

1 Introduced by Council Member DeFoor:
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4 **RESOLUTION 2022-335**

5 A RESOLUTION HONORING AND COMMENDING THE DUVAL
6 SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT BOARD ON
7 THEIR WORK AND COMMITMENT TO THE CONSERVATION,
8 IMPROVEMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY OF OUR NATURAL
9 RESOURCES; RECOGNIZING THE WEEK OF APRIL 24 -
10 MAY 1 AS SOIL AND WATER STEWARDSHIP WEEK IN
11 JACKSONVILLE; REQUESTING EMERGENCY PASSAGE UPON
12 INTRODUCTION; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.
13

14 **WHEREAS**, the Duval Soil and Water Conservation District Board
15 (SWCD) was created on July 10, 1953 under the authority created by
16 the Soil Conservation Act, passed by Florida Legislature in 1937. The
17 Duval SWCD was organized by concerned citizens of Duval County to
18 help landowners and users to conserve land, water, forests, wildlife,
19 and related natural resources. The current mission of the District
20 is to plan, facilitate, and implement programs, projects, and
21 practices that help conserve the natural resources throughout Duval
22 County; and

23 **WHEREAS**, in 1955, the National Association of Conservation
24 Districts began a national program to encourage Americans to focus
25 on stewardship. The Stewardship Program relies on conservation
26 districts sharing and promoting stewardship and conservation through
27 field days, educational programming, and workshops to educate
28 citizens about the need to care for our natural resources; and

29 **WHEREAS**, Soil and Water Stewardship Week is celebrated from the
30 last Sunday in April to the first Sunday in May. In addition, it is
31 recognized as one of the world's largest conservation-related

1 observances. The activities during the week help to remind us of all
2 of the power each person has to conserve natural resources and improve
3 the world. When everyone works together with their local conservation
4 district, that power continuously grows; and

5 **WHEREAS,** the SWCD Board, which consists of 5 non-partisan
6 elected supervisors who serve at-large, is celebrating the 67th
7 National Observance Week throughout the county; and

8 **WHEREAS,** the theme for this year's observance is "Healthy Soil:
9 Healthy Life." Healthy, fertile soil and clean water are the lifeblood
10 of nutrition and sustenance throughout the world. Soil conservation
11 benefits everyone and effective conservation practices ensure soil,
12 water, animals, plants, and air can provide a rich standard of living.
13 Our survival and continued production of and access to quality food
14 and water depends upon the robust management of diverse natural
15 resources nationwide; and

16 **WHEREAS,** stewardship calls for each person to help conserve
17 these precious resources for generations to come; now therefore

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

19 **Section 1.** The City Council hereby honors and commends the
20 Duval Soil and Water Conservation District Board on their work and
21 commitment to the citizens of Duval County to conserve, improve and
22 sustain our natural resources.

23 **Section 2.** The Council hereby designates the week of April
24 24 to May 1, 2022 as "Soil and Water Stewardship Week" in Jacksonville
25 and encourages all residents to learn about the vital importance of
26 clean and healthy natural resources and to participate in the
27 Stewardship Week activities.

28 **Section 3. Requesting emergency passage upon introduction**
29 **Pursuant to Council Rule 4.901.** Emergency passage upon introduction
30 of this Resolution is requested in order to designate the week in a
31 timely manner.

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

Form Approved:

/s/ Paige H. Johnston

Office of General Counsel

Legislation Prepared By: Jeff Clements, City Council Research

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