

1 Introduced by Council Member White:
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4 **RESOLUTION 2024-122**

5 A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING MARCH AS NATIONAL RED
6 CROSS MONTH AND COMMEMORATING THE 143RD
7 ANNIVERSARY OF THE AMERICAN RED CROSS AND THE
8 110TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NORTHEAST FLORIDA
9 CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN RED CROSS; PROVIDING AN
10 EFFECTIVE DATE.
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12 **WHEREAS,** the American Red Cross is a humanitarian organization
13 founded in 1881 and originally chartered by Congress as a federal
14 instrumentality in 1900, but receives no federal funding; and

15 **WHEREAS,** the mission of the American Red Cross is to prevent
16 and alleviate human suffering in the face of emergencies by mobilizing
17 the power of volunteers and the generosity of donors; and

18 **WHEREAS,** the American Red Cross responds to more than 65,000
19 disasters annually, and delivers vital services to members of the
20 Armed Forces, their families, and veterans at home and overseas, and
21 provided lifesaving health and safety training to more than 5 million
22 people in 2023; and

23 **WHEREAS,** March is recognized as Red Cross Month across the
24 nation and 2024 marks the 143rd anniversary of the American Red Cross
25 and the 110th anniversary of Florida's first chartered Red Cross
26 Chapter, established here in Jacksonville; and

27 **WHEREAS,** the American Red Cross has repeatedly answered the
28 call to assist those in need in Northeast Florida, beginning with the
29 Yellow Fever epidemic of 1888, including support in Jacksonville to
30 American troops during the Spanish American War, then later providing
31 relief to those affected by Jacksonville's Great Fire of 1901; and

1 **WHEREAS,** the Northeast Florida Chapter of the American Red
2 Cross provides its humanitarian services across thirteen counties in
3 Northeast Florida and is the headquarters for the 35-county Red Cross
4 North Florida Region stretching from the First Coast across the entire
5 breadth of the Florida Panhandle; and

6 **WHEREAS,** the Northeast Florida Chapter of the American Red
7 Cross in 2023 helped nearly 2,000 family members affected by nearly
8 700 home fires or other disasters, hosted 59 blood drives throughout
9 the Region, including collections targeted at Sickle Cell Disease and
10 vital minority blood-type collections, and regionally provided more
11 than 13,000 vital services to military members, veterans, and
12 families, and deployed more than 200 of its 1,000 volunteers in
13 response to hurricanes and other disasters; and

14 **WHEREAS,** American Red Cross disaster assistance is free, and
15 90 cents of every dollar donated goes directly to mission service
16 delivery; now therefore

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

18 **Section 1.** The City Council hereby recognizes March as
19 National Red Cross Month, the 143rd anniversary of the American Red
20 Cross, and the 110th anniversary of the Northeast Florida Chapter of
21 the American Red Cross, and commends the volunteers and paid staff
22 of the North Florida Region for their continuing humanitarian service
23 to our City and to the State of Florida.

24 **Section 2. Effective Date.** This Resolution shall become
25 effective upon signature by the Mayor or upon becoming effective
26 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: Jeff Clements, City Council Research

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