

1 Introduced by Council Member Amaro and Co-Sponsored by Council Members  
2 Salem, Peluso, Miller, Boylan, Howland and Johnson:

3  
4 **RESOLUTION 2026-409-A**

5 A RESOLUTION HONORING AND COMMENDING TIM COST  
6 FOR HIS SERVICE AS PRESIDENT OF JACKSONVILLE  
7 UNIVERSITY AND CONGRATULATING HIM ON HIS NEW  
8 ROLE AS CHANCELLOR OF JACKSONVILLE UNIVERSITY;  
9 PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

10  
11 **WHEREAS**, Tim Cost has served as president of Jacksonville  
12 University since 2013, becoming the first alumnus to lead the  
13 University, guiding it through an era of transformation and growth;  
14 and

15 **WHEREAS**, during his tenure, President Cost led Jacksonville  
16 University through significant expansion, growing the institution  
17 from three colleges, five schools, and two institutes, to five  
18 colleges, nine schools, and three institutes, along with the  
19 introduction of new, in-demand major fields of study including speech  
20 language pathology, clinical mental health counseling, occupational  
21 therapy, accelerated nursing, business analytics, engineering, law,  
22 data science, AI, cybersecurity, and robotics; and

23 **WHEREAS**, in 2022, President Cost oversaw the establishment and  
24 launch of the Jacksonville University College of Law, which expanded  
25 access to legal education and the development of the legal workforce  
26 in Northeast Florida, and whose first graduating class achieved the  
27 second-highest bar passage rate in the state; and

28 **WHEREAS**, President Cost advanced a partnership with Lake Erie  
29 College of Osteopathic Medicine to create the region's first four-  
30 year medical school, scheduled to open in the fall of 2026; and

31 **WHEREAS**, under President Cost's leadership, Jacksonville

1 University strengthened its financial standing and philanthropic  
2 support by increasing the endowment by more than 50 percent, leading  
3 the investment of \$100 million into the University's campus,  
4 completing the ASPIRE campaign that raised more than \$120 million,  
5 launching the Florida EPIC program to support STEAM education,  
6 regional economic investment and job creation, and spearheading the  
7 University's historic \$175 million "Future. Made." comprehensive  
8 campaign; and

9 **WHEREAS**, since Tim Cost became President of Jacksonville  
10 University, the University has consistently ranked as a premier  
11 institution for students' return on investment and outcomes, with the  
12 University being selected as one of America's Best Colleges by US  
13 News and World Report and named one of the top 500 universities in  
14 the country by Forbes; and

15 **WHEREAS**, after 14 years of distinguished service as President  
16 of Jacksonville University, Tim Cost will transition to serve as  
17 Chancellor of Jacksonville University, where he will focus on  
18 partnerships, fundraising, alumni, community, and government  
19 relations, to advance the University's mission; now therefore

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

21 **Section 1.** The City Council hereby honors and commends Tim  
22 Cost for his exemplary and invaluable leadership as President of  
23 Jacksonville University and his lasting contributions to the City.  
24 The City Council congratulates Mr. Cost on his appointment as  
25 Chancellor to Jacksonville University and offers its best wishes for  
26 his success in this new role.

27 **Section 2. Effective Date.** This Resolution shall become  
28 effective upon signature by the Mayor or upon becoming effective  
29 without the Mayor's signature.

1 Form Approved:

2

3 /s/ Mary E. Staffopoulos

4 Office of General Counsel

5 Legislation Prepared By: Brandon Russell, City Council Research

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