Bartram Trail High School and is currently a rising sophomore at the
15 University of North Florida (UNF); and

16 **WHEREAS**, shortly after his birth, Mr. Ray was diagnosed with
17 achondroplasia, a genetic condition that affects the development of
18 bone tissue and is the most frequent form of dwarfism, which caused
19 him to stop growing at the age of 6; and

20 **WHEREAS**, Morgan Ray has spent most of his life swimming
21 competitively, first in the River City Swim League, then on the
22 Bartram Trail swim team, and subsequently training with coach Cameron
23 Bendetsen and the Bolles Sharks swim team as UNF does not sponsor a
24 men's swimming team; and

25 **WHEREAS**, inspired by a meeting with Gainesville, Florida native
26 Miranda Uhl, another swimmer with achondroplasia who won a gold medal
27 in the women's 200 individual medley during the 2008 Paralympics in
28 Beijing, Mr. Ray has trained intensively for years with the goal of
29 being a medal contender at the Paralympics and other international
30 competitions; and

31 **WHEREAS**, Morgan Ray made his national-level breakthrough at the

1 Paralympic Canadian-American Open Swimming Championships in December
2 2017 in Charlotte, winning four gold medals and shortly thereafter
3 qualifying for USA Swimming's national team; and

4 **WHEREAS**, after missing out on his goal of Paralympic competition
5 in 2020 in Tokyo with the cancellation of the event due to the COVID
6 pandemic, Mr. Ray qualified for the recent World Para Swimming
7 Championships on the island of Madeira, Portugal and brought home a
8 silver medal in the men's 100-meter breaststroke from the competition;
9 now therefore

10 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the Council of the City of Jacksonville:

11 **Section 1.** The City Council hereby honors and congratulates
12 UNF rising sophomore Morgan Ray on his recent silver medal performance
13 at the World Para Swimming Championships and commends him on his
14 perseverance and determination to overcome obstacles and become a
15 world-class athlete. His example is an inspiration to all manner of
16 aspiring athletes, and the Council extends its best wishes to Mr. Ray
17 for much success in his future academic and athletic endeavors.

18 **Section 2. Effective Date.** This Resolution shall become
19 effective upon signature by the Mayor or upon becoming effective
20 without the Mayor's signature.

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23 Form Approved:

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26 /s/ Mary E. Staffopoulos

27 Office of General Counsel

28 Legislation Prepared By: Jeff Clements, City Council Research

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