

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

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8 **RESOLUTION 2024-392-A**

9 A RESOLUTION DECLARING THE MONTH OF MAY AS ALS
10 AWARENESS MONTH IN JACKSONVILLE AND URGING ALL
11 CITIZENS TO PARTAKE IN THE MANY ACTIVITIES AND
12 INFORMATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES THAT WILL BE
13 OFFERED; REQUESTING EMERGENCY PASSAGE UPON
14 INTRODUCTION; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

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16 **WHEREAS**, Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS), commonly known
17 as Lou Gehrig's Disease, attacks nerve cells in the brain and spinal
18 cord, eventually robbing patients of their ability to control muscle
19 movement, often resulting in fatality; and

20 **WHEREAS**, the initial symptom of ALS is a weakness of the
21 skeletal muscles, especially of the extremities, which is followed
22 by difficulty in swallowing, talking, and breathing, and thereafter
23 muscle atrophy and functional quadriplegia; and

24 **WHEREAS**, ALS is a cruel disease that usually does not affect
25 a patient's mental capacities, allowing the patient to remain alert
26 and aware of her loss of motor functions; and

27 **WHEREAS**, every 90 minutes throughout the year someone is
28 diagnosed with ALS and someone dies from the disease, and life
29 expectancy from the time of diagnosis typically ranges from 2 to 5
30 years; and

31 **WHEREAS**, while great strides have been made in the scientific

1 understanding of ALS over the past decade, the cause remains largely
2 unknown and treatment options are limited; and research indicates
3 that military veterans are at a 50% greater risk of developing ALS
4 than those who have not served in the military; and

5 **WHEREAS,** increasing awareness related to this
6 neurodegenerative disease will benefit the Northeast Florida
7 community and the national effort to find a cure for this terrible
8 condition; now therefore

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

10 **Section 1.** The City Council hereby recognizes local, state
11 and national efforts to bring awareness to Amyotrophic Lateral
12 Sclerosis (ALS), commonly known as Lou Gehrig's Disease, and
13 recognizes May 2024 as ALS Awareness Month in Jacksonville. The
14 Council urges all citizens to partake in the many activities and
15 informational opportunities that will be offered during the month to
16 raise awareness of the impacts of ALS in our community.

17 **Section 2. Requesting Emergency Passage Pursuant to Council**
18 **Rule 4.901 - Emergency.** Emergency passage of this legislation upon
19 introduction is requested in order for the resolution to be adopted
20 as early as possible in the month being recognized.

21 **Section 3. Effective Date.** This Resolution shall become
22 effective upon signature by the Mayor or upon becoming effective
23 without the Mayor's signature.

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25 Form Approved:

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27 /s/ Mary E. Staffopoulos

28 Office of General Counsel

29 Legislation Prepared By: Jeff Clements, City Council Research

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