

1 Introduced by Council Member Johnson and Co-Sponsored by Council
2 Members Peluso and Pittman:

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5 **RESOLUTION 2026-412-A**

6 A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING AND HONORING THE MONTH
7 OF MAY 2026 AS HAITIAN HERITAGE MONTH IN THE
8 CITY OF JACKSONVILLE, CELEBRATING THE HISTORY,
9 CULTURE, AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF HAITIAN AMERICANS,
10 AND ACKNOWLEDGING THE IMPACT OF THE HAITIAN
11 COMMUNITY LOCALLY AND NATIONALLY; PROVIDING AN
12 EFFECTIVE DATE.

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14 **WHEREAS**, the City of Jacksonville stands as a global city shaped
15 by the strength, diversity, and cultural richness of its people; and

16 **WHEREAS**, the month of May is nationally recognized as Haitian
17 Heritage Month, a time dedicated to honoring the legacy and cultural
18 contributions of the Haitian people and the Haitian diaspora; and

19 **WHEREAS**, Haitian Heritage Month was first established through
20 grassroots advocacy in 1998 and has since grown into a nationwide
21 observance recognizing Haiti's profound historical significance; and

22 **WHEREAS**, Haitian Flag Day, observed annually on May 18,
23 symbolizes unity, liberation, and the enduring spirit of a people who
24 redefined the meaning of freedom in the modern world; and

25 **WHEREAS**, Haitian Americans have contributed significantly to the
26 advancement of the United States in fields such as education,
27 medicine, public service, entrepreneurship, arts, and civic
28 leadership, strengthening the social and economic fabric of
29 communities across the nation; and

30 **WHEREAS**, the Haitian American community in Jacksonville
31 continues to grow and thrive, bringing with it a legacy of resilience,

1 faith, and cultural pride that enriches the identity of our city; and

2 **WHEREAS**, organizations such as the Haitian Alliance of
3 Jacksonville have played a critical role in empowering residents
4 through education, advocacy, and cultural preservation, ensuring that
5 Haitian heritage remains visible, vibrant, and valued within the
6 First Coast; and

7 **WHEREAS**, the Haitian community carries a profound and enduring
8 pride as the first nation in the Western Hemisphere to abolish
9 slavery, and the Haitian Revolution stands among the most
10 consequential movements for freedom and human dignity in world
11 history, as enslaved and free people of African descent rose against
12 colonial rule, defeated oppression, and established Haiti as an
13 independent nation in 1804, forever reshaping the global pursuit of
14 liberty, equality, and self-determination; and

15 **WHEREAS**, Haitian culture is celebrated across Jacksonville
16 through festivals, community gatherings, and multicultural events
17 such as the World of Nations Celebration, where Haitian food, music,
18 art, and storytelling create bridges of understanding and shared
19 humanity; and

20 **WHEREAS**, Caribbean media platforms such as Caribbean Power Jam
21 Radio amplify Haitian and Caribbean voices, ensuring representation,
22 connection, and cultural continuity throughout the region; and

23 **WHEREAS**, the Haitian American journey reflects the highest
24 ideals of perseverance and possibility, transforming struggle into
25 strength and adversity into achievement, while continuing to inspire
26 future generations; and

27 **WHEREAS**, recognizing Haitian Heritage Month affirms the
28 Jacksonville City Council's commitment to honoring cultural
29 diversity, advancing inclusion, and celebrating the communities whose
30 contributions continue to move Jacksonville forward; now therefore

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

1 **Section 1.** The City Council hereby recognizes and
2 celebrates Haitian Heritage Month during the month of May 2026,
3 honoring the history, culture, and enduring contributions of Haitian
4 Americans to our city, state, and nation. The City Council expresses
5 its deep appreciation to the Haitian American community for its
6 leadership, cultural richness, entrepreneurial spirit, and unwavering
7 commitment to family, faith, and community advancement. The City
8 Council stands in gratitude not only for the contributions already
9 made, but for the limitless possibilities that lie ahead as the
10 Haitian American community continues to grow, lead, and inspire. All
11 residents are encouraged to engage in Haitian Heritage Month
12 activities, to learn from the history of Haiti, and to celebrate the
13 vibrant culture that continues to shape Jacksonville's identity.

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

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18 Form Approved:

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20 /s/ Mary E. Staffopoulos

21 Office of General Counsel

22 Legislation Prepared By: Colleen Hampsey, City Council Research

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