

1 Introduced by Council Member Dennis:  
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4 **RESOLUTION 2020-326**

5 A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE PASSAGE OF A  
6 POLICY DESIGNATING CITY HALL AS A "HIT FREE  
7 ZONE," TRAINING OF EMPLOYEES FOR AN  
8 APPROPRIATE RESPONSE, AND POSTING OF SIGNAGE  
9 AT CITY HALL IDENTIFYING THE PROPERTY AS A  
10 "HIT FREE ZONE" AREA; URGING THE CREATION OF A  
11 PILOT PROGRAM; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.  
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13 **WHEREAS**, the City of Jacksonville is invested in supporting  
14 safe, healthy, and nurturing relationships and environments across  
15 the lifespan for all citizens in our community; and

16 **WHEREAS**, violence against children puts them at risk of  
17 developing increased aggression, antisocial behavior, and mental  
18 health problems as well as physical injury; and

19 **WHEREAS**, ending violence against children can reduce the risk  
20 that any given child will suffer child abuse, or engage in criminal  
21 conduct as an adult or juvenile; and

22 **WHEREAS**, research shows that when bad things happen to people  
23 as children, there is a strong connection to their life-long  
24 physical and emotional health; and

25 **WHEREAS**, the Council believes that as a community committed to  
26 the well-being of children, the City can help to prevent and lessen  
27 life-long consequences of violence by promoting the well-being of  
28 children and adults in our homes and communities; and

29 **WHEREAS**, notwithstanding the parental right to discipline  
30 children, the Council believes that no physical violence should be  
31 tolerated within City Hall, which shall be designated a "Hit Free

1 Zone," which is an area in which no adult shall hit another adult,  
2 no adult shall hit a child, no child shall hit an adult, and no  
3 child shall hit another child; and

4 **WHEREAS**, as a designated "Hit Free Zone," City Hall will  
5 maintain a safe environment that does not allow violence of any  
6 kind; and

7 **WHEREAS**, the Council has determined that it is appropriate to  
8 train City employees so that all employees are prepared to have an  
9 appropriate response within areas designated as "Hit Free Zones",  
10 such as City Hall; and

11 **WHEREAS**, the purpose of the "Hit Free Zone" area is to create  
12 and reinforce an environment of safety and comfort for all people  
13 who come into City Hall; now therefore

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

15 **Section 1. Council Support.** The City Council strongly  
16 supports the designation of City Hall - St. James Building, located  
17 at 117 West Duval Street, as a "Hit Free Zone" area. The City  
18 Council also urges the Administration to develop a policy regarding  
19 the designation of City Hall as a "Hit Free Zone," including  
20 installation of signage at City Hall, and training for City  
21 employees for an appropriate response. The Administration shall be  
22 responsible for extending the designation to other city-owned  
23 properties and facilities as it sees fit. The Administration is  
24 also urged to work with the Constitutional Officers and allow them  
25 to develop policies for each of their own offices and facilities.

26 **Section 2. Pilot Program.** The Council urges the  
27 Administration to roll out a pilot program within six (6) months  
28 from the effective date of this Resolution. The pilot period should  
29 run for a period of one (1) year from the date that it is  
30 implemented by the Administration. The Administration is requested  
31 to provide a report which summarizes the findings and data

1 collected from the pilot program. This report is requested to be  
2 submitted to the Council at least 30 days prior to the conclusion  
3 of the pilot period so that the Council can assess the outcome of  
4 the pilot program.

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

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9 Form Approved:

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11 /s/ Paige H. Johnston

12 Office of General Counsel

13 Legislation Prepared By: Paige H. Johnston

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