

1 Introduced by Council Member Gaffney and Co-Sponsored by Council
2 Members Salem, Becton, Bowman, Dennis, Howland, DeFoor, Ferraro,
3 Morgan, and Pittman:
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6 **RESOLUTION 2022-283-A**

7 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE HISPANIC AMERICAN
8 BUSINESS ASSOCIATION FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS TO
9 THE CITY; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.
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11 **WHEREAS**, the Hispanic American Business Association was founded
12 in 1992 by Clark Vargas, a civil engineer, George Hernandez, a
13 contractor, Jose (Pepe) Perez, an architect, and Sergio Arnaiz, a
14 businessman; and

15 **WHEREAS**, with the growing Hispanic population and businesses in
16 Northeast Florida, they saw the need for the Hispanic American
17 Business Organization, HABA, to represent them. HABA helped to make
18 the members' voices heard by City and State government officials for
19 the advancement of the Hispanic community not only for business issues
20 but also regarding health, education, and safety; and

21 **WHEREAS**, one of the first changes advocated by the group was the
22 inclusion of Hispanics as minority service providers to the City, to
23 focus upon increasing the hiring of Hispanic workers to City agencies,
24 as well as the hiring of Hispanic doctors, Duval County Health
25 Department personnel, and Duval County School teachers; and

26 **WHEREAS**, Hispanic American Business Association's membership
27 grew rapidly and by 1997 they had a significant role on City and
28 State government boards and commissions. One HABA member, Tomas A.
29 Jiménez, Sr., subsequently founded the Mayor's Hispanic American
30 Advisory Board and initiated the Achieving the Dream Scholarship
31 Awards, both of which still exist today; and

1 **WHEREAS**, the Hispanic American Business Association took a
2 leadership position with the World of Nations Yearly Celebration, and
3 worked closely with the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office Recruitment
4 Department to increase the hiring of Hispanic police officers to
5 serve the growing Hispanic population of Jacksonville; and

6 **WHEREAS**, since the creation in 1992, HABA has worked closely
7 with the Duval County Supervisor of Elections by holding regular
8 voter registration drives so the Hispanic community can be involved
9 in the voting process, be fairly represented by Congress, and receive
10 equitable benefits for education, health and welfare programs; now
11 therefore

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

13 **Section 1.** The City of Jacksonville hereby commends the
14 Hispanic American Business Association for all they do for the
15 Hispanic community in Jacksonville and to make our city a better
16 place.

17 **Section 2. 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/ Paige H. Johnston

24 Office of General Counsel

25 Legislation Prepared By: Colleen Hampsey, City Council Research

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