

1 Introduced by Council Member Freeman and Co-Sponsored by Council
2 Members DeFoor, Morgan, Diamond, Newby, Priestly Jackson, Hazouri,
3 Wilson, Dennis, Becton, Cumber, Carlucci, R. Gaffney, Bowman,
4 Ferrao, Salem, Pittman, Boylan and White:

5 **RESOLUTION 2019-655**

6 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE YOUNG MEN FROM
7 ROBERT E. LEE HIGH SCHOOL IN THE EVAC MOVEMENT
8 FOR THEIR LEADERSHIP AND JUSTICE ADVOCACY;
9 PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

10
11 **WHEREAS**, EVAC is "CAVE" spelled backwards, and was inspired by
12 Plato's Allegory of the Cave. The Allegory of the Cave is a story of
13 prisoners chained in a cave since birth, but are not aware of the
14 chains or that they are in a cave because it's all they have ever
15 known. In the story, a liberator leads them out of the cave to the
16 light and afterwards it is the liberated prisoners' responsibility
17 to liberate others; and

18 **WHEREAS**, EVAC is a grassroots movement of predominantly
19 African-American young men, created by Robert E. Lee High School
20 teacher Amy Donofrio and her students. The young men who are a part
21 of the EVAC Movement have channeled personal tragedies, such as
22 losing siblings to murder, having family members incarcerated and
23 witnessing shootings, into positive life changes; and

24 **WHEREAS**, in the few years since inception, the young men in
25 EVAC as a group have participated in the Coalition for Juvenile
26 Justice National Youth Summit, the US Department of Justice Youth-
27 Police Roundtable in Washington DC, and were presenters at a Senate
28 Committee Hearing on Capitol Hill. They have also been presenters
29 at the Harvard University Annual Alumni of Color Conference, and
30 been selected as Harvard Youth Advisors, and were featured on the
31 front page of The New York Times; and

1 **WHEREAS**, in 2016 the young men in EVAC were honored to meet
2 President Barack Obama, Senator Cory Booker and Representative John
3 Lewis. They contributed to the Presidential Youth Justice
4 Proclamation, were presenters at The Ethics Project National Youth
5 Summit, and were the National Winners of the Campaign for Youth
6 Justice Social Media Challenge and of Harvard's KIND School
7 Challenge; and

8 **WHEREAS**, the young men in EVAC have had numerous personal
9 achievements despite having experienced traumatic life events.
10 Through the EVAC Movement, they have created a brotherhood amongst
11 themselves, comforted one another in times of crises, and embraced
12 hope for their futures. They have toured college campuses, hosted
13 job fairs at their school, and some have doubled their GPAs. The
14 young men in EVAC have avoided violence and arrest, and have become
15 advocates for justice, successfully fighting for a classmate to
16 return to juvenile court to avoid an excessive prison sentence; now
17 therefore

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

19 **Section 1.** The City of Jacksonville hereby commends the
20 young men in the EVAC Movement for their outstanding leadership,
21 personal successes, and justice advocacy. City Council also
22 appreciates the dedication of Amy Donofrio for creating the EVAC
23 Movement and supporting them on this journey.

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

27 Form Approved:

28
29 /s/ Margaret M. Sidman

30 Office of General Counsel

31 Legislation Prepared By: Colleen Hampsey, City Council Research

