

1 Introduced by Council Member Freeman & Co-Sponsored by Council  
2 Members DeFoor, Morgan, Diamond, Newby, Priestly Jackson, Hazouri,  
3 Dennis, Becton, Cumber, Carlucci, R. Gaffney, Bowman, Ferraro,  
4 Salem, Pittman, Boylan, White & Wilson and amended by the Rules  
5 Committee:

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7 **RESOLUTION 2019-655-A**

8 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE YOUTH FROM  
9 JACKSONVILLE IN THE EVAC MOVEMENT AND THEIR  
10 TEACHER AMY DONOFRIO FOR THEIR LEADERSHIP AND  
11 JUSTICE ADVOCACY; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

12  
13 **WHEREAS**, EVAC is "CAVE" spelled backwards, and was inspired by  
14 Ms. Donofrio's lesson on Plato's Allegory of the Cave. The Allegory  
15 of the Cave is a story of prisoners chained in a cave since birth,  
16 but are not aware of the chains or that they are in a cave because  
17 it's all they have ever known. In the story, a liberator leads them  
18 out of the cave to the light and afterwards it is the liberated  
19 prisoners' responsibility to liberate others; and

20 **WHEREAS**, EVAC is a grassroots movement of predominantly  
21 African-American youth, created by teacher Amy Donofrio and her  
22 students. The young men who are a part of the EVAC Movement have  
23 channeled personal tragedies, such as losing siblings to murder,  
24 having family members incarcerated and witnessing shootings, into  
25 positive life changes; and

26 **WHEREAS**, EVAC as a group presented at the White House, a US  
27 Senate Committee Hearing, Harvard University, the US Department of  
28 Justice and the Coalition for Juvenile Justice National Summit.  
29 They have also been selected as Harvard Youth Advisors,  
30 participants in the inaugural US Department of Justice Youth-Police

1 Roundtable and were featured on the front page of the New York  
2 Times; and

3 **WHEREAS**, in 2016 the young men in EVAC were honored to meet  
4 President Barack Obama, Senator Cory Booker and Representative John  
5 Lewis. They contributed to the Presidential Youth Justice  
6 Proclamation, were presenters at The Ethics Project National Youth  
7 Summit, and were the National Winners of the Campaign for Youth  
8 Justice Social Media Challenge and of Harvard's KIND School  
9 Challenge; and

10 **WHEREAS**, the young men in EVAC have had numerous personal  
11 achievements despite having experienced traumatic life events.  
12 Through the EVAC Movement, they have created a brotherhood amongst  
13 themselves, comforted one another in times of crises, and embraced  
14 hope for their futures. They have toured college campuses, hosted  
15 job fairs at their school, and some have doubled their GPAs. The  
16 young men in EVAC have avoided violence and arrest, and have become  
17 advocates for justice, successfully fighting for a classmate to  
18 return to juvenile court to avoid an excessive prison sentence.  
19 They inspired a SHEvac for young women at their school and have  
20 traveled as requested presenters on implementing the EVAC model in  
21 other education systems nationwide, including Ferguson, Missouri,  
22 schools throughout Florida, detention programming across New York,  
23 and at Harvard's Annual Superintendent Conference in Washington,  
24 DC; now therefore

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

26 **Section 1.** The City of Jacksonville hereby commends the  
27 youth of the EVAC Movement for their outstanding leadership,  
28 personal successes, justice advocacy and positive impact on the  
29 Jacksonville community. City Council also commends and appreciates  
30 the leadership of Amy Donofrio for creating the EVAC Movement and  
31 supporting them on this journey.

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

4 Form Approved:

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6     /s/ *Margaret M. Sidman*  

7 Office of General Counsel

8 Legislation Prepared By: Colleen Hampsey, City Council Research

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