

1 Introduced by Council Members Ferraro, White and Newby:
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4 **RESOLUTION 2021-857**

5 A RESOLUTION HONORING AND COMMEMORATING THE LIFE
6 AND SERVICE OF JACKSONVILLE FIRE AND RESCUE
7 DEPARTMENT ENGINEER MIKE FREELAND; PROVIDING AN
8 EFFECTIVE DATE.
9

10 **WHEREAS**, Mike Freeland, a Jacksonville native and graduate of
11 Paxon Middle School and Ed White High School, was hired by the
12 Jacksonville Fire and Rescue Department as a firefighter in April of
13 2014; and

14 **WHEREAS**, Mr. Freeland was originally assigned to Engine 50, then
15 assigned to Rescue 16 upon his promotion to the rank of Engineer in
16 April 2019, and was transferred to Engine 73 at Cecil Commerce Center
17 as a Combat Engineer in August 2021; and

18 **WHEREAS**, in the early morning hours of November 11th, a U-Haul
19 truck crashed into a power pole near Cecil Airport, trapping the
20 driver in the crushed cab of the vehicle. During the course of an
21 extended extraction operation, while working in the cargo box of the
22 truck to attempt a rescue through the back of the cab, Engineer
23 Freeland collapsed and was immediately the subject of resuscitation
24 efforts by his fellow firefighters, and then was transported to the
25 hospital where life-saving efforts were ultimately unsuccessful; and

26 **WHEREAS**, the tragic death of Mike Freeland was the third death
27 of an active-duty firefighter experienced by the Fire and Rescue
28 Department during 2021, demonstrating the inherent dangers of the job
29 these brave men and women perform every day and their dedication to
30 the public's safety and welfare; now therefore

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

1 **Section 1.** The City of Jacksonville hereby honors and
2 commemorates the life and public service of Fire and Rescue Department
3 Engineer Mike Freeland and extends to his family, co-workers and
4 friends its most sincere condolences on his passing. Engineer Freeland
5 was an enthusiastic and dedicated public servant and his loss will
6 be deeply felt by all who had the good fortune to know him. His
7 service to the City will be long and gratefully remembered.

8 **Section 2. Effective Date.** This Resolution shall become
9 effective upon signature by the Mayor or upon becoming effective
10 without the Mayor's signature.

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12 Form Approved:

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14 /s/ Paige H. Johnston

15 Office of General Counsel

16 Legislation Prepared By: Jeff Clements, City Council Research

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