

1 Introduced by Council Member Freeman and Co-Sponsored by Council
2 Members Morgan, Ferraro, Hazouri, Diamond, Becton, Carlucci,
3 Wilson, Salem and Bowman:
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6 **RESOLUTION 2020-191**

7 A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING AND HONORING
8 JACKSONVILLE JUMBO SHRIMP GENERAL MANAGER
9 HAROLD CRAW ON HIS PROMOTION TO THE POSITION
10 OF EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT/GENERAL MANAGER,
11 FOR CONTINUING TO KEEP THE JUMBO SHRIMP A
12 VITAL ASSET TO THE JACKSONVILLE COMMUNITY BY
13 PROVIDING SAFE AND AFFORDABLE FAMILY FUN AT
14 THE BALLPARK, AND FOR CONTINUING TO BE A
15 PILLAR OF THE COMMUNITY AND AN INSPIRATION TO
16 OUR LOCAL YOUTH; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE
17

18 **WHEREAS**, Harold Crow is a native of Chattanooga, Tennessee.
19 Mr. Crow graduated from Emory and Henry College with a degree in
20 Physical Education and earned a Master's Degree in Sport Management
21 from East Tennessee State University in 2001. He started his Minor
22 League Baseball career in 2002 with the Johnson City Cardinals as
23 the Director of Stadium Operations. Mr. Crow spent more than ten
24 seasons with the Charleston River Dogs from 2003 to 2012, twice
25 being recognized by the South Atlantic League as Sales Executive of
26 the Year. Mr. Crow was the General Manager of the Quad Cities River
27 Bandits and a Senior Corporate Sales Executive, and later Assistant
28 General Manager, of the Chattanooga Lookouts before being hired by
29 Fast Forward Sports Group to lead the Jacksonville Suns; and

30 **WHEREAS**, Mr. Crow was named the General Manager of the
31 Jacksonville Suns on September 17, 2015 when Fast Forward Sports

1 Group, LLC took ownership of the Southern League club. After
2 helping the franchise draw nationwide attention following their
3 2016 rebrand changing the club's name from "The Suns" to "The Jumbo
4 Shrimp", Mr. Craw oversaw an incredible 23 percent increase in
5 attendance for the inaugural Jumbo Shrimp season in 2017, the
6 largest increase for any Double-A club. The success carried over to
7 the following campaign as the July 3, 2018 crowd of 11,762 was the
8 largest home crowd in ten years; and

9 **WHEREAS**, in 2017, Mr. Craw became the first African-American
10 to win Executive of the Year for any league in Minor League
11 Baseball. He was voted the 2017 Southern League Jimmy Bragan
12 Executive of the Year by the general managers of the league's
13 member clubs. In January 2020, he was promoted to Executive Vice
14 President/General Manager of the Jumbo Shrimp franchise. In this
15 capacity, Mr. Craw is currently the only African-American General
16 Manager in Minor League Baseball and continues to be a pillar of
17 diversity and progress in the sport. Outside of baseball, Mr. Craw
18 has consistently been active in his local community including co-
19 founding and co-chairing the Charleston RBI Baseball League and
20 mentoring local middle school youth through Jacksonville's Duval
21 County Public Schools' 5000 Role Models program; now therefore

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

23 **Section 1.** The City of Jacksonville hereby recognizes and
24 honors Jacksonville Jumbo Shrimp Manager Harold Craw for his
25 promotion to the position of Executive Vice President/General
26 Manager, for continuing to keep the Jumbo Shrimp a vital asset to
27 the Jacksonville Community by providing safe and affordable family
28 fun at the ballpark, and for continuing to be a pillar of the
29 community and an inspiration to our local youth.

30 **Section 2. Effective Date.** This Resolution shall become
31 effective upon signature by the Mayor or upon becoming effective

1 without the Mayor's signature.

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3 Form Approved:

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5 /s/ Paige H. Johnston

6 Office of General Counsel

7 Legislation Prepared By: Anthony J. Baltiero, City Council Research

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