

1 Introduced by Council Member Diamond and Co-Sponsored by Council  
2 Members Morgan, Ferraro, Hazouri, Becton, Dennis, DeFoor, Diamond,  
3 R.Gaffney, Newby, Pittman, Salem, Priestly Jackson, Ferraro,  
4 Cumber, Boylan, Carlucci, White and Wilson:  
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7 **RESOLUTION 2020-323**

8 A RESOLUTION DESIGNATING THE MONTH OF JUNE AS  
9 POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER AWARENESS MONTH  
10 IN JACKSONVILLE; REQUESTING EMERGENCY PASSAGE  
11 UPON INTRODUCTION; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE  
12 DATE.  
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14 **WHEREAS**, Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) is a mental  
15 health problem that some people develop after experiencing or  
16 witnessing a life-threatening event, like combat, a natural  
17 disaster, a car accident, or sexual assault; and

18 **WHEREAS**, anyone can develop PTSD at any age and PTSD presents  
19 with a range of symptoms, the cause of which may be overlooked or  
20 misdiagnosed as having resulted from past trauma; and

21 **WHEREAS**, there are currently about 8 million people in the  
22 United States with PTSD; and

23 **WHEREAS**, seven to eight out of every 100 Americans will  
24 experience PTSD at some point during their lives, with women being  
25 twice as likely as men to develop PTSD, and those who suffer from  
26 PTSD are more likely to attempt suicide and 2-4 times more likely  
27 to have a substance use disorder; and

28 **WHEREAS**, over 540,000 veterans have been diagnosed with PTSD  
29 and nearly 300,000 veterans who returned from Iraq and Afghanistan  
30 are currently suffering from PTSD; and

31 **WHEREAS**, depression and PTSD are the most common mental health

1 problems faced by returning troops, with 30% of soldiers developing  
2 mental health problems within 3-4 months of being home, and  
3 unfortunately, 20-22 veterans commit suicide each day in the United  
4 States; and

5 **WHEREAS**, the annual cost to society of anxiety disorders is  
6 estimated to be over \$42.3 billion often due to misdiagnosis and  
7 ongoing treatment and people with PTSD have among the highest rates  
8 of healthcare service use, with almost 50% of all outpatient mental  
9 health patients having PTSD; and

10 **WHEREAS**, according to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs,  
11 in the past year the number of diagnosed cases in the military has  
12 jumped 50%, and this figure represents only those reported and  
13 diagnosed, and it is important to understand and encourage those  
14 individuals with PTSD to assist them in handling their stress and  
15 PTSD and help them to move forward; and

16 **WHEREAS**, in general, promoting mental health and wellness  
17 leads to higher overall productivity, better educational outcomes,  
18 lower crime rates, stronger economies, lower health care costs,  
19 improved family life, improved quality of life and increased  
20 lifespan; and

21 **WHEREAS**, the goal of PTSD Awareness Month is to spread  
22 awareness about PTSD symptoms and effects, as well as advance the  
23 discussion about diagnosis, treatment, and care for those suffering  
24 from the effects of PTSD; and

25 **WHEREAS**, the Jacksonville City Council recognizes the  
26 importance of helping those who are suffering from PTSD to find  
27 resources they need to start the healing process and recognizes the  
28 importance of awareness and education, access to services and  
29 acceptance of PTSD diagnosis and treatment to a person's overall  
30 success and supports the recognition of June as Post-Traumatic  
31 Stress Disorder Awareness month; now therefore

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

2           **Section 1.**           The City of Jacksonville hereby declares the  
3 month of June as Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Awareness month in  
4 Jacksonville and urges all citizens to help spread the word that  
5 effective PTSD treatments are available and that these treatments  
6 work and can lead to a better quality of life for those impacted.  
7 Citizens are urged to learn more about PTSD and to help raise  
8 awareness of the many different treatment options and make a  
9 difference in the lives of Veterans and others who have experienced  
10 trauma. To that end, the City supports awareness and education for  
11 the public, along with advocating for policies that support people  
12 with PTSD and their families.

13           **Section 2.           Requesting emergency passage upon introduction**  
14 **pursuant to Council Rule 4.901 Emergency.** Emergency passage upon  
15 introduction of this legislation is requested. The nature of the  
16 emergency is that June is designated nationally as Post-Traumatic  
17 Stress Disorder Awareness month and the City Council desires to  
18 show its support for the national dialogue on PTSD awareness and  
19 wishes to make strides locally for acceptance and support for  
20 individuals with PTSD within the local community.

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

24  
25 Form Approved:

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27 /s/ Paige H. Johnston

28 Office of General Counsel

29 Legislation Prepared By: Paige H. Johnston

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