

1 Introduced by Council Member White and Co-Sponsored by Council Members
2 Clark-Murray, Becton, Newby, Howland, Boylan, Priestly Jackson,
3 Freeman, and Salem:
4
5

6 **RESOLUTION 2023-153-A**

7 A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING MARCH AS NATIONAL RED
8 CROSS MONTH AND COMMEMORATING THE 142ND
9 ANNIVERSARY OF THE AMERICAN RED CROSS AND THE
10 109TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NORTHEAST FLORIDA
11 CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN RED CROSS; COMMENDING
12 THE VOLUNTEERS AND PAID STAFF OF THE NORTH
13 FLORIDA REGION FOR THEIR CONTINUING HUMANITARIAN
14 SERVICE TO OUR CITY AND TO THE STATE OF FLORIDA;
15 PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.
16

17 **WHEREAS,** the American Red Cross is a humanitarian organization
18 founded in 1881 and originally chartered by Congress as a federal
19 instrumentality in 1900, but receives no federal funding; and

20 **WHEREAS,** the American Red Cross prevents and alleviates human
21 suffering in the face of emergencies by mobilizing the power of
22 volunteers and the generosity of donors; and

23 **WHEREAS,** the American Red Cross responds to more than 60,000
24 disasters annually, delivers vital services to members of the Armed
25 Forces, their families, and Veterans at home and overseas, and
26 provided lifesaving health and safety training to more than 4.6
27 million people in 2022; and

28 **WHEREAS,** March is recognized as Red Cross Month across the
29 nation and 2023 marks the 142nd anniversary of the American Red Cross
30 and the 109th anniversary of Florida's first chartered Red Cross
31 Chapter, established here in Jacksonville, Florida; and

1 **WHEREAS,** the American Red Cross has repeatedly answered the
2 call to assist Northeast Florida, beginning with the Yellow Fever
3 epidemic of 1888, offering support in Jacksonville to American troops
4 during the Spanish American War, then later providing relief to those
5 affected by Jacksonville's Great Fire of 1901; and

6 **WHEREAS,** the Northeast Florida Chapter of the American Red
7 Cross provides its humanitarian services across 13 counties in
8 Northeast Florida and is the headquarters for the 35-county Red Cross
9 North Florida Region stretching from the First Coast across the entire
10 breadth of the Florida Panhandle; and

11 **WHEREAS,** in 2022, the Northeast Florida Chapter of the American
12 Red Cross helped over 1,900 family members affected by nearly 600
13 home fires or other disasters, hosted 60 blood drives throughout the
14 region, including collections targeted at Sickle Cell Disease and
15 vital minority blood-type collections, regionally provided more than
16 18,600 vital services to military members, veterans, and families,
17 and deployed more than 200 of its 1,100 volunteers in response to
18 hurricanes and other disasters; and

19 **WHEREAS,** the American Red Cross and its Northeast Florida
20 Chapter delivered these vital services without interruption and with
21 scrupulous attention to client and volunteer safety throughout the
22 COVID-19 pandemic, at no cost to those they served, with 90 cents of
23 every dollar donated going directly to mission service delivery; now
24 therefore

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

26 **Section 1.** The City Council hereby recognizes March as
27 National Red Cross Month and commemorates the 142nd anniversary of
28 the American Red Cross and the 109th Anniversary of the Northeast
29 Florida Chapter of the American Red Cross.

30 **Section 2.** The Council also commends the volunteers and
31 paid staff of the North Florida Region for their continuing

1 humanitarian service to our City and to the State of Florida.

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

5
6 Form Approved:

7
8 /s/ Mary E. Staffopoulos

9 Office of General Counsel

10 Legislation Prepared By: Jeff Clements, City Council Research

11 GC-#1554551-v1-2023-153-A.docx