

1 Introduced by Council Members Bowman, Becton, White, Freeman and  
2 Diamond and Co-Sponsored by Council Members Salem, Carlucci, DeFoor,  
3 Morgan, Cumber, Dennis, Priestly Jackson and Hazouri:

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5  
6 **ORDINANCE 2021-212-E**

7 AN ORDINANCE APPROVING AND ADOPTING A NEW  
8 PILOT PROGRAM ENTITLED "MILITARY AND VETERANS'  
9 APPRECIATION PROGRAM" FOR REDUCED ADMISSION AT  
10 CERTAIN PARKS; PROVIDING FOR CITY OVERSIGHT BY  
11 THE PARKS, RECREATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES  
12 DEPARTMENT; PROVIDING FOR A SUNSETTING OF THE  
13 PROGRAM UNLESS EXTENDED BY LEGISLATION;  
14 PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

15  
16 **WHEREAS**, the City of Jacksonville ("City") recognizes the  
17 strong presence of active military service members and veterans  
18 living in Jacksonville and the surrounding communities; and

19 **WHEREAS**, the City acknowledges the many sacrifices made by  
20 active military service members and veterans and seeks to ensure  
21 the continued economic wellness, employment, veteran quality of  
22 life and availability of benefits to active military service  
23 members and veterans in Jacksonville; and

24 **WHEREAS**, as an added benefit to active military service  
25 members and veterans, the City desires to begin a pilot program for  
26 one year, which would reduce the park admission fees for active  
27 service members and veterans by ½ for admission to Kathryn Abbey  
28 Hanna Park and Huguenot Memorial Park; and

29 **WHEREAS**, if the pilot program is successful, the City will  
30 consider making such fee reductions applicable permanently; now  
31 therefore

1           **BE IT ORDAINED** by the Council of the City of Jacksonville:

2           **Section 1.           Approval and Adoption of the "Military and**  
3 **Veterans' Appreciation Program."** There is hereby approved and  
4 adopted within the City a "Military and Veterans' Appreciation  
5 Program" which will allow for active military service members and  
6 veterans, regardless of residency in Jacksonville, to receive a  
7 reduction of ½ of the daily admission fees charged at Kathryn Abbey  
8 Hanna Park and Huguenot Memorial Park (which may be applied to car,  
9 pedestrian and biker admission but not on annual passes). In order  
10 to qualify for the reduced admission fees, the active military  
11 service member or veteran must produce at the park entrance at the  
12 time of admission a state issued military ID or a DD214 ID. The  
13 "Military and Veterans' Appreciation Program" will initially run as  
14 a pilot program for a period of one year beginning on June 1, 2021  
15 and ending on May 31, 2022. The Parks, Recreation and Community  
16 Services Department is tasked with tracking the number of active  
17 military service members and veterans which participate in the  
18 "Military and Veterans' Appreciation Program" and receive the  
19 reduced admission fees, tabulating the totals broken down further  
20 by park and by participant type (active service vs. veterans and  
21 car, pedestrian or biker), and the cost of the Program, and shall  
22 submit a preliminary report to the Council on or before December  
23 31, 2021 and a final report to Council by June 15, 2022. The Parks,  
24 Recreation and Community Services Department shall also include in  
25 its final report any recommendations regarding the pilot program,  
26 including whether it is recommended that the program should be made  
27 permanent and whether any modifications to the program are  
28 suggested.

29           **Section 2.           Oversight Department.** The Parks, Recreation,  
30 and Community Services Department shall oversee the Program as  
31 described herein.

1           **Section 3. Sunset.**     The provisions of this Ordinance  
2 providing for a pilot program for "Military and Veterans'  
3 Appreciation Program" as described in Section 1, shall sunset, be  
4 repealed, and be of no further effect on May 31, 2022, unless  
5 extended in subsequent legislation.

6           **Section 4. Effective Date.**   This Ordinance shall become  
7 effective upon signature by the Mayor or upon becoming effective  
8 without the Mayor's signature.

9  
10 Form Approved:

11  
12 /s/ Paige H. Johnston

13 Office of General Counsel

14 Legislation prepared by: Paige H. Johnston

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