

1 Introduced by Council Members Johnson and Freeman:
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4 **RESOLUTION 2024-124**

5 A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING MARCH 4-8, 2024, AS
6 CELEBRATE READING WEEK IN JACKSONVILLE;
7 PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.
8

9 **WHEREAS,** just 46% of Duval County third graders were proficient
10 at reading in the 2022-23 school year, and research has shown that
11 children who do not learn to read at grade level by the third grade
12 will not be sufficiently prepared when "reading to learn" is required
13 for the rest of their educational journey; and

14 **WHEREAS,** children who are not proficient readers by the fourth
15 grade are likely to find up to half of the curriculum at that grade
16 level to be incomprehensible; and

17 **WHEREAS,** four out of five students who failed to earn a high
18 school diploma were struggling readers in third grade; and

19 **WHEREAS,** the Kids Hope Alliance, the Jacksonville Public
20 Education Fund, WJCT, Jacksonville Public Library, Duval County
21 Public Schools and more than 30 organizations across Jacksonville are
22 aligned in READ JAX, a community effort to improve third grade reading
23 proficiency in Duval County; and

24 **WHEREAS,** READ JAX is building infrastructure to promote
25 comprehensive, data-driven services, programming and practices for
26 children and families along the birth-to-third-grade literacy
27 pathway; and

28 **WHEREAS,** each year a week-long, community-wide event is held
29 to acknowledge the efforts of partners joined together within READ
30 JAX and to highlight their progress towards improving reading
31 proficiency for local youth; now therefore

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

2 **Section 1.** The City Council hereby proclaims March 4-8,
3 2024, as Celebrate Reading Week in Jacksonville and encourages all
4 citizens to engage in activities that help Jacksonville's children
5 build their reading skills, including reading to children for at
6 least 20 minutes each day, learning more about the importance of
7 grade-level reading, and/or contributing to or patronizing one or
8 more of our city's READ JAX literacy-championing organizations.

9 **Section 2. Effective Date.** This Resolution shall become
10 effective upon signature by the Mayor or upon becoming effective
11 without the Mayor's signature.

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13 Form Approved:

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15 /s/ Carla A. Lopera

16 Office of General Counsel

17 Legislation Prepared By: Jeff Clements, City Council Research

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