

1 Introduced by Council Member White and Co-Sponsored by Council Members
2 Freeman, Salem, Howland, Miller, Amaro, Boylan and Pittman:

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5 **RESOLUTION 2024-122-A**

6 A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING MARCH AS NATIONAL RED
7 CROSS MONTH AND COMMEMORATING THE 143RD
8 ANNIVERSARY OF THE AMERICAN RED CROSS AND THE
9 110TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NORTHEAST FLORIDA
10 CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN RED CROSS; PROVIDING AN
11 EFFECTIVE DATE.

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13 **WHEREAS,** the American Red Cross is a humanitarian organization
14 founded in 1881 and originally chartered by Congress as a federal
15 instrumentality in 1900, but receives no federal funding; and

16 **WHEREAS,** the mission of the American Red Cross is to prevent
17 and alleviate human suffering in the face of emergencies by mobilizing
18 the power of volunteers and the generosity of donors; and

19 **WHEREAS,** the American Red Cross responds to more than 65,000
20 disasters annually, and delivers vital services to members of the
21 Armed Forces, their families, and veterans at home and overseas, and
22 provided lifesaving health and safety training to more than 5 million
23 people in 2023; and

24 **WHEREAS,** March is recognized as Red Cross Month across the
25 nation and 2024 marks the 143rd anniversary of the American Red Cross
26 and the 110th anniversary of Florida's first chartered Red Cross
27 Chapter, established here in Jacksonville; and

28 **WHEREAS,** the American Red Cross has repeatedly answered the
29 call to assist those in need in Northeast Florida, beginning with the
30 Yellow Fever epidemic of 1888, including support in Jacksonville to
31 American troops during the Spanish American War, then later providing

1 relief to those affected by Jacksonville's Great Fire of 1901; and

2 **WHEREAS**, the Northeast Florida Chapter of the American Red
3 Cross provides its humanitarian services across thirteen counties in
4 Northeast Florida and is the headquarters for the 35-county Red Cross
5 North Florida Region stretching from the First Coast across the entire
6 breadth of the Florida Panhandle; and

7 **WHEREAS**, the Northeast Florida Chapter of the American Red
8 Cross in 2023 helped nearly 2,000 family members affected by nearly
9 700 home fires or other disasters, hosted 59 blood drives throughout
10 the Region, including collections targeted at Sickle Cell Disease and
11 vital minority blood-type collections, and regionally provided more
12 than 13,000 vital services to military members, veterans, and
13 families, and deployed more than 200 of its 1,000 volunteers in
14 response to hurricanes and other disasters; and

15 **WHEREAS**, American Red Cross disaster assistance is free, and
16 90 cents of every dollar donated goes directly to mission service
17 delivery; now therefore

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

19 **Section 1.** The City Council hereby recognizes March as
20 National Red Cross Month, the 143rd anniversary of the American Red
21 Cross, and the 110th anniversary of the Northeast Florida Chapter of
22 the American Red Cross, and commends the volunteers and paid staff
23 of the North Florida Region for their continuing humanitarian service
24 to our City and to the State of Florida.

25 **Section 2. Effective Date.** This Resolution shall become
26 effective upon signature by the Mayor or upon becoming effective
27 without the Mayor's signature.

1 Form Approved:

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3 /s/ Mary E. Staffopoulos

4 Office of General Counsel

5 Legislation Prepared By: Jeff Clements, City Council Research

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