Introduced by Council Member Dennis & Co-sponsored by Council

Members Crescimbeni, Carter, Newby, R. Gaffney, Morgan & Becton:

**RESOLUTION 2016-335**

A RESOLUTION HONORING AND CONGRATULATING THE JACKSONVILLE GIANTS ON THEIR AMERICAN BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP WIN; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

 **WHEREAS,** the Jacksonville Giants of the American Basketball Association (ABA) finished their regular season with a record of 24-6 as the league’s fourth-ranked team and earned a first-round bye in the playoffs; and

 **WHEREAS**, victories over the Texas Red Wolves in the first round, the South Florida Gold in the Final Eight and the DMV Warriors in the Final Four (avenging a regular season loss to the Warriors) put the Giants into the ABA Championship series for the fourth time in the team’s six-year history; and

**WHEREAS,** the Jacksonville Giants swept Chicago’s Windy City Groove in two games to win the 2016 ABA Championship in Laredo, Texas, winning the championship game by a 93-90 score on the strength of a late-game scoring burst by ABA All-Star and Finals MVP Maurice Mickens; and

**WHEREAS,** with the win, the Giants earned their third ABA Championship in the team’s six seasons, previously defeating South Carolina in 2012 and Dallas in 2013; and

**WHEREAS**, this latest championship is all the more remarkable given the fact that the team lost former ABA All-Star Larry Dumas to an injury in the first game of the season and that three team members were signed late in the season to play for various teams in international leagues and did not complete the ABA season; now therefore

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

 **Section 1.** The City of Jacksonville hereby honors and congratulates the Jacksonville Giants, Head Coach Kevin Waters, Assistant Coach Jerry Williams, President and Team Owner Ron Sholes, General Manager Pam Masters, and the entire roster, staff, and Giants organization on their latest ABA championship and another outstanding year of exciting, family-friendly basketball in Jacksonville. The Giants’ contribution to the community’s quality of life cannot be overstated, and the City is overjoyed by the accomplishments of this outstanding basketball team.

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

Form Approved:

 /s/ Margaret M. Sidman

Office of General Counsel

Legislation Prepared By: Jeff Clements, City Council Research

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