

1 Introduced by Council Members Johnson, Pittman, Miller, Gaffney, Jr.,
2 Howland, Peluso and Boylan and Co-Sponsored by Council Members Arias,
3 Freeman, Amaro, White and Salem:
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6 **RESOLUTION 2026-233-A**

7 A RESOLUTION HONORING THE CITY RESCUE MISSION ON
8 THE OCCASION OF ITS 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF SERVICE
9 TO THE PEOPLE OF JACKSONVILLE; PROVIDING AN
10 EFFECTIVE DATE.
11

12 **WHEREAS**, in 1946, three faithful Jacksonville businessmen began
13 carrying thermoses of soup through the streets of downtown
14 Jacksonville to serve men experiencing hunger and homelessness,
15 planting the seed of compassion that would grow into one of our
16 community's most enduring institutions of hope, the City Rescue
17 Mission; and

18 **WHEREAS**, from those humble acts of service, the City Rescue
19 Mission was formally incorporated in 1953 as an interdenominational
20 Christian, religious and charitable non-profit organization dedicated
21 to ministering to the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of
22 individuals facing hardship, embodying the belief that every person
23 deserves dignity, opportunity, and the chance to begin again; and

24 **WHEREAS**, throughout eight decades of faithful service, the City
25 Rescue Mission has demonstrated remarkable perseverance, overcoming
26 adversity including fire, financial hardship, and the ever-changing
27 challenges associated with poverty and homelessness, while
28 continually expanding its programs to meet the needs of a growing and
29 evolving Jacksonville community; and

30 **WHEREAS**, the City Rescue Mission has been guided by visionary
31 leadership across generations including George Sage, Don Moody,

1 Reverend Kaleel Ellison, Reverend Billy Fox, Thurman Chambers, Henry
2 Freeman, Patrick Hayle, David Bugher, Penny Kievet, and current
3 Executive Director Paul Stasi, whose collective stewardship has
4 strengthened the City Rescue Mission's ability to transform lives
5 while nurturing a spirit of compassion within our city; and

6 **WHEREAS**, what began as a small ministry has grown into a
7 comprehensive network of life changing services including emergency
8 shelter, addiction recovery, workforce development and job training,
9 medical and dental care for underserved populations, programs for
10 women and children, and innovative social enterprises such as Charis
11 Chocolates, Charis Café, and the CRM Thrift Store, which empower
12 individuals with skills, employment, and renewed confidence; and

13 **WHEREAS**, the City Rescue Mission's transformative initiatives
14 including the Lifebuilders Crossroads Residential Treatment, Homes
15 of Hope, and the Overcomers program have provided thousands of
16 individuals with the tools necessary to rebuild their lives, regain
17 stability, and return to society as productive and thriving citizens;
18 and

19 **WHEREAS**, through seasons of economic uncertainty, natural
20 disaster, and the unprecedented challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic,
21 the City Rescue Mission has remained steadfast in its commitment to
22 ensuring that those most vulnerable among us are met not with judgment
23 or neglect, but with compassion, care, and the unwavering promise of
24 hope; and

25 **WHEREAS**, the story of the City Rescue Mission reminds us that
26 the strength of a city is measured not solely by the height of its
27 skyline or the speed of its growth, but by the depth of its compassion
28 and its willingness to lift those in need onto the pathway of
29 possibility; and

30 **WHEREAS**, as the City Rescue Mission celebrates 80 years of
31 service, its legacy stands as a powerful testament to the belief that

1 when faith meets action, when service meets sacrifice, and when
2 community meets compassion, lives are transformed and cities become
3 stronger; now therefore

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

5 **Section 1.** The City Council hereby recognizes and honors
6 the City Rescue Mission for 80 years of extraordinary service to the
7 Jacksonville community and commends the organization for its
8 unwavering commitment to restoring hope, rebuilding lives, and
9 strengthening the human fabric of our city. The City Council
10 expresses its deepest appreciation to the leadership, staff,
11 volunteers, donors, and community partners whose dedication has
12 allowed the City Rescue Mission to remain a beacon of hope for those
13 in need, and encourages all residents of Jacksonville to join in
14 celebrating this remarkable milestone and to continue supporting the
15 City Rescue Mission's work so that its legacy of compassion,
16 restoration, and service will endure for generations yet to come.

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/ Mary E. Staffopoulos

24 Office of General Counsel

25 Legislation Prepared By: Colleen Hampsey, City Council Research

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