

1 Introduced by Council Member White and Co-Sponsored by Council
2 Members Hazouri, Becton, Diamond, DeFoor, Carlucci, Newby, Ferraro,
3 Salem, Bowman, Pittman and Morgan:
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6 **RESOLUTION 2019-817**

7 A RESOLUTION HONORING AND COMMENDING
8 JACKSONVILLE FIRE AND RESCUE ENGINEER VINCENT
9 HARPER AND LIEUTENANT RAMON RESS FOR THEIR
10 BRAVERY AND SELFLESSNESS IN AIDING CAPTAIN
11 LATORRENCE NORRIS WHO WAS ATTACKED AND
12 SEVERELY INJURED IN THE LINE OF DUTY;
13 PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.
14

15 **WHEREAS**, Vincent Harper has been serving the Jacksonville
16 community for over a decade with the Jacksonville Fire and Rescue
17 Department. Recently promoted to the rank of Engineer, Mr. Harper
18 continues to serve the community as part of the Rescue 2 team.
19 Ramon Ress is a Lieutenant with the Jacksonville Fire and Rescue
20 Department serving the community as part of the Rescue 4 team; and

21 **WHEREAS**, on October 8, 2019, the Jacksonville Fire and Rescue
22 Department was dispatched on what initially appeared as a routine
23 medical transport call. Engineer Vincent Harper and Captain
24 Latorrence Norris, a thirteen-year JFRD veteran, responded in
25 Rescue 2 to the call and began to transport a 38 year-old male
26 patient to the nearest hospital, UF Health Jacksonville. While on
27 route to the hospital, the patient became aggressive and attacked
28 Capt. Norris; and

29 **WHEREAS**, during the struggle, Eng. Harper, hearing Capt.
30 Norris' screams for help, pulled over the rescue unit and bravely
31 attempted to subdue the attacker. During the altercation, both

1 Capt. Norris and Eng. Harper received stab wounds, but Capt. Norris
2 was severely wounded. Eng. Harper was able to subdue the attacker
3 long enough for the severely injured Capt. Norris to call for
4 backup. The Fire Rescue Communications team dispatched another Fire
5 and Rescue unit, contacted the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office, and
6 crucially contacted UF Health to notify them of the situation. Lt.
7 Ress arrived in the Rescue 4 unit and immediately helped Eng.
8 Norris to subdue the attacker until the JSO officers arrived; and

9 **WHEREAS**, Eng. Harper and Lt. Ress' bravery and selflessness
10 undoubtedly helped to save the life of Capt. Norris. Without the
11 quick actions and determination to subdue the attacker by Eng.
12 Harper, and the immediate assistance of Lt. Ress, this bad
13 situation could have easily become a terrible tragedy; now
14 therefore

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

16 **Section 1.** The City of Jacksonville hereby honors and
17 commends Jacksonville Fire and Rescue Engineer Vincent Harper and
18 Lieutenant Ramon Ress for their bravery and selflessness in aiding
19 Captain Latorrence Norris who was attacked and severely injured in
20 the line of duty, and for their continued service to the community
21 with the Jacksonville Fire and Rescue Department. The City is
22 extremely grateful for their brave and selfless response to the
23 emergency situation.

24 **Section 2. Effective Date.** This Resolution shall become
25 effective upon signature by the Mayor or upon becoming effective
26 without the Mayor's signature.

27 Form Approved:

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29 /s/ Paige H. Johnston

30 Office of General Counsel

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

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