

1 Introduced by Council Members White, Newby, Hazouri, Freeman,  
2 DeFoor and Salem & Co-Sponsored by Council Members Becton, Bowman,  
3 Boylan, Carlucci, Carrico, Cumber, Dennis, Diamond, Ferraro,  
4 Gaffney, Morgan, Pittman, and Priestly Jackson and Twice amended on  
5 the Floor of Council:  
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8 **RESOLUTION 2020-769-A**

9 A RESOLUTION URGING THE U.S. CENTERS FOR  
10 DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION TO INCLUDE  
11 FIRST RESPONDERS IN THE INITIAL GROUP TO  
12 RECEIVE THE COVID-19 VACCINE DISTRIBUTION WHEN  
13 THE VACCINE IS APPROVED BY THE FOOD AND DRUG  
14 ADMINISTRATION ("FDA") AND FIRST MADE  
15 AVAILABLE; REQUESTING EMERGENCY ACTION UPON  
16 INTRODUCTION; DIRECTION TO THE LEGISLATIVE  
17 SERVICES DIVISION UPON ADOPTION; PROVIDING AN  
18 EFFECTIVE DATE.  
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20 **WHEREAS**, during 2020 the United States and the rest of the  
21 world have been ravaged by the novel coronavirus first identified  
22 in late 2019 (COVID-19), which has infected scores of millions of  
23 people worldwide and has killed over 1.5 million, a figure which is  
24 growing steadily as the pandemic shows no sign of abating; and

25 **WHEREAS**, in a truly remarkable display of skill and speed,  
26 scientists and medical researchers have developed, tested, and  
27 submitted for regulatory approval several vaccines to immunize  
28 against COVID-19 in less than one year; and

29 **WHEREAS**, as the vaccine is approved by the Food and Drug  
30 Administration ("FDA") and becomes ready for distribution,

1 hopefully within the next month, decisions must be made about  
2 prioritizing the initial distribution of limited supplies of the  
3 vaccine to those most in need of its protective power; and

4 **WHEREAS**, the initial information released by the U.S. Centers  
5 for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) indicates that the first  
6 round of vaccinations will be administered to medical professionals  
7 (doctors, nurses, etc.), the residents and staff of congregate  
8 living facilities such as nursing homes and long-term assisted  
9 living facilities, and to those over the age of 65 with serious  
10 underlying health issues; and

11 **WHEREAS**, this initial prioritization list does not include  
12 first-responder emergency medical technicians as health care  
13 providers, despite the fact that they are on the front line of  
14 response to medical emergencies and therefore are highly  
15 susceptible to being exposed to the COVID-19 virus in the course of  
16 examining, treating and transporting their patients; and

17 **WHEREAS**, the loss of front line EMTs to COVID-related illness  
18 or quarantine due to potential exposure, as has happened around the  
19 country and in Jacksonville, endangers the health and safety of the  
20 general public by reducing the capacity of first responders to  
21 reach, evaluate, treat and transport sick or injured persons in a  
22 timely manner due to their reduced numbers; now therefore

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

24 **Section 1.** The City of Jacksonville hereby calls upon the  
25 U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to include first-  
26 responder emergency medical technicians as health care providers in  
27 the top priority category of eligibility for receipt of the COVID-  
28 19 vaccine as soon as it is approved by the Food and Drug  
29 Administration ("FDA") for use in the United States, which is in  
30 the best interests of maintaining the capacity of the nation's  
31 emergency response system to meet COVID-related and all other types

1 of medical emergencies.

2           **Section 2.           Requesting emergency passage upon introduction**  
3 **pursuant to Council Rule 4.901 Emergency.** Emergency passage upon  
4 introduction of this legislation is requested. The nature of the  
5 emergency is that the COVID-19 vaccine is apparently nearing  
6 federal government approval for use and the City Council, with a  
7 December meeting hiatus taking effect next week, wishes to make  
8 known to the appropriate authorities as quickly as possible its  
9 feelings regarding this matter before distribution priorities are  
10 finalized and vaccinations begin, hopefully in the month of January  
11 2021.

12           **Section 3.           Direction to Legislative Services Division.**  
13 The Chief of the Legislative Services Division is directed to  
14 forward copies of this adopted resolution to the Director of the  
15 U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

16           **Section 4.           Effective Date.** This Resolution shall become  
17 effective upon signature by the Mayor or upon becoming effective  
18 without the Mayor's signature.

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20 Form Approved:

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23 /s/ Paige H. Johnston

24 Office of General Counsel

25 Legislation Prepared By: Jeff Clements, City Council Research

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