

Introduced by Council President Newby and Council Members Freeman, Dennis, White, Ferraro, Morgan, Hazouri, Boylan, Pittman, Carrico, Becton, Gaffney, Salem, Diamond, Cumber, DeFoor, and Carlucci

**RESOLUTION 2021-465-A**

A RESOLUTION HONORING AND COMMENDING JASON R. GABRIEL ON HIS DEDICATED CAREER IN THE OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL, INCLUDING AS GENERAL COUNSEL, UPON THE OCCASION OF HIS DEPARTURE FROM THE POST; REQUESTING EMERGENCY PASSAGE UPON INTRODUCTION; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

**WHEREAS**, Jason Gabriel earned his Bachelor of Arts degree (*cum laude*) in Philosophy from the University of Florida in 1998 and his Juris Doctorate from the University of Florida College of Law in 2001; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Gabriel began his law practice at the law firm of Edwards Cohen in Jacksonville working primarily in the areas of land use, zoning and real estate law before joining the Office of General Counsel in 2010; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Gabriel initially worked at the office as an assistant general counsel, eventually being promoted to the position of Deputy General Counsel of the Government Operations Department, overseeing all transactional, administrative and operational aspects of the Consolidated Government, serving as lead counsel to the Mayor, City Council and other elected and appointed officials in a wide variety of legal matters; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Gabriel provided dedicated legal counsel to the City and its independent agencies in a variety of substantive areas

1 of law including but not limited to serving as lead counsel to: (i)  
2 the City on Land Use and Zoning matters (advising the Planning  
3 Commission and Land Use and Zoning Committee of the City Council),  
4 (ii) the City on Community Redevelopment Agency matters (including  
5 the creation, operation and lead representation of the Downtown  
6 Investment Authority), (iii) the City on Ethics matters (including  
7 counsel to the Ethics Commission and Ethics Office on inquiries and  
8 complaints, as well as representation of officials before the State  
9 of Florida's Commission on Ethics); (iv) the Supervisor of  
10 Elections regarding elections law matters (including instances of  
11 recounts); (v) JEA, JAXPORT, the Pension Funds, Duval County School  
12 Board and other agencies in various agency matters; (vi) the City  
13 in Redistricting and other special projects, and (vii) the City and  
14 its independent agencies in litigation matters, economic  
15 development, public policy and legal strategy; and

16 **WHEREAS**, Mr. Gabriel is renowned for his tenacious advocacy of  
17 the Consolidated City of Jacksonville's assertion of its Charter  
18 authority, his dedicated hard work on behalf of his clients, and  
19 the effective and excellent representation of his clients; and

20 **WHEREAS**, in 2014 Mr. Gabriel was appointed General Counsel by  
21 Mayor Alvin Brown, and he was subsequently reappointed and  
22 unanimously confirmed to full terms as General Counsel by Mayor  
23 Lenny Curry in 2015 and 2019; and

24 **WHEREAS** Mr. Gabriel is Board Certified by the Florida Bar in  
25 City, County and Local Government Law; Florida Trend Magazine has  
26 recognized him as one of Florida's top government attorneys by  
27 designating him as a "Legal Elite™" attorney; and he has been  
28 awarded a rating of "AV Preeminent®" by Martindale-Hubbell,  
29 indicating that his peer lawyers rank his legal ability and ethical  
30 standards among the highest in the legal community; and

31 **WHEREAS**, Mr. Gabriel has recently announced his departure from

1 the position of General Counsel to resume his law practice in the  
2 private sector; and

3 **WHEREAS**, the City will greatly miss Jason Gabriel's expertise,  
4 professional guidance, loyalty and friendship, and wishes to extend  
5 its congratulations and best wishes to him; now therefore

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

7 **Section 1. Honor and Commendation.** The City of  
8 Jacksonville hereby honors and commends General Counsel Jason R.  
9 Gabriel for his many years of tireless, dedicated and effective  
10 representation of the City's interests in the Office of General  
11 Counsel and wishes him a bright future of great health, happiness,  
12 prosperity and success as he leaves the City to take on new  
13 challenges in the private sector.

14 **Section 2. Requesting emergency passage upon introduction**  
15 **pursuant to Council Rule 4.901.** Emergency passage upon introduction  
16 of this Resolution is requested so that it may be presented to Mr.  
17 Gabriel in a timely manner given his imminent departure from the  
18 Office of General Counsel.

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

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24 Form Approved:

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27 /s/ Margaret M. Sidman

28 Office of General Counsel

29 Legislation Prepared By: Jeff Clements, City Council Research

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