

1 Introduced by Council Members Johnson and Freeman and Co-Sponsored  
2 by Council Members Salem, Howland, Carlucci, Miller, Amaro and Boylan:  
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5 **RESOLUTION 2024-124-A**

6 A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING MARCH 4-8, 2024, AS  
7 CELEBRATE READING WEEK IN JACKSONVILLE;  
8 PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.  
9

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 proficiency for local youth; now therefore

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

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

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

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14 Form Approved:

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16           /s/ Mary E. Staffopoulos          

17 Office of General Counsel

18 Legislation Prepared By: Jeff Clements, City Council Research

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