

1 Introduced by Council Member Johnson and Co-Sponsored by Council
2 Members Amaro, Arias, Boylan, J. Carlucci, Carlucci, Carrico,
3 Clark-Murray, Diamond, Freeman, Gaffney, Jr., Gay, Howland, Lahnen,
4 Miller, Peluso, Pittman, Salem and White and amended on the Floor of
5 Council:

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8 **RESOLUTION 2024-858-A**

9 A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING AND CELEBRATING THE
10 MONTH OF OCTOBER 2024 AS FILIPINO AMERICAN
11 HISTORY MONTH IN JACKSONVILLE; REQUESTING
12 EMERGENCY PASSAGE UPON INTRODUCTION; PROVIDING
13 AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

14
15 **WHEREAS**, Filipino Americans represent the second-largest Asian
16 American group in the United States and Jacksonville has the largest
17 Filipino American population in the Southeast, demonstrating their
18 significant presence throughout the region; and

19 **WHEREAS**, the celebration of Filipino American History Month in
20 October commemorates the first recorded presence of Filipinos in the
21 continental United States which occurred on October 18, 1587, when
22 the Luzones Indios landed from the Spanish galleon Nuestra Señora de
23 Esperanza at what is now Morro Bay, California; and

24 **WHEREAS**, in 2009, the United States Congress officially
25 recognized October as Filipino American History Month, paying tribute
26 to the rich history and significant contributions of Filipino
27 Americans to the growth and diversity of our nation; and

28 **WHEREAS**, the Filipino American community has played an
29 integral role in shaping the history, culture, and identity of
30 Jacksonville, enriching our City's diversity through their
31 leadership, talent, and dedication; and

1 **WHEREAS,** Anna Lopez Brosche made history as the first Filipino
2 American to be elected to the Jacksonville City Council and further
3 distinguished herself as the first Filipino American to serve as City
4 Council President, exemplifying leadership, dedication, and a
5 commitment to public service that continues to inspire future
6 generations of Filipino Americans in our city and beyond; and

7 **WHEREAS,** notable leaders from Jacksonville's Filipino
8 community include Ernesto Perez, Vice President of the Jacksonville
9 Urban League, whose leadership and advocacy have strengthened our
10 community, Dr. Bella C. Ejercito, a pioneering physician who brought
11 compassionate care to countless families, and Dr. Francesca Gonzaga,
12 whose work and research has continued to improve educational outcomes
13 for students throughout Jacksonville; and

14 **WHEREAS,** the Filipino American organization Jax Filipinos,
15 under the leadership of Sharol Noblejas and Redner Salonga, plays a
16 vital role in promoting the rich culture and history of the more than
17 700 islands of the Philippines, fostering greater understanding and
18 unity in our City; and

19 **WHEREAS,** Agnes Lopez, founder of the beloved "Taste of the
20 Philippines" event at the Museum of Science and History, has expanded
21 this celebration, which is the Museum's longest-running special
22 event, featuring eight local Filipino chefs representing each of the
23 eight major regions of the Philippines with signature dishes that
24 highlight the diversity of Filipino cuisine; and

25 **WHEREAS,** the Filipino American community continues to
26 contribute to Jacksonville's economic, cultural, and civic life,
27 helping to build a brighter future for all its residents; now
28 therefore

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

30 **Section 1.** The City Council hereby recognizes and
31 celebrates the month of October 2024 as Filipino American History

1 Month in Jacksonville, Florida, and encourages all citizens to
2 celebrate the invaluable contributions of Filipino Americans to our
3 City and nation. Let us continue to embrace the diversity and richness
4 that Filipino culture brings to Jacksonville, fostering a community
5 of inclusion, mutual respect, and shared prosperity.

6 **Section 2. Requesting Emergency Passage Upon Introduction**
7 **Pursuant to Rule 4.901 Emergency.** Emergency passage upon introduction
8 of this legislation is requested. The nature of the emergency is to
9 recognize Filipino American History Month in a timely manner.

10 **Section 3. Effective Date.** This Resolution shall become
11 effective upon signature by the Mayor or upon becoming effective
12 without the Mayor's signature.

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14 Form Approved:

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16 /s/ Mary E. Staffopoulos

17 Office of General Counsel

18 Legislation Prepared By: Jeff Clements, City Council Research

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