

1 Introduced by Council Member Johnson:
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4 **RESOLUTION 2024-858**

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

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

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

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

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

28 **WHEREAS,** Anna Lopez Brosche made history as the first Filipino
29 American to be elected to the Jacksonville City Council and further
30 distinguished herself as the first Filipino American to serve as City
31 Council President, exemplifying leadership, dedication, and a

1 commitment to public service that continues to inspire future
2 generations of Filipino Americans in our city and beyond; and

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

10 **WHEREAS**, the Filipino American organization Jax Filipinos,
11 under the leadership of Sharol Noblejas and Redner Salonga, plays a
12 vital role in promoting the rich culture and history of the more than
13 700 islands of the Philippines, fostering greater understanding and
14 unity in our City; and

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

21 **WHEREAS**, the Filipino American community continues to
22 contribute to Jacksonville's economic, cultural, and civic life,
23 helping to build a brighter future for all its residents; now
24 therefore

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

26 **Section 1.** The City Council hereby recognizes and
27 celebrates the month of October 2024 as Filipino American History
28 Month in Jacksonville, Florida, and encourages all citizens to
29 celebrate the invaluable contributions of Filipino Americans to our
30 City and nation. Let us continue to embrace the diversity and richness
31 that Filipino culture brings to Jacksonville, fostering a community

1 of inclusion, mutual respect, and shared prosperity.

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

6 **Section 3. Effective Date.** This Resolution shall become
7 effective upon signature by the Mayor or upon becoming effective
8 without the Mayor's signature.

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10 Form Approved:

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12 /s/ Mary E. Staffopoulos

13 Office of General Counsel

14 Legislation Prepared By: Jeff Clements, City Council Research

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