

1 Introduced by Council Member White and Co-Sponsored by Council Members
2 Salem, Howland, Freeman, Becton, Ferraro & Morgan:

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5 **RESOLUTION 2022-659-A**

6 A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING AND THANKING BATTALION
7 CHIEF DARIN HOOTEN OF THE JACKSONVILLE FIRE AND
8 RESCUE DEPARTMENT FOR HIS EXTRAORDINARY
9 CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE DEPARTMENT'S ACHIEVEMENT OF
10 A CLASS 1 RATING BY THE INSURANCE SERVICES
11 OFFICE (ISO); PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

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13 **WHEREAS**, the Insurance Services Office (ISO) is a company that
14 inspects and rates fire departments in a number of areas (including
15 fire suppression capacity, water supply availability, and management
16 of fire alarm calls based on criteria set by the ISO) and assigns
17 ratings from Class 10 to Class 1 designating the least to most
18 effective firefighting capability; and

19 **WHEREAS**, ISO ratings are universally recognized as the standard
20 by which fire departments are judged and are used by the insurance
21 industry to establish premiums for property insurance coverage based
22 on the degree of protection from loss that each class represents; and

23 **WHEREAS**, Jacksonville has been steadily working toward the goal
24 of achieving a Class 1 rating citywide through the strategies such
25 as the construction of new fire stations in areas with long response
26 times, adding additional personnel and equipment, extending water
27 lines, and the like. After years of improvements the Fire and Rescue
28 Department requested a re-rating by the ISO to determine the success
29 of those efforts; and

30 **WHEREAS**, Battalion Chief Darin Hooten was assigned as the lead
31 of the ISO Re-rate project for over 18 months, during which he worked

1 tirelessly: coordinating the massive project to collect, organize and
2 verify the reams of documentation of policies, procedures, equipment,
3 plans, mutual assistance agreements, and other factors that drive the
4 ISO ratings; and

5 **WHEREAS**, Chief Hooten worked with representatives from JEA, the
6 Beaches cities, Town of Baldwin, and two private utility companies
7 on the Westside to inspect, make repairs, and conduct flow tests on
8 thousands of fire hydrants. He also coordinated with private
9 corporations (CMC Steel, Montgomery Correctional, Winn Dixie, Cecil
10 Airport, FANG, etc.) to ensure access to their facility water sources.
11 ISO requested hundreds of on-site flow tests for the inspection and
12 the preparations paid off in the form of a high rating in this
13 category; and

14 **WHEREAS**, with regard to equipment, Chief Hooten was able to
15 identify any equipment/hose weaknesses and remedy the issue by
16 purchasing equipment that met the requirements or amend the way the
17 department deployed some equipment. As an example of the extent of
18 the preparations needed for the re-rating, Chief Hooten tasked JFRD's
19 Tactical Support with pump testing engines and tankers and the ladder
20 trucks require a non-destructive aerial test. On the inspection day,
21 ISO asked to see the testing documents for approximately 50 units and
22 JFRD received full credit in this area; and

23 **WHEREAS**, the ISO inspection included an evaluation of building
24 inspections completed by the Fire Prevention division. This was an
25 extremely difficult task due to COVID restrictions imposed, however,
26 under the direction of Chief Hooten, Fire Prevention completed
27 inspections when they were able and documented when they were not
28 able. Hundreds of inspections were shown to ISO during the inspection.
29 In addition, Chief Hooten ensured JFRD had loaded fire pre-plans,
30 alternate water sources, calls in progress, and multiple other
31 information sources on the mobile dispatch terminals (laptops) in the

1 units to demonstrate to ISO the JFRD's information sources to ensure
2 the most efficient response to structure fires; and

3 **WHEREAS**, Chief Hooten was also responsible for countless other
4 tasks, including coordinating the documentation of Automatic Aid
5 agreements with fire departments in adjoining jurisdictions,
6 documenting completed training by JFRD personnel, ensuring the
7 updating of standard operating procedures, and many other facets of
8 the re-rating process; and

9 **WHEREAS**, the massive team effort headed by Chief Hooten paid off
10 when the ISO assigned JFRD a Class 1 rating, making it the largest
11 Class 1 rated fire department in the country, which is estimated to
12 save property owners over \$240 million in insurance premiums because
13 of the quality of protection provided by the department; now therefore

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

15 **Section 1.** The City Council hereby recognizes and thanks
16 JFRD Battalion Chief Darin Hooten for his extraordinary contributions
17 over the last 2 years to the ISO re-rating process which resulted in
18 such a successful outcome. His dedication, attention to detail, and
19 tireless coordination efforts achieved an outstanding outcome for the
20 department and the city, and the City Council and the citizens of
21 Jacksonville are extremely appreciative of his efforts.

22 **Section 2. Effective Date.** This Resolution shall become
23 effective upon signature by the Mayor or upon becoming effective
24 without the Mayor's signature.

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26 Form Approved:

27
28 /s/ Mary E. Staffopoulos

29 Office of General Counsel

30 Legislation Prepared By: Jeff Clements, City Council Research

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