

1 Introduced by Council Member Love:
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4 **RESOLUTION 2011-607**

5 A RESOLUTION REGARDING THE GEORGIA-PACIFIC
6 CORPORATION AND THE DISCHARGE OF WASTEWATER
7 INTO THE ST. JOHNS RIVER; REQUESTING THE
8 FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
9 TO DELAY ISSUANCE OF THE GEORGIA-PACIFIC PAPER
10 MILL DISCHARGE PERMIT UNTIL ALL OUTSTANDING
11 QUESTIONS HAVE BEEN ANSWERED, INCLUDING THOSE
12 REGARDING DIOXIN, AND A COMPREHENSIVE AND
13 THOROUGH CHEMICAL ENGINEERING ANALYSIS OF THE
14 MILL'S WASTE STREAM BE COMPLETED BEFORE A
15 FINAL PERMIT DECISION IS REACHED, AND
16 AUTHORIZING LEGISLATIVE SERVICES FORWARD A
17 COPY OF THE RESOLUTION TO THE GOVERNOR OF THE
18 STATE OF FLORIDA, THE SECRETARY OF THE FLORIDA
19 DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, THE
20 CABINET, AND THE DIRECTOR OF REGION IV OF
21 THE US ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY;
22 PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.
23

24 **WHEREAS**, the City of Jacksonville and the City of Palatka both
25 owe their founding and existence to the St. Johns River; and

26 **WHEREAS**, the most visible feature of the City of Jacksonville
27 is the river which flows right through the heart of the city and
28 upon which many people rely for their livelihoods and recreation;
29 and

1 **WHEREAS**, the St. Johns River is vitally important to the
2 economic prosperity and quality of life of all residents of
3 Northeast Florida; and

4 **WHEREAS**, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection is
5 charged with protecting the quality of water and the health and
6 safety of the environment for all of the residents of the State of
7 Florida; and

8 **WHEREAS**, qualified scientists have raised legitimate questions
9 regarding the presence of the highly toxic carcinogen Dioxin in the
10 effluent from the Georgia-Pacific paper mill in Palatka; and

11 **WHEREAS**, qualified environmental engineers have proposed that
12 there are affordable new technologies that can solve the mill's
13 pollution problems; and

14 **WHEREAS**, the City of Jacksonville could suffer severe,
15 negative economic impact if the St. Johns River's water quality
16 gains a reputation as being unhealthy; now therefore

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

18 **Section 1.** The Council acknowledges that irreparable harm
19 could result from Georgia-Pacific's construction of a four-mile
20 wastewater discharge pipeline that will deposit pollution into the
21 St. Johns River, which flows to Jacksonville. Furthermore, the City
22 Council is concerned that the full economic and environmental
23 impacts of Georgia-Pacific's wastewater discharge have not been
24 fully studied specifically as to the impacts to the St. Johns River
25 downstream from the discharge point. The City Council respectfully
26 requests the Florida Department of Environmental Protection delay
27 the issuing of the mill's permit to discharge waste water into the
28 St. Johns River until such time as independent scientists are

1 allowed to study the source of the pollution and offer proper
2 remedies. Further requesting that the Florida Department of
3 Environmental Protection conduct a more comprehensive and thorough
4 chemical engineering analysis of Georgia-Pacific's waste stream and
5 ongoing pollution problems and review all viable alternatives to
6 the pipeline prior to issuing a permit in favor of Georgia
7 Pacific's request to discharge waste water into the St. Johns
8 River.

9 **Section 2. Direction to Circulate.** The City Council
10 Legislative Services is hereby directed to provide copies of this
11 resolution to the Office of the Governor, the Cabinet and the
12 Secretary of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection,
13 and Director of Region IV of the US Environmental Protection
14 Agency.

15 **Section 3. Effective Date.** This resolution shall become
16 effective upon adoption by the Council.

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18 Form Approved:

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20 /s/ Margaret M. Sidman

21 Office of General Counsel

22 Legislation Prepared By: Margaret M. Sidman

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