

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

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5 **RESOLUTION 2026-411-A**

6 A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING JUNE 2026 AS APHASIA
7 AWARENESS MONTH IN THE CITY OF JACKSONVILLE,
8 HONORING INDIVIDUALS LIVING WITH APHASIA, THEIR
9 FAMILIES, CLINICIANS, AND ADVOCATES, CALLING
10 UPON BUSINESSES, INSTITUTIONS, AND PUBLIC
11 AGENCIES TO ADVANCE COMMUNICATION
12 ACCESSIBILITY, AND AFFIRMING THAT EVERY
13 RESIDENT, REGARDLESS OF ABILITY, DESERVES TO BE
14 HEARD; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

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16 **WHEREAS**, June is recognized nationwide as National Aphasia
17 Awareness Month, a campaign led in part by National Aphasia
18 Association to elevate understanding of a condition that affects more
19 than two million Americans and touches countless others; and

20 **WHEREAS**, aphasia is a communication disorder most often caused
21 by stroke or brain injury, impacting the ability to speak, read,
22 write, and understand language, while leaving intelligence,
23 personality, and lived experience fully intact; and

24 **WHEREAS**, awareness remains critically low, with a vast majority
25 of Americans unable to identify aphasia, creating a silent barrier
26 that too often leads to isolation, misunderstanding, and exclusion
27 from everyday life; and

28 **WHEREAS**, in a city the size of Jacksonville, with a population
29 exceeding one million residents, with thousands of stroke survivors,
30 these national figures translate into thousands of local families
31 navigating aphasia, often without the visibility, tools, or support

1 systems necessary to fully engage in civic and social life; and

2 **WHEREAS**, June's National Aphasia Awareness Month initiatives,
3 including campaigns such as "United for Aphasia Awareness,"
4 storytelling efforts, community education programs, library
5 showcases, and public forums, are designed not only to inform, but
6 to transform how communities see, hear, and respond to those living
7 with aphasia; and

8 **WHEREAS**, local leaders in rehabilitative care, including Brooks
9 Rehabilitation, alongside speech language pathologists, hospital
10 systems, universities, caregivers, and advocacy organizations, are
11 advancing life changing work to restore communication, rebuild
12 confidence, and reconnect individuals to their families and
13 communities; and

14 **WHEREAS**, this work extends beyond therapy rooms and into the
15 fabric of daily life, requiring businesses, restaurants, healthcare
16 providers, government agencies, and community organizations to adopt
17 communication friendly practices that ensure individuals with aphasia
18 are not rushed, dismissed, or spoken around, but instead welcomed,
19 supported, and fully included; and

20 **WHEREAS**, ensuring access to communication is not a courtesy, it
21 is a civic responsibility, and a city committed to equity must create
22 spaces where patience is practiced, understanding is extended, and
23 every voice, spoken, written, assisted, or emerging, is given the
24 time and respect it deserves; and

25 **WHEREAS**, National Aphasia Awareness Month calls upon communities
26 to move from awareness to action, from recognition to responsibility,
27 and from silence to intentional listening; now therefore

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

29 **Section 1.** The City Council hereby recognizes June 2026 as
30 Aphasia Awareness Month in the City of Jacksonville and affirms its
31 commitment to increasing awareness, education, and support for

1 individuals living with aphasia throughout our community. The City
2 Council honors the individuals living with aphasia whose resilience
3 redefines strength, as well as the families, caregivers, clinicians,
4 and advocates who stand beside them on the ongoing journey toward
5 communication, connection, and independence. The City Council calls
6 upon businesses, nonprofit organizations, healthcare providers,
7 educational institutions, and public agencies across Jacksonville to
8 adopt communication accessible practices, ensuring that individuals
9 living with aphasia are able to fully participate in civic, economic,
10 and social life. All residents are encouraged to learn more about
11 aphasia, to engage with awareness initiatives throughout the month
12 of June, and to commit to building a community where no one is left
13 unheard.

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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