



# NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
JOHN PEYTON  
MAYOR

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Contact: Susie Wiles, (904) 630-7245**

**Statement of Mayor John Peyton Regarding the Confirmation of Rick Mullaney as  
General Counsel and Council President Davis' Statement at Last Night's City Council  
Meeting**

**JACKSONVILLE, Fla. Aug. 15, 2007** -- Mayor Peyton made the following statement today:

"First, and most importantly, I want to thank the members of the Jacksonville City Council for voting to approve my choice to serve as the City's General Counsel. Rick Mullaney is a fine and honorable man who has served four City Councils, 11 City Council presidents and three mayors with great distinction.

I also want to recognize the fine character of City Council President Daniel Davis. He exhibited enormous courage at last night's City Council meeting when he disclosed the phone call he received from the State Attorney. This call made the Council President very uncomfortable and, in my view, was inappropriate on a number of levels, including the State Attorney trying to involve himself in the business of city government.

I, too, received a call from the State Attorney related to the confirmation of my choice to be General Counsel. It was apparent through my own conversation with the State Attorney that this has all become very personal as it involves Rick Mullaney. The State Attorney was highly critical of Rick on a number of matters – even some stemming back to political differences over 15 years ago. But, the State Attorney was most upset over Rick Mullaney's advice to his clients, members of the Jacksonville City Council, that they retain counsel as is standard practice in this type of legal proceeding.

In summary, I applaud the City Council's action to unanimously confirm my choice to be the City's General Counsel and salute the Council President for his grace under fire after having been put in a very difficult position."

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