

1 Introduced by Council Member Johnson and Co-Sponsored by Council  
2 Members Freeman, Miller and Pittman:

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5 **RESOLUTION 2026-279-A**

6 A RESOLUTION HONORING AND RECOGNIZING APRIL 2026  
7 AS "SECOND CHANCE MONTH" IN THE CITY OF  
8 JACKSONVILLE, AND CELEBRATING ORGANIZATIONS  
9 THAT ARE COMMITTED TO REDUCING RECIDIVISM AND  
10 EXPANDING OPPORTUNITY, AND AFFIRMING THE  
11 DIGNITY, POTENTIAL, AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF  
12 RETURNING CITIZENS AND THEIR FAMILIES, AND  
13 ENCOURAGING COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND CONTINUED  
14 SUPPORT FOR SECOND CHANCE INITIATIVES; PROVIDING  
15 AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

16  
17 **WHEREAS**, the City of Jacksonville is grounded in the belief that  
18 redemption is real, that growth is possible, and that every individual  
19 deserves the opportunity to move forward with dignity and purpose;  
20 and

21 **WHEREAS**, "Second Chance Month" is observed each April to  
22 recognize the importance of removing reentry barriers and creating  
23 meaningful pathways for individuals returning from incarceration to  
24 fully participate in the life and economy of their communities; and

25 **WHEREAS**, returning citizens and their families often encounter  
26 systemic challenges in employment, housing, education, and social  
27 reintegration, challenges that require coordinated, compassionate,  
28 and community driven responses; and

29 **WHEREAS**, Jacksonville is strengthened by a powerful network of  
30 organizations that do the daily work of restoration, accountability,  
31 and opportunity, including Operation New Hope, Prisoners of Christ,

1 Goodwill Industries of North Florida, CareerSource Northeast Florida,  
2 The Urban League of Northeast Florida, Jacksonville Area Legal Aid,  
3 FreshMinistries, along with numerous faith-based institutions,  
4 community organizations, and advocacy groups whose collective work  
5 continues to reduce recidivism, restore dignity, and expand pathways  
6 to economic mobility across the City; and

7 **WHEREAS**, initiatives such as "Ban the Box" reflect a growing  
8 understanding that access to employment should not be permanently  
9 denied based on past mistakes, and affirm Jacksonville's commitment  
10 to fair opportunity and economic inclusion; and

11 **WHEREAS**, "Second Chance Month" serves as both recognition and  
12 a call for responsibility from employers, policymakers, and residents  
13 to participate in building a city where second chances are not  
14 symbolic, but structural; and

15 **WHEREAS**, the future of Jacksonville is strengthened when we  
16 invest in people who are committed to rebuilding, contributing, and  
17 leading lives defined not by their past, but by their potential; now  
18 therefore

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

20 **Section 1.** The City Council hereby honors and recognizes  
21 April 2026 as "Second Chance Month" in Jacksonville, Florida. The City  
22 Council celebrates the work of the organizations across Jacksonville  
23 that are committed to reducing recidivism, expanding opportunity, and  
24 restoring hope for returning citizens and their families. The City  
25 Council affirms its support for policies, practices, and partnerships  
26 that advance second chances, including fair hiring initiatives and  
27 community-based reentry programs that recognize the dignity and  
28 potential of every individual. Residents, employers, and stakeholders  
29 throughout Jacksonville are encouraged to engage in "Second Chance  
30 Month" activities and to actively support efforts that create pathways  
31 to long term stability and success.

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.

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5 Form Approved:

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7 /s/ Mary E. Staffopoulos

8 Office of General Counsel

9 Legislation Prepared By: Colleen Hampsey, City Council Research

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