

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

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5 **RESOLUTION 2024-472-A**

6 A RESOLUTION DECLARING THE MONTH OF JULY AS
7 FRENCH AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH IN JACKSONVILLE;
8 PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.
9

10 **WHEREAS**, French influence on American culture goes back
11 hundreds of years to the landing of a French expeditionary force
12 under the command of Jean Ribault at the mouth of what is now the St.
13 Johns River in May of 1562 followed by the founding of the settlement
14 of Fort Caroline, in what would become Jacksonville, Florida, under
15 the leadership of Rene' Laudonniere in June of 1564; and

16 **WHEREAS**, the influence of France on American laws, political
17 thought, art, culture, language, and social etiquette has been
18 considerable throughout the centuries because of the close ties
19 between the two nations, a connection forged when France was the
20 greatest ally and partner of the American colonies in their fight for
21 independence; and

22 **WHEREAS**, in the United States, July is designated as National
23 French American Heritage Month and was established to honor the
24 significant contributions made to the country by people of French
25 descent. Currently, approximately 9.5 million Americans of French or
26 French-Canadian descent live and work in the United States, with
27 about 1.4 million of those speaking French at home and an additional
28 750,000 speaking a French-based creole language; and

29 **WHEREAS**, pockets of strong French influence still exist in
30 several parts of the United States, including the state of Maine with
31 the largest proportion of people identifying as having French ancestry

1 and the state of Louisiana which boasts the largest French-speaking
2 population by percentage; and

3 **WHEREAS,** French food, culture, fashion, political thought and
4 business enterprises have left an indelible mark on American culture
5 and thought; now therefore

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

7 **Section 1.** The City Council hereby declares the month of
8 July as French American Heritage Month in Jacksonville and urges all
9 residents to spend time learning about and celebrating the tremendous
10 influence the French have had on life in America.

11 **Section 2. Effective Date.** This Resolution shall become
12 effective upon signature by the Mayor or upon becoming effective
13 without the Mayor's signature.

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15 Form Approved:

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17 /s/ Mary E. Staffopoulos

18 Office of General Counsel

19 Legislation Prepared By: Jeff Clements, City Council Research

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