

1 Council offers the following Substitute to File Number 2021-566:

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3 Introduced by Council Members Carlucci and DeFoor and Co-Sponsored
4 by Council Member Morgan:

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7 **RESOLUTION 2021-566**

8 A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING AND SUPPORTING A
9 COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH TO RIVERFRONT PARK
10 DEVELOPMENT ON PUBLICLY OWNED LAND IN DOWNTOWN
11 JACKSONVILLE; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

12
13 **WHEREAS**, for the first time in Downtown Jacksonville's history,
14 more than 75 acres of downtown riverfront land is publicly owned,
15 creating an unprecedented opportunity to improve and invest in the
16 quality of life for all Jacksonville citizens; and

17 **WHEREAS**, the Downtown Investment Authority ("DIA") has engaged
18 in a comprehensive approach to planning the redevelopment of the
19 downtown riverfront with a goal of creating a world class network of
20 riverfront active parks and green spaces activated by restaurants,
21 entertainment venues and attractions; and

22 **WHEREAS**, the DIA has recently adopted Resolution 2021-12-03
23 directing inclusion of this park network in its updated BID Plan to
24 be presented to Council for approval in early 2022; and

25 **WHEREAS**, this network of riverfront parks represents an
26 opportunity to spotlight and leverage Jacksonville's greatest
27 natural asset – the majestic St. Johns River – and to re-establish
28 the downtown riverfront as the heartbeat of Jacksonville, both
29 socially and economically to drive job creation; and

30 **WHEREAS**, with over ninety percent of all land along the St.
31 Johns River currently held by private landowners, we recognize the

1 need to create a riverfront for all by connecting the Northbank
2 riverfront - from the Riverside Arts Market and surrounding museums
3 to Metropolitan Park - with the Southbank riverfront - from the Fuller
4 Warren Bridge to River's Edge (formerly The District) - for the
5 purpose of bringing together citizens across Jacksonville and
6 simultaneously enhancing future investment of commercial property and
7 public infrastructure; and

8 **WHEREAS**, to be mindful of both sustainability and resiliency
9 pertaining to design concepts involving Downtown Jacksonville's
10 riverfront, the Council also strongly recommends careful
11 consideration of stormwater management and environmentally sensitive
12 solutions; and

13 **WHEREAS**, the DIA continues to stand at the forefront of downtown
14 riverfront improvement and has facilitated extensive study and
15 concepts for multiple sections of the St. Johns River frontage, and
16 the Council supports its efforts to realize a fully comprehensive and
17 inclusive approach to the integration of park space to benefit
18 downtown businesses and the Jacksonville community at large; and

19 **WHEREAS**, an inclusive and collaborative process best supports
20 efforts to develop a shared vision for riverfront park development,
21 the Council supports efforts to achieve equitable outcomes and much-
22 needed public access to Jacksonville's American Heritage river, in
23 order to enhance and enrich Downtown Jacksonville's overall vibrancy,
24 economic vitality, and natural resiliency; now therefore

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

26 **Section 1.** This resolution expresses the will of the City
27 Council to recognize and endorse a comprehensive approach to planning
28 Jacksonville's downtown riverfront parks development, and as such,
29 to support the efforts of key stakeholders under the leadership of
30 the DIA and the City of Jacksonville's Parks, Recreation and Community
31 Services Department, and a shared commitment to fostering citizen

1 involvement and consensus-building.

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

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6 Form Approved:

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8 /s/ Paige H. Johnston

9 Office of General Counsel

10 Legislation Prepared By: Jeff Clements, City Council Research

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