

1 Introduced by Council Member Freeman:
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4 **RESOLUTION 2024-391**

5 A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE MONTH OF MAY AS
6 MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH IN JACKSONVILLE;
7 REQUESTING EMERGENCY PASSAGE UPON INTRODUCTION;
8 PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.
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10 **WHEREAS,** in the U.S. one in every five adults, and one of every
11 six children, experience mental health disorders each year; and

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

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

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

26 **WHEREAS,** with early and consistent treatment, people with
27 serious mental illnesses can manage their conditions, overcome
28 challenges, and enjoy meaningful, productive lives. Treatments like
29 therapy, medication, and self-care have made recovery a reality for
30 many people suffering from mental illness. However, more than half
31 of those with mental health disorders do not receive treatment; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 Form Approved:

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3 /s/ Shannon MacGillis

4 Office of General Counsel

5 Legislation Prepared By: Colleen Hampsey, City Council Research

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