

1 The Rules Committee offers the following Substitute to File No. 2021-
2 566:

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4 Introduced by Council Members Carlucci and DeFoor:
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7 **RESOLUTION 2021-0566**

8 A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING AND SUPPORTING A
9 COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH TO JACKSONVILLE DOWNTOWN
10 RIVERFRONT DEVELOPMENT; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE
11 DATE.
12

13 **WHEREAS**, for the first time in Downtown Jacksonville history,
14 more than 75 acres of publicly owned downtown riverfront land is
15 simultaneously available for development, creating an unprecedented
16 opportunity to improve and invest in the quality of life for all
17 Jacksonville citizens by unifying the approach to the downtown
18 riverfront with a goal of creating a world class network of active
19 parks and green space; and

20 **WHEREAS**, this represents an opportunity to spotlight and
21 leverage Jacksonville's greatest natural asset – the majestic St.
22 Johns River – and to re-establish the downtown riverfront as the
23 heartbeat of Jacksonville, both socially and economically to drive
24 job creation; and

25 **WHEREAS**, with over ninety percent of all land along the St.
26 Johns River currently held by private landowners, we recognize the
27 need to create a Riverfront for All by connecting the entire Northbank
28 riverfront – from the Riverside Arts Market and surrounding museums
29 to Metropolitan Park – and the Southbank riverfront – from the
30 Fuller Warren Bridge to River's Edge (The District) – as a single
31 integrated parkway system that serves and brings together all citizens

1 of Jacksonville and simultaneously enhances future investment of
2 commercial property and public infrastructure along the downtown
3 waterfront; and

4 **WHEREAS**, to integrate both sustainability and resiliency into
5 all design concepts pertaining to Downtown Jacksonville's riverfront,
6 we shall take into careful consideration storm water management and
7 will seek and support implementation of green solutions that help
8 mitigate storm surge, promote the filtering of runoff, and enhance
9 natural protections against flooding; and

10 **WHEREAS**, the Downtown Investment Authority (DIA) continues to
11 stand at the forefront of downtown riverfront improvement and has
12 commissioned extensive studies and the creation of conceptual plans
13 for multiple sections of St. Johns River frontage, and will continue
14 its work to realize a fully comprehensive and inclusive approach,
15 including feedback from downtown businesses and the Jacksonville
16 community at large; and

17 **WHEREAS**, an inclusive and collaborative citizen involvement
18 process best supports efforts to develop a shared vision that ensures
19 equitable outcomes, provides much-needed public access to
20 Jacksonville's majestic American Heritage river, prioritizes
21 interests from all sectors and people, and adds to Downtown
22 Jacksonville's overall vibrancy, economic vitality, and natural
23 resiliency; now therefore

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

25 **Section 1.** This resolution expresses the will of the City
26 Council to recognize and endorse a comprehensive approach to planning
27 Jacksonville's downtown riverfront development, and as such, to
28 support the efforts by key stakeholders – including Riverfront Parks
29 Now, the Jessie Ball duPont Fund, the DIA, Scenic JAX, Groundworks,
30 the St. Johns Riverkeeper, and many others – who likewise work toward
31 fostering citizen-led initiatives and consensus-building efforts

1 related to Jacksonville's downtown riverfront development.

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

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6 Form Approved:

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8 /s/ Paige H. Johnston

9 Office of General Counsel

10 Legislation Prepared By: Jeff Clements, City Council Research

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