

1 Introduced by Council Member Miller:
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4 **RESOLUTION 2024-472**

5 A RESOLUTION DECLARING THE MONTHH OF JULY AS
6 FRENCH AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH IN JACKSONVILLE;
7 PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.
8

9 **WHEREAS**, French influence on American culture goes back
10 hundreds of years to the landing of a French expeditionary force
11 under the command of Jean Ribault at the mouth of what is now the St.
12 Johns River in May of 1562 followed by the founding of the settlement
13 of Fort Caroline, in what would become Jacksonville, Florida, under
14 the leadership of Rene' Laudonniere in June of 1564; and

15 **WHEREAS**, the influence of France on American laws, political
16 thought, art, culture, language, and social etiquette has been
17 considerable throughout the centuries because of the close ties
18 between the two nations, a connection forged when France was the
19 greatest ally and partner of the American colonies in their fight for
20 independence; and

21 **WHEREAS**, in the United States, July is designated as National
22 French American Heritage Month and was established to honor the
23 significant contributions made to the country by people of French
24 descent. Currently, approximately 9.5 million Americans of French or
25 French-Canadian descent live and work in the United States, with
26 about 1.4 million of those speaking French at home and an additional
27 750,000 speaking a French-based creole language; and

28 **WHEREAS**, pockets of strong French influence still exist in
29 several parts of the United States, including the state of Maine with
30 the largest proportion of people identifying as having French ancestry
31 and the state of Louisiana which boasts the largest French-speaking

1 population by percentage; and

2 **WHEREAS**, French food, culture, fashion, political thought and
3 business enterprises have left an indelible mark on American culture
4 and thought; now therefore

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

6 **Section 1.** The City Council hereby declares the month of
7 July as French American Heritage Month in Jacksonville and urges all
8 residents to spend time learning about and celebrating the tremendous
9 influence the French have had on life in America.

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

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14 Form Approved:

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16 /s/ Shannon MacGillis

17 Office of General Counsel

18 Legislation Prepared By: Jeff Clements, City Council Research

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