

1 Introduced by Council Member Miller and Co-Sponsored by Council
2 Members Salem and Freeman:

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5 **RESOLUTION 2025-705-A**

6 A RESOLUTION DECLARING THE MONTH OF OCTOBER 2025
7 TO BE POLISH AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH IN
8 JACKSONVILLE; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.
9

10 **WHEREAS**, the first Polish settler set foot in what would become
11 the United States when they arrived at Jamestown, Virginia with the
12 English expedition of the Virginia Company under the leadership of
13 Captain John Smith in 1608; and

14 **WHEREAS**, the United States Congress first recognized Polish
15 American Heritage Month in August of 1981, which was later changed
16 to October in order to have the commemoration coincide with the month
17 in which the first Polish settlers arrived in North America, as well
18 as the month in which the deaths of General Kazimierz Pulaski and
19 Tadeusz Kościuszko (military leaders who fought bravely in the
20 American Revolution) occurred; and

21 **WHEREAS**, Jacksonville has the largest population of citizens of
22 Polish descent in Florida, with over 13,000 residents claiming Polish
23 heritage; and

24 **WHEREAS**, from the time of the American Revolution with the
25 participation of the famous military officers in leading American
26 troops, Polish influence in America has been profound and long-lasting
27 in areas ranging from art and culture to food and politics. Polish
28 Americans have been prominent in many fields, including performers
29 as diverse as Jack Benny and Pat Benatar, filmmakers Stanley Kubrick
30 and Aaron Spelling, and politicians Dianne Feinstein and Barry
31 Goldwater; and

1 **WHEREAS**, the Polish people have a long history of sharing the
2 same societal values that are so important to Americans - freedom,
3 democracy, faith, family, service - and the two countries have long
4 been allies and mutual supporters in world affairs; and

5 **WHEREAS**, the people and government of Poland have been stalwart
6 allies of the people of Ukraine in their resistance to the Russian
7 aggression, harboring refugees fleeing the conflict and supplying
8 weapons and humanitarian aid to support the country's self-defense;
9 and

10 **WHEREAS**, the City wishes to recognize and highlight the many
11 contributions of persons of Polish American heritage to our nation
12 and city; now therefore

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

14 **Section 1.** The City Council hereby declares the month of
15 October 2025 to be Polish American Heritage Month in Jacksonville and
16 encourages all citizens to become more educated about the Polish
17 influence on American history, and to explore the art, food, and
18 culture of Poland in our city.

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

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23 Form Approved:

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25 /s/Mary E. Staffopoulos

26 Office of General Counsel

27 Legislation Prepared By: Brandon Russell, City Council Research

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