

Introduced by Council Member Johnson:

RESOLUTION 2025-792

A RESOLUTION HONORING AND CELEBRATING OCTOBER
2025 AS GULLAH GEECHEE CULTURAL HERITAGE MONTH,
ACKNOWLEDGING THE VIBRANT HISTORY,
CONTRIBUTIONS, AND LIVING LEGACY OF THE GULLAH
GEECHEE PEOPLE, RECOGNIZING JACKSONVILLE'S ROLE
WITHIN THE GULLAH GEECHEE CULTURAL HERITAGE
CORRIDOR AND AFFIRMING THE CITY'S COMMITMENT TO
PRESERVE, CELEBRATE, AND PROMOTE THIS UNIQUE
AMERICAN HERITAGE; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, October is officially recognized in Florida, Georgia,
South Carolina, and North Carolina as *Gullah Geechee Cultural Heritage
Month*, honoring the descendants of West and Central Africans enslaved
on the rice, indigo, and Sea Island cotton plantations of the lower
Atlantic coast; and

WHEREAS, the Gullah Geechee people, through struggle and
survival, gave rise to a distinct culture that has shaped the American
story — marked by a unique creole language, resilient oral traditions,
sacred folklore, renowned craftsmanship such as sweetgrass basket-
weaving, low-country cuisine rooted in West African traditions, and
a profound spiritual and ecological connection to land and sea; and

WHEREAS, Jacksonville stands proudly within the federally
recognized *Gullah Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor*, a National
Heritage Area designated by Congress and managed by the Gullah Geechee
Cultural Heritage Corridor Commission in partnership with the
National Park Service; and

1 **WHEREAS**, the City of Jacksonville honors this history through
2 public spaces, including Freedom Park, which is recognized as a part
3 of the Gullah Geechee Cultural Heritage Trail within the Jacksonville
4 Parks system, serving as a living memorial to resilience, community,
5 and freedom; and

6 **WHEREAS**, Gullah Geechee Heritage Month is not only a celebration
7 of history but also an affirmation of living culture, through events
8 such as the Annual Gullah Fest, where traditions are not simply
9 remembered but reborn, sustaining a community whose stories echo from
10 the shores of Sapelo to the banks of the St. Johns; and

11 **WHEREAS**, the local Gullah Geechee community of Jacksonville will
12 host the Annual Gullah Fest on October 11, 2025, a cultural
13 celebration showcasing traditional foods, music, crafts, and
14 storytelling, offering residents and visitors an opportunity to
15 experience the living heritage of the Gullah Geechee people; and

16 **WHEREAS**, the City Council of Jacksonville recognizes that the
17 preservation of Gullah Geechee heritage is not just about protecting
18 the past, but about elevating the future, supporting authentic Gullah
19 Geechee businesses, artists, and educators whose work continues to
20 shape the cultural and economic vitality of our city; now therefore

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

22 **Section 1.** The City Council hereby recognizes October 2025
23 as Gullah Geechee Cultural Heritage Month in the City of Jacksonville.
24 The Council celebrates the immeasurable contributions of Gullah
25 Geechee people to our city, our state, and our nation, and affirms
26 its commitment to advancing awareness, education, preservation, and
27 celebration of Gullah Geechee heritage across Jacksonville, in
28 partnership with community organizations, cultural institutions, and
29 the Gullah Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor Commission. All
30 residents are invited to engage in the cultural events, learning
31 opportunities, and celebrations that honor this proud heritage.

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

Form Approved:

/s/ Shannon MacGuillis

Office of General Counsel

Legislation Prepared By: Colleen Hampsey, City Council Research

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