

1 Introduced by Council Member Ferraro & Co-Sponsored by Council
2 Members Carrico, Becton, Bowman, Boylan, Carlucci, Cumber, DeFoor,
3 Diamond, Freeman, Gaffney, Morgan, Newby, Salem, White and amended
4 on the Floor of Council:
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7 **RESOLUTION 2021-489-A**

8 A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE CITY COUNCIL'S
9 SOLIDARITY WITH THE PROTESTORS ACROSS FLORIDA
10 AND IN CUBA ADVOCATING FOR INCREASED FREEDOM
11 FOR THE CUBAN PEOPLE; REQUESTING EMERGENCY
12 PASSAGE UPON INTRODUCTION; PROVIDING AN
13 EFFECTIVE DATE.
14

15 **WHEREAS**, in the last two weeks the citizens of Cuba have taken
16 to the streets, in numbers not seen in several decades, to protest
17 a failed economic system and the lack of freedom in their country;
18 and

19 **WHEREAS**, in the last week those protests have sparked similar
20 demonstrations and calls for Cuban economic and political reforms
21 in cities across the nation and throughout the world, including
22 Miami, Orlando, Tampa and Jacksonville; and

23 **WHEREAS**, the protestors in Cuba and their supporters across
24 Florida are expressing their discontent; and

25 **WHEREAS**, since the protests have been taking place, Cuba's
26 repressive government has responded by arresting and sentencing
27 demonstrators to a year in prison without due process, shooting at
28 unarmed protestors, and shutting down internet service and social
29 media platforms in an effort to stifle political dissent and
30 opposition to the ruling Communist party's authoritarian policies;

1 and

2 **WHEREAS**, the City Council wishes to express its support for
3 the efforts of the protestors to bring about a just and livable
4 society free of the socialist agenda of the ruling Communist regime
5 and its solidarity with people everywhere who fight for freedom and
6 justice; now therefore

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

8 **Section 1.** The City Council expresses its solidarity with
9 the protestors, in Cuba, Florida and throughout the world who are
10 protesting against the Communist government of Cuba and extends its
11 hope that their efforts will lead to positive changes that bring
12 freedom and democracy to that island nation and its people.

13 **Section 2. Requesting emergency passage upon introduction**
14 **pursuant to Council Rule 4.901.** Emergency passage upon introduction
15 of this Resolution is requested in order to offer timely support to
16 the on-going protests without delay.

17 **Section 3. 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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23 Form Approved:

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25 /s/ Paige H. Johnston

26 Office of General Counsel

27 Legislation Prepared By: Jeff Clements, City Council Research

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