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2 **RESOLUTION 2017-**

3 A RESOLUTION STRONGLY OPPOSING THE PASSAGE OF
4 SENATE BILL 574 AND HOUSE BILL 521 WHICH WOULD
5 PREEMPT LOCAL TREE PROTECTION ORDINANCES SUCH
6 AS THOSE CURRENTLY IN PLACE IN THE [CITY OR
7 COUNTY]; DIRECTING [CLERK, SECRETARY, ETC.]
8 TO CIRCULATE THE RESOLUTION TO THE FLORIDA
9 LEGISLATURE; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.
10

11 **WHEREAS**, [City or County]'s tree canopy has beautified our
12 [City or County] and improved the lives of our citizens and
13 visitors by bringing nature to our urban environments and
14 preserving environmental sanctuaries for connection with the
15 natural world; and

16 **WHEREAS**, trees improve water quality, reduce erosion, increase
17 property values, provide shade, cleanse the air, create habitat for
18 wildlife and add beauty to our City; and

19 **WHEREAS**, Article II, Section 7 of the Florida Constitution
20 provides that it shall be the policy of the state to conserve and
21 protect its natural resources and scenic beauty; and

22 **WHEREAS**, [City or County]'s regulations [explain generally
23 what the existing regulations consist of]; and

24 **WHEREAS**, the [City or County]'s tree protection regulations provide
25 reasonable and sensible exemptions, including those for agriculture
26 and silvaculture, single family residences, nuisance and invasive
27 species and dead or diseased trees, among others [this should be
28 tailored to the specific parameters of existing regulations so it
29 may change on a case by case basis]; and

30 **WHEREAS**, tree protection has long been recognized as a
31 legitimate exercise of local government home rule; and

1 **WHEREAS,** Senate Bill 574 and companion House Bill 521 have
2 been filed in the Florida Legislature, both of which would preempt
3 local governments from regulating the removal of trees from private
4 property or from requiring mitigation for removal of such trees,
5 and further provides that local governments may not prohibit the
6 burial of trees and other vegetative debris; and

7 **WHEREAS,** Senate Bill 574 and House Bill 521 are harmful to the
8 environment and contrary to the overwhelming wishes of **[City or**
9 **County]** citizens; and

10 **WHEREAS,** such bills are a direct assault of the home rule
11 powers of **[City or County]** and other cities, towns and counties in
12 Florida and are contrary to the view often stated by members of the
13 legislature that the government that is the closest to the people
14 is the government that is best; now therefore

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

16 **Section 1. [Council, Board or Commission's] Strong**
17 **Opposition for Senate Bill 574 and House Bill 521.** The **[Council,**
18 **Board or Commission]** strongly opposes and urges the Florida
19 Legislature to defeat passage of Senate Bill 574 and its companion,
20 House Bill 521, which would preempt all local governments from
21 regulating the removal of trees from private property and prohibits
22 local governments from requiring mitigation for trees which are
23 removed. **Section 2. Direction to [Clerk, Secretary, etc.].**

24 The **[Clerk, Secretary, etc. of City or County]** is hereby
25 directed to provide a copy of this resolution to the Florida
26 Legislature.

27 **Section 3. Effective Date.** This Resolution shall become
28 effective **[insert language from particular jurisdiction].**