

1 Introduced by Council Member Gaffney:
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4 **RESOLUTION 2022-283**

5 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE HISPANIC AMERICAN
6 BUSINESS ASSOCIATION FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS TO
7 THE CITY; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.
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9 **WHEREAS**, the Hispanic American Business Association was founded
10 in 1992 by Clark Vargas, a civil engineer, George Hernandez, a
11 contractor, Jose (Pepe) Perez, an architect, and Sergio Arnaiz, a
12 businessman; and

13 **WHEREAS**, with the growing Hispanic population and businesses in
14 Northeast Florida, they saw the need for the Hispanic American
15 Business Organization, HABA, to represent them. HABA helped to make
16 the members' voices heard by City and State government officials for
17 the advancement of the Hispanic community not only for business issues
18 but also regarding health, education, and safety; and

19 **WHEREAS**, one of the first changes advocated by the group was the
20 inclusion of Hispanics as minority service providers to the City, to
21 focus upon increasing the hiring of Hispanic workers to City agencies,
22 as well as the hiring of Hispanic doctors, Duval County Health
23 Department personnel, and Duval County School teachers; and

24 **WHEREAS**, Hispanic American Business Association's membership
25 grew rapidly and by 1997 they had a significant role on City and
26 State government boards and commissions. One HABA member, Tomas A.
27 Jiménez, Sr., subsequently founded the Mayor's Hispanic American
28 Advisory Board and initiated the Achieving the Dream Scholarship
29 Awards, both of which still exist today; and

30 **WHEREAS**, the Hispanic American Business Association took a
31 leadership position with the World of Nations Yearly Celebration, and

1 worked closely with the Jacksonville Sherriff's Office Recruitment
2 Department to increase the hiring of Hispanic police officers to
3 serve the growing Hispanic population of Jacksonville; and

4 **WHEREAS**, since the creation in 1992, HABA has work closely with
5 the Duval County Supervisor of Elections by holding regular voter
6 registration drives so the Hispanic community can be involved in the
7 voting process, be fairly represented by Congress, and receive
8 equitable benefits for education, health and welfare programs; now
9 therefore

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

11 **Section 1.** The City of Jacksonville hereby commends the
12 Hispanic American Business Association for all they do for the
13 Hispanic community in Jacksonville and to make our city a better
14 place.

15 **Section 2. Effective Date.** This Resolution shall become
16 effective upon signature by the Mayor or upon becoming effective
17 without the Mayor's signature.

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19 Form Approved:

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21 _____ /s/ Paige H. Johnston

22 Office of General Counsel

23 Legislation Prepared By: Colleen Hampsey, City Council Research

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