

1 Introduced by Council Member Ferraro:
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4 **RESOLUTION 2021-489**

5 A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE CITY COUNCIL'S
6 SOLIDARITY WITH THE PROTESTORS ACROSS FLORIDA
7 AND IN CUBA ADVOCATING FOR INCREASED FREEDOM
8 FOR THE CUBAN PEOPLE; REQUESTING EMERGENCY
9 PASSAGE UPON INTRODUCTION; PROVIDING AN
10 EFFECTIVE DATE.
11

12 **WHEREAS**, in the last two weeks the citizens of Cuba have taken
13 to the streets, in numbers not seen in several decades, to protest
14 against difficult economic conditions and the lack of freedom in
15 their country; and

16 **WHEREAS**, in the last week those protests have sparked similar
17 demonstrations and calls for Cuban economic and political reforms
18 in several cities across Florida, including Miami, Orlando, Tampa
19 and Jacksonville; and

20 **WHEREAS**, the protestors in Cuba and their supporters across
21 Florida are expressing their discontent both with the economic
22 conditions in Cuba - food and medicine shortages, high inflation, a
23 stagnant economy, a collapsing health care system - and with the
24 lack of freedom and the political repression of the country's
25 Communist regime; and

26 **WHEREAS**, since the protests have been taking place, Cuba's
27 repressive government has responded by arresting and detaining
28 demonstrators, shooting at unarmed protestors, and shutting down
29 internet service and social media platforms in an effort to stifle
30 political dissent and opposition to the ruling Communist party's
31 authoritarian policies; and

1 **WHEREAS**, the City Council wishes to express its support for
2 the efforts of the protestors to bring about a more just and
3 livable society free of the socialist agenda of the ruling
4 Communist regime and its solidarity with people everywhere who
5 fight for freedom and justice; now therefore

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

7 **Section 1.** The City Council expresses its solidarity with
8 the protestors, both in Cuba and around Florida, who are protesting
9 against the Communist government of Cuba and extends its hope that
10 their efforts will lead to positive changes that bring greater
11 freedom and democracy to that island nation and its people.

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 in order to offer timely support to
15 the on-going protests without delay.

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.

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22 Form Approved:

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24 /s/ Paige H. Johnston

25 Office of General Counsel

26 Legislation Prepared By: Jeff Clements, City Council Research

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