

1 Introduced by Council Member Freeman & Co-Sponsored by Council
2 Members Salem, Bowman, Ferraro, Hazouri, DeFoor, Dennis, Priestly
3 Jackson, Diamond and Morgan:
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6 **RESOLUTION 2021-387-A**

7 A RESOLUTION HONORING AND COMMENDING 7-YEAR-
8 OLD CHASE POUST ON HIS QUICK THINKING AND
9 BRAVERY IN FACILITATING THE RESCUE OF HIS
10 FATHER AND SISTER FROM A POTENTIAL TRAGEDY IN
11 THE ST. JOHNS RIVER; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE
12 DATE.
13

14 **WHEREAS**, on the Friday of Memorial Day weekend 2021, Steven
15 Poust and his son Chase, age 7, and daughter Abigail, age 4, were
16 enjoying a boating outing on the St. Johns River near Mandarin
17 Point; and

18 **WHEREAS**, while swimming in her life preserver, Abigail was
19 separated from the boat by a strong current and began to drift
20 away, followed by Chase who tried to retrieve her and by her father
21 trying to retrieve both his children. As Steven Poust pursued his
22 drifting daughter, young Chase changed course and swam toward shore
23 to seek help; and

24 **WHEREAS**, fighting the strong current and alternating between
25 swimming and resting by floating on his back, Chase Poust kept at
26 his task for an hour until he covered the mile to shore and ran to
27 a nearby house to raise the alarm. During Chase's swim to shore,
28 Steven Poust reached his daughter and the two floated in the river
29 with the current for another hour or more until teams from the
30 Jacksonville Fire and Rescue Department, Jacksonville Sheriff's
31 Office and Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

1 located the pair and brought them safely to shore; and

2 **WHEREAS**, Chase Poust's quick action, calm thinking, and
3 determination to reach the shore and get help undoubtedly saved his
4 father and sister from a tragic outcome, and his actions are worthy
5 of commendation; now therefore

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

7 **Section 1.** The Council hereby honors and commends 7-year-
8 old Chase Poust for his quick thinking and bravery in completing a
9 dangerous and difficult swim to shore and sounding the alarm to
10 bring rescuers to save his father and sister adrift in the St.
11 Johns River on Memorial Day weekend. The young man demonstrated
12 courage in the face of danger and love for his family, and is to be
13 congratulated for his exemplary actions.

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

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18 Form Approved:

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20 /s/ Paige H. Johnston

21 Office of General Counsel

22 Legislation Prepared By: Jeff Clements, City Council Research

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