

1 Introduced by Council Member Johnson:
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4 **RESOLUTION 2026-411**

5 A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING JUNE 2026 AS APHASIA
6 AWARENESS MONTH IN THE CITY OF JACKSONVILLE,
7 HONORING INDIVIDUALS LIVING WITH APHASIA, THEIR
8 FAMILIES, CLINICIANS, AND ADVOCATES, CALLING
9 UPON BUSINESSES, INSTITUTIONS, AND PUBLIC
10 AGENCIES TO ADVANCE COMMUNICATION
11 ACCESSIBILITY, AND AFFIRMING THAT EVERY
12 RESIDENT, REGARDLESS OF ABILITY, DESERVES TO BE
13 HEARD; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.
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15 **WHEREAS**, June is recognized nationwide as National Aphasia
16 Awareness Month, a campaign led in part by National Aphasia
17 Association to elevate understanding of a condition that affects more
18 than two million Americans and touches countless others; and

19 **WHEREAS**, aphasia is a communication disorder most often caused
20 by stroke or brain injury, impacting the ability to speak, read,
21 write, and understand language, while leaving intelligence,
22 personality, and lived experience fully intact; and

23 **WHEREAS**, awareness remains critically low, with a vast majority
24 of Americans unable to identify aphasia, creating a silent barrier
25 that too often leads to isolation, misunderstanding, and exclusion
26 from everyday life; and

27 **WHEREAS**, in a city the size of Jacksonville, with a population
28 exceeding one million residents, with thousands of stroke survivors,
29 these national figures translate into thousands of local families
30 navigating aphasia, often without the visibility, tools, or support
31 systems necessary to fully engage in civic and social life; and

1 **WHEREAS**, June's National Aphasia Awareness Month initiatives,
2 including campaigns such as "United for Aphasia Awareness,"
3 storytelling efforts, community education programs, library
4 showcases, and public forums, are designed not only to inform, but
5 to transform how communities see, hear, and respond to those living
6 with aphasia; and

7 **WHEREAS**, local leaders in rehabilitative care, including Brooks
8 Rehabilitation, alongside speech language pathologists, hospital
9 systems, universities, caregivers, and advocacy organizations, are
10 advancing life changing work to restore communication, rebuild
11 confidence, and reconnect individuals to their families and
12 communities; and

13 **WHEREAS**, this work extends beyond therapy rooms and into the
14 fabric of daily life, requiring businesses, restaurants, healthcare
15 providers, government agencies, and community organizations to adopt
16 communication friendly practices that ensure individuals with aphasia
17 are not rushed, dismissed, or spoken around, but instead welcomed,
18 supported, and fully included; and

19 **WHEREAS**, ensuring access to communication is not a courtesy, it
20 is a civic responsibility, and a city committed to equity must create
21 spaces where patience is practiced, understanding is extended, and
22 every voice, spoken, written, assisted, or emerging, is given the
23 time and respect it deserves; and

24 **WHEREAS**, National Aphasia Awareness Month calls upon communities
25 to move from awareness to action, from recognition to responsibility,
26 and from silence to intentional listening; now therefore

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

28 **Section 1.** The City Council hereby recognizes June 2026 as
29 Aphasia Awareness Month in the City of Jacksonville and affirms its
30 commitment to increasing awareness, education, and support for
31 individuals living with aphasia throughout our community. The City

1 Council honors the individuals living with aphasia whose resilience
2 redefines strength, as well as the families, caregivers, clinicians,
3 and advocates who stand beside them on the ongoing journey toward
4 communication, connection, and independence. The City Council calls
5 upon businesses, nonprofit organizations, healthcare providers,
6 educational institutions, and public agencies across Jacksonville to
7 adopt communication accessible practices, ensuring that individuals
8 living with aphasia are able to fully participate in civic, economic,
9 and social life. All residents are encouraged to learn more about
10 aphasia, to engage with awareness initiatives throughout the month
11 of June, and to commit to building a community where no one is left
12 unheard.

13 **Section 2. Effective Date.** This Resolution shall become
14 effective upon signature by the Mayor or upon becoming effective
15 without the Mayor's signature.

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17 Form Approved:

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19 /s/ Shannon MacGillis

20 Office of General Counsel

21 Legislation Prepared By: Colleen Hampsey, City Council Research

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