

1 Introduced by Council Member Johnson:
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4 **RESOLUTION 2026-412**

5 A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING AND HONORING THE MONTH
6 OF MAY 2026 AS HAITIAN HERITAGE MONTH IN THE
7 CITY OF JACKSONVILLE, CELEBRATING THE HISTORY,
8 CULTURE, AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF HAITIAN AMERICANS,
9 AND ACKNOWLEDGING THE IMPACT OF THE HAITIAN
10 COMMUNITY LOCALLY AND NATIONALLY; PROVIDING AN
11 EFFECTIVE DATE.
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13 **WHEREAS**, the City of Jacksonville stands as a global city shaped
14 by the strength, diversity, and cultural richness of its people; and

15 **WHEREAS**, the month of May is nationally recognized as Haitian
16 Heritage Month, a time dedicated to honoring the legacy and cultural
17 contributions of the Haitian people and the Haitian diaspora; and

18 **WHEREAS**, Haitian Heritage Month was first established through
19 grassroots advocacy in 1998 and has since grown into a nationwide
20 observance recognizing Haiti's profound historical significance; and

21 **WHEREAS**, Haitian Flag Day, observed annually on May 18,
22 symbolizes unity, liberation, and the enduring spirit of a people who
23 redefined the meaning of freedom in the modern world; and

24 **WHEREAS**, Haitian Americans have contributed significantly to the
25 advancement of the United States in fields such as education,
26 medicine, public service, entrepreneurship, arts, and civic
27 leadership, strengthening the social and economic fabric of
28 communities across the nation; and

29 **WHEREAS**, the Haitian American community in Jacksonville
30 continues to grow and thrive, bringing with it a legacy of resilience,
31 faith, and cultural pride that enriches the identity of our city; and

1 **WHEREAS**, organizations such as the Haitian Alliance of
2 Jacksonville have played a critical role in empowering residents
3 through education, advocacy, and cultural preservation, ensuring that
4 Haitian heritage remains visible, vibrant, and valued within the
5 First Coast; and

6 **WHEREAS**, the Haitian community carries a profound and enduring
7 pride as the first nation in the Western Hemisphere to abolish
8 slavery, and the Haitian Revolution stands among the most
9 consequential movements for freedom and human dignity in world
10 history, as enslaved and free people of African descent rose against
11 colonial rule, defeated oppression, and established Haiti as an
12 independent nation in 1804, forever reshaping the global pursuit of
13 liberty, equality, and self-determination; and

14 **WHEREAS**, Haitian culture is celebrated across Jacksonville
15 through festivals, community gatherings, and multicultural events
16 such as the World of Nations Celebration, where Haitian food, music,
17 art, and storytelling create bridges of understanding and shared
18 humanity; and

19 **WHEREAS**, Caribbean media platforms such as Caribbean Power Jam
20 Radio amplify Haitian and Caribbean voices, ensuring representation,
21 connection, and cultural continuity throughout the region; and

22 **WHEREAS**, the Haitian American journey reflects the highest
23 ideals of perseverance and possibility, transforming struggle into
24 strength and adversity into achievement, while continuing to inspire
25 future generations; and

26 **WHEREAS**, recognizing Haitian Heritage Month affirms the
27 Jacksonville City Council's commitment to honoring cultural
28 diversity, advancing inclusion, and celebrating the communities whose
29 contributions continue to move Jacksonville forward; now therefore

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

31 **Section 1.** The City Council hereby recognizes and

1 celebrates Haitian Heritage Month during the month of May 2026,
2 honoring the history, culture, and enduring contributions of Haitian
3 Americans to our city, state, and nation. The City Council expresses
4 its deep appreciation to the Haitian American community for its
5 leadership, cultural richness, entrepreneurial spirit, and unwavering
6 commitment to family, faith, and community advancement. The City
7 Council stands in gratitude not only for the contributions already
8 made, but for the limitless possibilities that lie ahead as the
9 Haitian American community continues to grow, lead, and inspire. All
10 residents are encouraged to engage in Haitian Heritage Month
11 activities, to learn from the history of Haiti, and to celebrate the
12 vibrant culture that continues to shape Jacksonville's identity.

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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