

Introduced by Council Member DeFoor and Co-Sponsored by Council Members Gaffney, Ferraro, Becton, Newby, Diamond, Cumber, Carlucci, Boylan, Carrico, Howland, Pittman, White, Dennis, Freeman, Priestly Jackson, Salem, Bowman, and Morgan & amended on the Floor of Council:

RESOLUTION 2022-335-A

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

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

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

1 **WHEREAS**, Soil and Water Stewardship Week is celebrated from the
2 last Sunday in April to the first Sunday in May. In addition, it is
3 recognized as one of the world's largest conservation-related
4 observances. The activities during the week help to remind us of all
5 of the power each person has to conserve natural resources and improve
6 the world. When everyone works together with their local conservation
7 district, that power continuously grows; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

31 **Section 3. Requesting emergency passage upon introduction**

1 **Pursuant to Council Rule 4.901.** Emergency passage upon introduction
2 of this Resolution is requested in order to designate the week in a
3 timely manner.

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

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8 Form Approved:

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10 /s/ Paige H. Johnston

11 Office of General Counsel

12 Legislation Prepared By: Jeff Clements, City Council Research

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