

1 Introduced by Council Member Freeman and Co-Sponsored by Council
2 Members Amaro, Arias, Boylan, J. Carlucci, Carlucci, Carrico,
3 Clark-Murray, Diamond, Gaffney, Jr., Gay, Howland, Johnson, Lahnen,
4 Miller, Peluso, Pittman, Salem and White and amended on the Floor of
5 Council:

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8 **RESOLUTION 2024-391-A**

9 A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE MONTH OF MAY AS
10 MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH IN JACKSONVILLE;
11 REQUESTING EMERGENCY PASSAGE UPON INTRODUCTION;
12 PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

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14 **WHEREAS**, in the U.S. one in every five adults, and one of every
15 six children, experience mental health disorders each year; and

16 **WHEREAS**, mental health impacts a person's emotional, social,
17 environmental, financial and overall well-being. Mental health issues
18 can affect anyone, regardless of gender, age, race, ethnicity, or
19 income level; and

20 **WHEREAS**, major depression is one of the most common mental
21 illnesses, and in 2022 suicide was the second leading cause of death
22 for people ages 10-14 and 20-34. Connections to family, community
23 support and easy access to healthcare can help decrease suicidal
24 thoughts and behaviors; and

25 **WHEREAS**, people with mental and substance use disorders are
26 over-represented in the justice system, an estimated 44 percent of
27 those in jails have a mental illness. Homelessness is associated with
28 a higher prevalence of mental and substance use disorders as compared
29 to stably housed individuals; and

30 **WHEREAS**, with early and consistent treatment, people with
31 serious mental illnesses can manage their conditions, overcome

1 challenges, and enjoy meaningful, productive lives. Treatments like
2 therapy, medication, and self-care have made recovery a reality for
3 many people suffering from mental illness. However, more than half
4 of those with mental health disorders do not receive treatment; and

5 **WHEREAS,** one third of Americans live in a county defined as a
6 mental health professional shortage area, where there are too few
7 providers to meet demand; and

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

12 **WHEREAS,** promoting mental health wellness can lead to higher
13 workplace productivity, better educational outcomes, lower crime
14 rates, stronger economies, decreased health care costs, improved
15 family relationships, and increased lifespans; now therefore

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

17 **Section 1.** The City of Jacksonville hereby recognizes the
18 month of May as Mental Health Awareness Month in Jacksonville and
19 urges all citizens to join the effort to raise awareness about mental
20 health, fight stigma, provide support, educate the public, and
21 advocate for policies that support the millions of people in the U.S.
22 affected by mental illness.

23 **Section 2. Requesting Emergency Passage Upon Introduction**
24 **Pursuant to Council Rule 4.901 Emergency.** Emergency passage upon
25 introduction of this legislation is requested. The nature of the
26 emergency is that May is designated nationally as Mental Health
27 Awareness Month, and the City Council desires to show its support for
28 mental health awareness in Jacksonville in a timely manner.

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

1 Form Approved:

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3 /s/ Mary E. Staffopoulos

4 Office of General Counsel

5 Legislation Prepared By: Colleen Hampsey, City Council Research

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