

1 Introduced by Council Members White, Newby, Hazouri, Freeman,
2 DeFoor, Salem, Cumber, Ferraro, Becton, Morgan, Priestly Jackson,
3 Diamond, Bowman, Carlucci, Dennis, Pittman, Carrico, R. Gaffney and
4 Boylan:
5
6

7 **RESOLUTION 2020-769**

8 A RESOLUTION URGING THE U.S. CENTERS FOR
9 DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION AND GOVERNOR
10 RON DESANTIS TO INCLUDE FIRST RESPONDERS IN
11 THE INITIAL GROUP TO RECEIVE THE COVID-19
12 VACCINE DISTRIBUTION WHEN THE VACCINE IS
13 APPROVED AND FIRST MADE AVAILABLE; REQUESTING
14 EMERGENCY ACTION UPON INTRODUCTION; DIRECTION
15 TO THE LEGISLATIVE SERVICES DIVISION UPON
16 ADOPTION; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.
17

18 **WHEREAS**, during 2020 the United States and the rest of the
19 world have been ravaged by the novel coronavirus first identified
20 in late 2019 (COVID-19), which has infected scores of millions of
21 people worldwide and has killed over 1.5 million, a figure which is
22 growing steadily as the pandemic shows no sign of abating; and

23 **WHEREAS**, in a truly remarkable display of skill and speed,
24 scientists and medical researchers have developed, tested, and
25 submitted for regulatory approval several vaccines to immunize
26 against COVID-19 in less than one year; and

27 **WHEREAS**, as the vaccine is approved and becomes ready for
28 distribution, hopefully within the next month, decisions must be
29 made about prioritizing the initial distribution of limited
30 supplies of the vaccine to those most in need of its protective
31 power; and

1 **WHEREAS**, the initial information released by the U.S. Centers
2 for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Governor Ron DeSantis
3 indicates that the first round of vaccinations will be administered
4 to medical professionals (doctors, nurses, etc.), the residents and
5 staff of congregate living facilities such as nursing homes and
6 long-term assisted living facilities, and to those over the age of
7 65 with serious underlying health issues; and

8 **WHEREAS**, this initial prioritization list does not include
9 first-responder emergency medical technicians as health care
10 providers, despite the fact that they are on the front line of
11 response to medical emergencies and therefore are highly
12 susceptible to being exposed to the COVID-19 virus in the course of
13 examining, treating and transporting their patients; and

14 **WHEREAS**, the loss of front line EMTs to COVID-related illness
15 or quarantine due to potential exposure, as has happened around the
16 country and in Jacksonville, endangers the health and safety of the
17 general public by reducing the capacity of first responders to
18 reach, evaluate, treat and transport sick or injured persons in a
19 timely manner due to their reduced numbers; now therefore

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

21 **Section 1.** The City of Jacksonville hereby calls upon the
22 U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Florida
23 Governor Ron DeSantis to include first-responder emergency medical
24 technicians as health care providers in the top priority category
25 of eligibility for receipt of the COVID-19 vaccine as soon as it is
26 approved for use in the United States, which is in the best
27 interests of maintaining the capacity of the nation's emergency
28 response system to meet COVID-related and all other types of
29 medical emergencies.

30 **Section 2.** **Requesting emergency passage upon introduction**
31 **pursuant to Council Rule 4.901 Emergency.** Emergency passage upon

1 introduction of this legislation is requested. The nature of the
2 emergency is that the COVID-19 vaccine is apparently nearing
3 federal government approval for use and the City Council, with a
4 December meeting hiatus taking effect next week, wishes to make
5 known to the appropriate authorities as quickly as possible its
6 feelings regarding this matter before distribution priorities are
7 finalized and vaccinations begin, hopefully in the month of January
8 2021.

9 **Section 3. Direction to Legislative Services Division.**

10 The Chief of the Legislative Services Division is directed to
11 forward copies of this adopted resolution to the Director of the
12 U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and to Florida
13 Governor Ron DeSantis.

14 **Section 4. Effective Date.** This Resolution shall become

15 effective upon signature by the Mayor or upon becoming effective
16 without the Mayor's signature.

17
18 Form Approved:

19
20
21 /s/ Margaret M. Sidman

22 Office of General Counsel

23 Legislation Prepared By: Jeff Clements, City Council Research

24 GC-#1405402-v1-White_-_COVID_vaccine_for_first_responders.doc