

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

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7 **RESOLUTION 2021-189-A**

8 A RESOLUTION DESIGNATING THE MONTH OF APRIL AS  
9 SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH IN JACKSONVILLE  
10 AND ENCOURAGING THOSE IMPACTED BY SEXUAL  
11 ASSAULT TO SPEAK UP AND SPEAK OUT; REQUESTING  
12 EMERGENCY PASSAGE UPON INTRODUCTION; PROVIDING  
13 AN EFFECTIVE DATE  
14

15 **WHEREAS**, in April, and every month to follow, people across  
16 the country are encouraged to raise their voices to show support  
17 for survivors of sexual assault and speak out if they have  
18 experienced sexual assault themselves. One month is not enough time  
19 to solve this serious issue, but it is a great place to start; and

20 **WHEREAS**, the statistics regarding sexual assaults in the  
21 United States are startling but important to know and understand.  
22 Every 98 seconds, an American is sexually assaulted. Nearly 1 in 5  
23 women, and 1 in 67 men, in the United States have experienced rape  
24 (or attempted rape) at one point in their lives. 63 percent of  
25 sexual assaults are not reported and only 5 out of every 1,000  
26 perpetrators will end up in prison, which is why it is so important  
27 to speak up and speak out against sexual assault; and

28 **WHEREAS**, in Jacksonville, there are groups and organizations  
29 that are active in the fight against sexual assault and that are  
30 dedicated to providing support to survivors. Foremost among them is  
31 the Women's Center of Jacksonville, Inc. (WCJ), a nonprofit

1 Jacksonville-based organization offering education, support, and  
2 advocacy to survivors of all ages and genders. WCJ is the only  
3 certified rape crisis center in Duval, Baker and Nassau Counties.  
4 WCJ offers community education, counseling, referral assistance,  
5 support, and advocacy; now therefore

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

7 **Section 1.** The City of Jacksonville hereby designates the  
8 month of April as Sexual Assault Awareness Month and encourages  
9 those impacted by sexual assault to speak up, speak out, and know  
10 that there are resources available in the City of Jacksonville to  
11 provide support to survivors and their families.

12 **Section 2. Requesting emergency passage upon introduction**  
13 **pursuant to Council Rule 4.901.** Emergency passage upon introduction  
14 of this Resolution is requested so that it can be passed at the  
15 last full City Council meeting prior to the start of April.

16 **Section 3. Effective Date.** This Resolution shall become  
17 effective upon signature by the Mayor or upon becoming effective  
18 without the Mayor's signature.

19  
20 Form Approved:

21  
22 /s/ Paige H. Johnston

23 Office of General Counsel

24 Legislation Prepared By: Anthony J. Baltiero, City Council Research

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