

1 Introduced by Council Member Johnson and Co-Sponsored by Council
2 Members Peluso, Pittman, Gaffney, Jr. and Freeman:

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5 **RESOLUTION 2026-76-A**

6 A RESOLUTION HONORING THE 100TH YEAR OF THE
7 CELEBRATION OF BLACK HISTORY MONTH IN THE CITY
8 OF JACKSONVILLE, RECOGNIZING ITS HISTORICAL
9 ORIGINS, EVOLUTION, AND ENDURING SIGNIFICANCE,
10 CELEBRATING THE CONTRIBUTIONS, CULTURE, AND
11 LEGACY OF AFRICAN AMERICANS IN JACKSONVILLE, AND
12 AFFIRMING THE CITY'S COMMITMENT TO TRUTH, AND
13 REMEMBRANCE; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

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15 **WHEREAS**, Black History Month traces its origins to Carter G.
16 Woodson, the distinguished historian and scholar who, in 1926,
17 established Negro History Week to ensure that the achievements,
18 struggles, and intellectual contributions of African Americans were
19 neither erased nor relegated to the margins of American history; and

20 **WHEREAS**, Negro History Week was intentionally placed in February
21 to honor the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass,
22 symbolizing the intertwined struggles for freedom, education, and
23 democratic participation; and

24 **WHEREAS**, through the sustained advocacy of scholars, educators,
25 faith leaders, civic institutions, and community organizers, Negro
26 History Week evolved into Black History Month, officially recognized
27 nationally in 1976, marking a profound expansion from a corrective
28 intervention into a sustained national observance now spanning nearly
29 a century of intentional remembrance; and

30 **WHEREAS**, the continued observance of Black History Month remains
31 necessary, not as a ceremonial gesture alone, but as an act of

1 historical accuracy, civic honesty, and moral clarity, particularly
2 in a nation where the full story of African American life has too
3 often been omitted, distorted, or diminished; and

4 **WHEREAS**, Jacksonville, Florida, stands as a city deeply shaped
5 by the labor, leadership, creativity, faith, and resilience of African
6 Americans whose contributions span education, civil rights,
7 literature, business, music, public service, military service, and
8 cultural innovation; and

9 **WHEREAS**, among the City's most distinguished sons are James
10 Weldon Johnson and John Rosamond Johnson, whose creative partnership
11 produced, "Lift Every Voice and Sing," a work born in Jacksonville
12 that transcended geography to become a defining anthem of dignity,
13 perseverance, and collective hope; and

14 **WHEREAS**, Jacksonville's Black legacy also includes generations
15 of educators, entrepreneurs, clergy, artists, journalists, and civic
16 leaders who built institutions, challenged injustice, and expanded
17 opportunity in the face of segregation, exclusion, and systemic
18 inequity; and

19 **WHEREAS**, Black History Month provides an annual opportunity for
20 the City of Jacksonville to recommit itself to telling the full story
21 of its past, honoring those whose shoulders we stand upon, and
22 inspiring future generations to understand history not as static
23 memory, but as living responsibility; and

24 **WHEREAS**, a city that remembers honestly governs more wisely,
25 leads more justly, and builds more inclusively; now therefore

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

27 **Section 1.** The City Council hereby recognizes and honors
28 Black History Month, acknowledging its origins, evolution, and
29 enduring importance as a cornerstone of American and local historical
30 understanding. The City Council celebrates the immeasurable
31 contributions of African Americans to the growth, culture, and

1 prosperity of Jacksonville, including but not limited to leaders in
2 education, civil rights, literature, music, faith, public service,
3 and economic development. The Council affirms the importance of
4 continued education, dialogue, and institutional remembrance,
5 recognizing that Black history is not separate from American history,
6 but foundational to it. The City Council is committed to truth,
7 equity, and shared civic memory, ensuring that the stories of Black
8 achievement, resistance, innovation, and excellence remain visible,
9 valued, and taught.

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

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14 Form Approved:

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16 /s/ Mary E. Staffopoulos

17 Office of General Counsel

18 Legislation Prepared By: Colleen Hampsey, City Council Research

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