

1 Introduced by Council Members Hazouri, Priestly Jackson, Dennis,
2 Wilson, Cumber, Freeman, Boylan, Morgan, Carlucci, Salem and Co-
3 Sponsored by Council Members Newby, Becton, Bowman, DeFoor,
4 Diamond, Ferraro, Gaffney, Pittman and White and amended twice on
5 the Floor of Council:
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8 **RESOLUTION 2019-895-A**

9 A RESOLUTION DECLARING JANUARY AS HUMAN
10 TRAFFICKING AWARENESS MONTH AND DESIGNATING
11 JANUARY 23, 2020 AS HUMAN TRAFFICKING
12 AWARENESS DAY IN JACKSONVILLE; REQUESTING
13 EMERGENCY PASSAGE UPON INTRODUCTION; PROVIDING
14 AN EFFECTIVE DATE.
15

16 **WHEREAS**, human trafficking is a form of modern-day slavery.
17 Traffickers use force, fraud, and coercion to engage men, women,
18 and children into commercial sex, labor, or services. It is a
19 federal crime to compel a person into such horrific situations
20 against his or her will. However, inducing a minor into commercial
21 sex is considered human trafficking regardless of the presence of
22 force, fraud or coercion; and

23 **WHEREAS**, human trafficking is among the top three largest
24 criminal industries in the world, and is continuously growing. The
25 International Labor Organization estimates that there are 40.3
26 million victims of human trafficking globally. There is no official
27 estimate of the total number of human trafficking victims in the
28 U.S. Polaris, a non-profit organization which runs the National
29 Human Trafficking Hotline and tracks human trafficking nationwide

1 by state, estimates that the total number of victims nationally
2 reaches into the hundreds of thousands when estimates of both adult
3 and minor sex trafficking and labor trafficking are aggregated; and

4 **WHEREAS**, victims of human trafficking can frequently be found
5 in domestic labor situations, sweatshop factories, construction,
6 farm work, fisheries, hotel and tourist industries, janitorial
7 services, restaurant services, and the sex industry; and

8 **WHEREAS**, traffickers use violence, threats, deception, debt
9 bondage, drug use, and other manipulative tactics to press victims
10 into lives of servitude and abuse, frequently subjecting victims to
11 rape, beatings, confinement, debt bondage, and psychological abuse;
12 and

13 **WHEREAS**, according to figures collected from the National
14 Human Trafficking Hotline, Florida ranks third in the U.S., behind
15 California and Texas, in human trafficking cases reported by each
16 state. Northeast Florida is disproportionately affected by human
17 trafficking due to the large volume of interstate commerce and
18 travel on I-10 and I-95, and the high demand for services due to
19 the presence of vacation destinations and military bases within our
20 large city; and

21 **WHEREAS**, the Northeast Florida Human Trafficking Coalition, a
22 collaborative effort of public and private organizations serving
23 Northeast Florida, is working to develop a systematic approach to
24 identifying, rescuing, and restoring victims of human trafficking
25 in Northeast Florida through professional training, community
26 awareness, technical assistance, coordinating services, and
27 investigating and prosecuting traffickers; and

28 **WHEREAS**, the agencies of the Northeast Florida Human
29 Trafficking Task Force have joined together in a community
30 awareness campaign to "Look Beneath the Surface" and identify and
31 assist victims of human trafficking through Human Trafficking

1 Awareness Week; now therefore

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

3 **Section 1.** The month of January is declared Human
4 Trafficking Awareness Month and January 23, 2020 is designated as
5 Human Trafficking Awareness Day in Jacksonville, and encourages
6 citizens, businesses, and City employees to take advantage of all
7 local opportunities to become educated on this important topic.

8 **Section 2. Requesting emergency passage upon introduction**
9 **pursuant to Council Rule 4.901 Emergency.** Emergency passage upon
10 introduction of this legislation is requested. The nature of the
11 emergency is that this legislation recognizes the Month of January
12 as Human Trafficking awareness month and this is the last council
13 meeting prior to January and the first Council Meeting in January
14 is January 14, half way through the month being recognized.

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

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19 Form Approved:

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21 /s/ *Margaret M. Sidman*

22 Office of General Counsel

23 Legislation Prepared By: Yvonne P. Mitchell, City Council Research

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