

1 Introduced by Council Member Lahnen:
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4 **RESOLUTION 2024-392**

5 A RESOLUTION DECLARING THE MONTH OF MAY AS ALS
6 AWARENESS MONTH IN JACKSONVILLE AND URGING ALL
7 CITIZENS TO PARTAKE IN THE MANY ACTIVITIES AND
8 INFORMATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES THAT WILL BE
9 OFFERED; REQUESTING EMERGENCY PASSAGE UPON
10 INTRODUCTION; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.
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12 **WHEREAS**, Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS), commonly known
13 as Lou Gehrig's Disease, attacks nerve cells in the brain and spinal
14 cord, eventually robbing patients of their ability to control muscle
15 movement, often resulting in fatality; and

16 **WHEREAS**, the initial symptom of ALS is a weakness of the
17 skeletal muscles, especially of the extremities, which is followed
18 by difficulty in swallowing, talking, and breathing, and thereafter
19 muscle atrophy and functional quadriplegia; and

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

23 **WHEREAS**, every 90 minutes throughout the year someone is
24 diagnosed with ALS and someone dies from the disease, and life
25 expectancy from the time of diagnosis typically ranges from 2 to 5
26 years; and

27 **WHEREAS**, while great strides have been made in the scientific
28 understanding of ALS over the past decade, the cause remains largely
29 unknown and treatment options are limited; and research indicates
30 that military veterans are at a 50% greater risk of developing ALS
31 than those who have not served in the military; and

1 **WHEREAS**, increasing awareness related to this
2 neurodegenerative disease will benefit the Northeast Florida
3 community and the national effort to find a cure for this terrible
4 condition; now therefore

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

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

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

17 **Section 3. Effective Date.** This Resolution shall become
18 effective upon signature by the Mayor or upon becoming effective
19 without the Mayor's signature.

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21 Form Approved:

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23 /s/ Shannon MacGillis

24 Office of General Counsel

25 Legislation Prepared By: Jeff Clements, City Council Research

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