

1 Introduced by Council Members Schellenberg and Co-Sponsored by
2 Council Members Becton, Crescimbeni, Hazouri, Morgan, Anderson,
3 Pittman, Boyer and R. Gaffney:
4

5 **RESOLUTION 2019-417**

6 A RESOLUTION MOURNING THE PASSING AND
7 CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF GEORGE H. HODGES, JR. ;
8 PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.
9

10 **WHEREAS**, George H. Hodges, Jr. graduated from The Bolles
11 School, earned his bachelor's degree at Jacksonville University,
12 and learned the practical aspects of engineering and construction
13 while working under the tutelage of his father, George Sr., and Mr.
14 Alexander Brest at the company they founded, Duval Engineering &
15 Contracting; and

16 **WHEREAS**, following his father's death in 1975, Mr. Hodges took
17 over sole management of some 15,000 acres of undeveloped land on
18 the south side of Jacksonville. As a part of this management role,
19 he finalized his family's donation of rights-of-way for portions of
20 J. Turner Butler and Hodges Boulevards, and he envisioned and
21 orchestrated the design, permitting, construction and dedication to
22 the public of Abess and Ashley Melisse Boulevards, Matthew Ungar
23 Drive and the majority of Kernan Boulevard, all at no cost to the
24 City; and

25 **WHEREAS**, Mr. Hodges oversaw the master planning and orderly
26 sale of more than 9,000 acres of property between St. Johns Bluff
27 and San Pablo Roads from north of Butler Boulevard to Hidden Hills
28 Country Club while, at the same time, shepherding the sale and
29 development of his family's property along the north side of Butler

1 Boulevard, including the daily management of Glen Kernan Golf &
2 Country Club; and

3 **WHEREAS**, Mr. Hodges was widely known for his blue-collar work
4 ethic, often working more than twelve hours per day and commonly
5 found running heavy equipment on the property he owned or managed;
6 and

7 **WHEREAS**, recognizing the importance of protecting our natural
8 resources, Mr. Hodges established a preservation corridor along the
9 majority of Cedar Swamp Creek from the east side of Craig Field to
10 Beach Boulevard and ensured via conservation easements with the
11 City and State that nearly 3,000 acres lying south of Butler
12 Boulevard will remain largely undeveloped green space; and

13 **WHEREAS**, his support of public safety was evidenced in part by
14 his donation of the land and construction of the access road for
15 the Jacksonville Beach Fraternal Order of Police lodge and firearms
16 training range and his principal role in the donation of land for
17 the original Fire Station 50 location on Beach Boulevard; and

18 **WHEREAS**, through the years, Mr. Hodges and his wife Kernan
19 continued the family's philanthropic support of numerous benevolent
20 and educational organizations, including among others, Mayo Clinic,
21 Jacksonville University and the University of North Florida, The
22 Bolles School, Children's Home Society and Hodges Boulevard
23 Presbyterian Church, and in 2016 they were named to the University
24 of North Florida Athletics Department's Hall of Fame for their
25 contribution and development of the Hodges Track & Field Stadium
26 and the Browning Rehab Center located at the stadium; and

27 **WHEREAS**, the City of Jacksonville mourns the loss of George
28 Hodges, Jr., a lifetime Jacksonville resident, real estate
29 investor/developer and philanthropist, and honors his great impact
30 on the foundation of Jacksonville; now therefore

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

1 **Section 1.** The City of Jacksonville mourns the passing
2 and celebrates the life and countless achievements of George H.
3 Hodges, Jr., and extends deepest condolences to his family and many
4 friends. The City of Jacksonville has been immeasurably shaped by
5 the vision and generosity of Mr. Hodges and his family, and his
6 contributions will be long and greatly remembered.

7 **Section 2. Effective Date.** This Resolution shall become
8 effective upon signature by the Mayor or upon becoming effective
9 without the Mayor's signature.

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11 Form Approved:

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13 /s/ *Margaret M. Sidman*

14 Office of General Counsel

15 Legislation Prepared By: Richard Distel, City Council Research

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