

1 Introduced by Council President Freeman:
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4 **RESOLUTION 2023-320**

5 A RESOLUTION DESIGNATING THE MONTH OF MAY AS
6 MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH IN JACKSONVILLE;
7 REQUESTING EMERGENCY PASSAGE UPON INTRODUCTION;
8 PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.
9

10 **WHEREAS**, one in every five adults, and one out of every six
11 children experience mental health disorders in the U.S. each year;
12 and

13 **WHEREAS**, 19.4 million American adults with mental health
14 issues also experience substance abuse disorders. Twenty percent of
15 U.S. veterans and of those experiencing homelessness have mental
16 health conditions; and

17 **WHEREAS**, major depression is one of the most common mental
18 illnesses. Suicide is the second leading cause of death among people
19 aged 10-14 in the U.S., the third leading cause of death among those
20 aged 15-24, and the 12th leading cause of death overall; and

21 **WHEREAS**, mental health treatments, like therapy, medication,
22 and self-care, have made recovery a reality for many people suffering
23 from mental illness. However, more than half of those with mental
24 health disorders do not receive treatment; and

25 **WHEREAS**, millions of Americans live in a Mental Health
26 Professional Shortage Area, where there are too few providers to meet
27 demand; and

28 **WHEREAS**, mental health disorders impact individuals, their
29 families and the community as a whole. Two out of five people who are
30 incarcerated have a history of mental illness, and 70% of youth in
31 the juvenile justice system have a diagnosable mental health

1 condition; and

2 **WHEREAS**, May has been designated National Mental Health
3 Awareness Month in the United States since 1949 by the Mental Health
4 America Organization, to bring attention to prevention and early
5 intervention efforts associated with awareness; and

6 **WHEREAS**, promoting mental health wellness can lead to higher
7 workplace productivity, better educational outcomes, lower crime
8 rates, stronger economies, lower health care costs, improved family
9 life, and increased lifespans; now therefore

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

11 **Section 1.** The City of Jacksonville hereby declares the
12 month of May as Mental Health Awareness Month in Jacksonville and
13 urges all citizens to join the effort to raise awareness about mental
14 health, fight stigma, provide support, educate the public and advocate
15 for policies that support the millions of people in the U.S. affected
16 by mental illness.

17 **Section 2. Requesting emergency passage upon introduction**
18 **pursuant to Council Rule 4.901 Emergency.** Emergency passage upon
19 introduction of this legislation is requested. The nature of the
20 emergency is that May is designated nationally as Mental Health
21 Awareness Month and the City Council desires to show its support for
22 mental health awareness in Jacksonville.

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

26 Form Approved:

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28 /s/ Carla A. Lopera

29 Office of General Counsel

30 Legislation Prepared By: Colleen Hampsey, City Council Research

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