

1 Introduced by Council Member Johnson:
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4 **RESOLUTION 2026-279**

5 A RESOLUTION HONORING AND RECOGNIZING APRIL 2026
6 AS "SECOND CHANCE MONTH" IN THE CITY OF
7 JACKSONVILLE, AND CELEBRATING ORGANIZATIONS
8 THAT ARE COMMITTED TO REDUCING RECIDIVISM AND
9 EXPANDING OPPORTUNITY, AND AFFIRMING THE
10 DIGNITY, POTENTIAL, AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF
11 RETURNING CITIZENS AND THEIR FAMILIES, AND
12 ENCOURAGING COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND CONTINUED
13 SUPPORT FOR SECOND CHANCE INITIATIVES; PROVIDING
14 AN EFFECTIVE DATE.
15

16 **WHEREAS**, the City of Jacksonville is grounded in the belief that
17 redemption is real, that growth is possible, and that every individual
18 deserves the opportunity to move forward with dignity and purpose;
19 and

20 **WHEREAS**, "Second Chance Month" is observed each April to
21 recognize the importance of removing reentry barriers and creating
22 meaningful pathways for individuals returning from incarceration to
23 fully participate in the life and economy of their communities; and

24 **WHEREAS**, returning citizens and their families often encounter
25 systemic challenges in employment, housing, education, and social
26 reintegration, challenges that require coordinated, compassionate,
27 and community driven responses; and

28 **WHEREAS**, Jacksonville is strengthened by a powerful network of
29 organizations that do the daily work of restoration, accountability,
30 and opportunity, including Operation New Hope, Prisoners of Christ,
31 Goodwill Industries of North Florida, CareerSource Northeast Florida,

1 The Urban League of Northeast Florida, Jacksonville Area Legal Aid,
2 FreshMinistries, along with numerous faith-based institutions,
3 community organizations, and advocacy groups whose collective work
4 continues to reduce recidivism, restore dignity, and expand pathways
5 to economic mobility across the City; and

6 **WHEREAS**, initiatives such as "Ban the Box" reflect a growing
7 understanding that access to employment should not be permanently
8 denied based on past mistakes, and affirm Jacksonville's commitment
9 to fair opportunity and economic inclusion; and

10 **WHEREAS**, "Second Chance Month" serves as both recognition and
11 a call for responsibility from employers, policymakers, and residents
12 to participate in building a city where second chances are not
13 symbolic, but structural; and

14 **WHEREAS**, the future of Jacksonville is strengthened when we
15 invest in people who are committed to rebuilding, contributing, and
16 leading lives defined not by their past, but by their potential; now
17 therefore

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

19 **Section 1.** The City Council hereby honors and recognizes
20 April 2026 as "Second Chance Month" in Jacksonville, Florida. The City
21 Council celebrates the work of the organizations across Jacksonville
22 that are committed to reducing recidivism, expanding opportunity, and
23 restoring hope for returning citizens and their families. The City
24 Council affirms its support for policies, practices, and partnerships
25 that advance second chances, including fair hiring initiatives and
26 community-based reentry programs that recognize the dignity and
27 potential of every individual. Residents, employers, and stakeholders
28 throughout Jacksonville are encouraged to engage in "Second Chance
29 Month" activities and to actively support efforts that create pathways
30 to long term stability and success.

31 **Section 2. Effective Date.** This Resolution shall become

1 effective upon signature by the Mayor or upon becoming effective
2 without the Mayor's signature.

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4 Form Approved:

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6 /s/ Shannon MacGillis

7 Office of General Counsel

8 Legislation Prepared By: Colleen Hampsey, City Council Research

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