

1 Introduced by Council Member Miller:
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4 **RESOLUTION 2024-753**

5 A RESOLUTION DECLARING THE MONTH OF OCTOBER 2024
6 TO BE POLISH AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH IN
7 JACKSONVILLE; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.
8

9 **WHEREAS,** the first Polish settlers set foot in what would
10 become the United States when they arrived at Jamestown, Virginia
11 with the English expedition of The Virginia Company under the
12 leadership of Captain John Smith in 1608; and

13 **WHEREAS,** United States Congress first recognized Polish
14 American Heritage Month in August of 1981, which was later changed
15 to October in order to have the commemoration coincide with the month
16 in which the first Polish settlers arrived in North America, as well
17 as, the month in which the deaths of General Kazimierz Pułaski and
18 Tadeusz Kościuszko (military leaders who fought bravely in the
19 American Revolution) occurred; and

20 **WHEREAS,** Jacksonville has the largest population of citizens
21 of Polish descent in Florida, with over 13,000 local residents
22 claiming Polish heritage; and

23 **WHEREAS,** from the time of the American Revolution and the
24 participation of the famous military officers in leading American
25 troops, Polish influence in America has been profound and long-lasting
26 in areas ranging from art and culture to food and politics. Polish
27 Americans have been prominent in many fields, including performers
28 as diverse as Jack Benny and Pat Benatar, filmmakers Stanley Kubrick
29 and Aaron Spelling, and politicians Dianne Feinstein and Barry
30 Goldwater; and

31 **WHEREAS,** the Polish people have a long history of sharing the

1 same societal values that are so important to Americans - freedom,
2 democracy, faith, family, service - and the two countries have long
3 been allies and mutual supporters in world affairs; and

4 **WHEREAS,** the people and government of Poland have been stalwart
5 allies of the people of Ukraine in their resistance to the Russian
6 aggression, harboring refugees fleeing the conflict and supplying
7 weapons and humanitarian aid to support the country's self-defense;
8 and

9 **WHEREAS,** the City wishes to recognize and highlight the many
10 contributions of persons of Polish American heritage to our nation
11 and city; now therefore

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

13 **Section 1.** The City Council hereby declares the month of
14 October 2024 to be Polish American Heritage Month in Jacksonville and
15 encourages all citizens to become more educated about the Polish
16 influence on American history and to explore the art, food and culture
17 of Poland in our city.

18 **Section 2. Effective Date.** This Resolution shall become
19 effective upon signature by the Mayor or upon becoming effective
20 without the Mayor's signature.

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22 Form Approved:

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24 /s/ Shannon MacGillis

25 Office of General Counsel

26 Legislation Prepared By: Jeff Clements, City Council Research

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