

1 Introduced by Council President Freeman and Co-Sponsored by Council
2 Members Howland, Salem, Gaffney, Jr., Bowman, Pittman and Becton:

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5 **RESOLUTION 2023-320-A**

6 A RESOLUTION DESIGNATING THE MONTH OF MAY AS
7 MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH IN JACKSONVILLE;
8 REQUESTING EMERGENCY PASSAGE UPON INTRODUCTION;
9 PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

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11 **WHEREAS**, one in every five adults, and one out of every six
12 children experience mental health disorders in the U.S. each year;
13 and

14 **WHEREAS**, 19.4 million American adults with mental health
15 issues also experience substance abuse disorders. Twenty percent of
16 U.S. veterans and of those experiencing homelessness have mental
17 health conditions; and

18 **WHEREAS**, major depression is one of the most common mental
19 illnesses. Suicide is the second leading cause of death among people
20 aged 10-14 in the U.S., the third leading cause of death among those
21 aged 15-24, and the 12th leading cause of death overall; and

22 **WHEREAS**, mental health treatments, like therapy, medication,
23 and self-care, have made recovery a reality for many people suffering
24 from mental illness. However, more than half of those with mental
25 health disorders do not receive treatment; and

26 **WHEREAS**, millions of Americans live in a Mental Health
27 Professional Shortage Area, where there are too few providers to meet
28 demand; and

29 **WHEREAS**, mental health disorders impact individuals, their
30 families and the community as a whole. Two out of five people who are
31 incarcerated have a history of mental illness, and 70% of youth in

1 the juvenile justice system have a diagnosable mental health
2 condition; and

3 **WHEREAS,** May has been designated National Mental Health
4 Awareness Month in the United States since 1949 by the Mental Health
5 America Organization, to bring attention to prevention and early
6 intervention efforts associated with awareness; and

7 **WHEREAS,** promoting mental health wellness can lead to higher
8 workplace productivity, better educational outcomes, lower crime
9 rates, stronger economies, lower health care costs, improved family
10 life, and increased lifespans; now therefore

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

12 **Section 1.** The City of Jacksonville hereby declares the
13 month of May as Mental Health Awareness Month in Jacksonville and
14 urges all citizens to join the effort to raise awareness about mental
15 health, fight stigma, provide support, educate the public and advocate
16 for policies that support the millions of people in the U.S. affected
17 by mental illness.

18 **Section 2. Requesting emergency passage upon introduction**
19 **pursuant to Council Rule 4.901 Emergency.** Emergency passage upon
20 introduction of this legislation is requested. The nature of the
21 emergency is that May is designated nationally as Mental Health
22 Awareness Month and the City Council desires to show its support for
23 mental health awareness in Jacksonville.

24 **Section 3. Effective Date.** This Resolution shall become
25 effective upon signature by the Mayor or upon becoming effective
26 without the Mayor's signature.

1 Form Approved:

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3 /s/ Mary E. Staffopoulos

4 Office of General Counsel

5 Legislation Prepared By: Colleen Hampsey, City Council Research

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