

Introduced by Council Member Johnson:

RESOLUTION 2025-853

A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING NOVEMBER 2025 AS
HOSPICE AND PALLIATIVE CARE MONTH AND HONORING
ALL HOSPICE AND PALLIATIVE CARE PROVIDERS IN
NORTHEAST FLORIDA FOR THEIR COMPASSIONATE
SERVICE AND LIFE-AFFIRMING CARE AND RECOGNIZING
FLORIDA'S LEADERSHIP IN HOSPICE QUALITY AND
POLICY INNOVATION; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, for decades, hospice and palliative care providers
across Jacksonville have served with compassion and skill, offering
comfort, dignity, and hope to residents living with serious or life-
limiting illnesses, while supporting their families through every
stage of care; and

WHEREAS, Jacksonville's network of hospice and palliative care
organizations, including Haven Hospice; Community Hospice &
Palliative Care; VITAS Healthcare; Heartland Hospice; Community
Hospice Center for Caring at UF Health Jacksonville, At Home
Palliative Care, LLC; Hospice of Florida; Community Hospice Center
for Caring at Ascension St. Vincent's Riverside; Community Hospice
Alice and T. O'Neal Douglas Center for Caring; Gentiva Hospice;
Community Hospice Earl B. Hadlow Center for Caring (also known as The
Foundation of Community Hospice and Palliative Care); Community
Hospice Center for Caring at Baptist Medical Center South; and
numerous faith and community-based providers, reflect the highest
standards of interdisciplinary care, delivering expert medical
treatment, symptom control, pain management, and emotional and
spiritual support; and

1 **WHEREAS**, these organizations extend care across settings, in
2 homes, hospitals, long-term care facilities, and dedicated hospice
3 centers, ensuring that every patient can receive high-quality,
4 compassionate services in the environment that feels most like home;
5 and

6 **WHEREAS**, the State of Florida ranks among the nation's leaders
7 in hospice and palliative care quality, serving over 166,000 patients
8 annually through 94 licensed programs operating under a Certificate
9 of Need system that ensures accountability, equitable access, and
10 high clinical standards; and

11 **WHEREAS**, Florida's hospice network is recognized among the top
12 ten in the United States for care quality, ranking sixth nationally
13 in the Hospice and Palliative Care Composite Process Measure and tied
14 for second in the Hospice Care Index, metrics that affirm the state's
15 excellence in coordinated, patient-centered care; and

16 **WHEREAS**, nationally, more than 1.5 million Americans living with
17 life-limiting illness and their families receive hospice and
18 palliative care each year, with services emphasizing comfort,
19 dignity, and patient choice over curative intervention; and

20 **WHEREAS**, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services have
21 pledged to put patients first through coordinated, patient-led
22 approaches to care, principles long embodied by Jacksonville's
23 hospice and palliative care providers; and

24 **WHEREAS**, hospice and palliative care programs provide more than
25 medical treatment, they offer counseling, caregiver training,
26 bereavement support, and respite care, ensuring that both patients
27 and families experience compassion, stability, and peace; and

28 **WHEREAS**, Florida's aging population and Jacksonville's continued
29 growth underscore the importance of expanding access to community-
30 based and home-based palliative care, strengthening the clinical
31 workforce, and increasing public awareness to encourage earlier

1 engagement with hospice services; and

2 **WHEREAS**, National Hospice and Palliative Care Month, observed
3 each November, honors these professionals and volunteers, educates
4 the public about the benefits and purpose of this care, and reminds
5 us that hospice is not an endpoint, but a safe haven where individuals
6 continue to live with grace, choice, and dignity; and

7 **WHEREAS**, hospice and palliative caregivers embody the best of
8 civic virtue, transforming the final chapters of life into moments
9 of comfort, connection, and meaning for patients and loved ones
10 throughout our community; now therefore

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

12 **Section 1.** The City Council hereby recognizes November 2025
13 as Hospice and Palliative Care Month and honors all hospice and
14 palliative care providers in Northeast Florida for their
15 compassionate and tireless service to patients and families. The
16 Council appreciates their enduring dedication, Florida's leadership
17 in compassionate healthcare, and all of the ways by which hospice and
18 palliative care provides a continuation of living anchored in dignity,
19 comfort, and love.

20 **Section 2. Effective Date.** This Resolution shall become
21 effective upon signature by the Mayor or upon becoming effective
22 without the Mayor's signature.

23
24 Form Approved:

25
26 /s/ Shannon MacGillis

27 Office of General Counsel

28 Legislation Prepared By: Colleen Hampsey, City Council Research

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