

1 Introduced by Council Member Johnson and Co-Sponsored by Council  
2 Members Boylan and Miller:

3  
4  
5 **RESOLUTION 2026-253-A**

6 A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE WEEK OF APRIL 19-  
7 25, 2026, AS NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK IN  
8 JACKSONVILLE, AND CELEBRATING THE JACKSONVILLE  
9 PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM AS A VITAL INSTITUTION OF  
10 KNOWLEDGE, LITERACY, AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT;  
11 PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

12  
13 **WHEREAS**, since its founding in 1903, the Jacksonville Public  
14 Library has stood as a cornerstone of intellectual life in our city,  
15 providing generations of residents with free and equitable access to  
16 knowledge, culture, and opportunity; and

17 **WHEREAS**, over the course of more than a century, the Jacksonville  
18 Public Library has grown into a vibrant system of 21 locations,  
19 including the Main Library and neighborhood branches throughout the  
20 city, each serving as a gateway to learning, discovery, and civic  
21 connection for residents of every age and background; and

22 **WHEREAS**, the Jacksonville Public Library continues to evolve  
23 alongside the needs of the community by offering a broad spectrum of  
24 services including live educational and cultural events, public  
25 computer access, meeting and collaboration spaces, free online  
26 learning opportunities, and innovative resources such as the Memory  
27 Lab, which enables residents to preserve and digitize cherished  
28 photographs and videos; and

29 **WHEREAS**, the library system extends its reach beyond the walls  
30 of its branches through initiatives such as the River City Readers'  
31 Bookmobile and Books by Mail, ensuring that residents in neighborhoods

1 with limited access to traditional library services can still  
2 experience the power and promise of reading and discovery; and

3 **WHEREAS**, in 2025 alone, Jacksonville Public Library welcomed  
4 more than 2.4 million visits, facilitated the borrowing of over 5.7  
5 million items, and hosted nearly 9,000 educational and cultural  
6 programs, including the highly successful Jax Book Fest, which  
7 welcomed thousands of residents and brought nationally recognized  
8 authors to our community free of charge; and

9 **WHEREAS**, libraries represent one of the most enduring  
10 expressions of democratic access to knowledge, empowering individuals  
11 to pursue education, expand their horizons, strengthen their  
12 communities, and participate fully in civic life; and

13 **WHEREAS**, National Library Week provides an important opportunity  
14 to recognize and celebrate the invaluable contributions of  
15 librarians, library workers, volunteers, and supporters whose  
16 dedication ensures that the doors of learning remain open to every  
17 resident of Jacksonville; now therefore

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

19 **Section 1.** The City Council hereby recognizes the week of  
20 April 19-25, 2026, as National Library Week in Jacksonville, and  
21 encourages all residents to visit their neighborhood library,  
22 participate in its programs, explore its vast resources, and celebrate  
23 the librarians and staff whose work strengthens literacy, fuels  
24 curiosity, and helps build a more informed and connected community.

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:

2

3 /s/ Mary E. Staffopoulos

4 Office of General Counsel

5 Legislation Prepared By: Colleen Hampsey, City Council Research

6 GC-#1748003-v1-2026-253-A.docx