

1 Introduced by Council Member White and Co-Sponsored by Council  
2 Members Hazouri, Becton, Diamond, DeFoor, Carlucci, Newby, Ferraro,  
3 Salem, Bowman, Pittman and Morgan:  
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6 **RESOLUTION 2019-817-A**

7 A RESOLUTION HONORING AND COMMENDING  
8 JACKSONVILLE FIRE AND RESCUE ENGINEER VINCENT  
9 HARPER AND LIEUTENANT RAMON RESS FOR THEIR  
10 BRAVERY AND SELFLESSNESS IN AIDING CAPTAIN  
11 LATORRENCE NORRIS WHO WAS ATTACKED AND  
12 SEVERELY INJURED IN THE LINE OF DUTY;  
13 PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.  
14

15 **WHEREAS**, Vincent Harper has been serving the Jacksonville  
16 community for over a decade with the Jacksonville Fire and Rescue  
17 Department. Recently promoted to the rank of Engineer, Mr. Harper  
18 continues to serve the community as part of the Rescue 2 team.  
19 Ramon Ress is a Lieutenant with the Jacksonville Fire and Rescue  
20 Department serving the community as part of the Rescue 4 team; and

21 **WHEREAS**, on October 8, 2019, the Jacksonville Fire and Rescue  
22 Department was dispatched on what initially appeared as a routine  
23 medical transport call. Engineer Vincent Harper and Captain  
24 Latorrence Norris, a thirteen-year JFRD veteran, responded in  
25 Rescue 2 to the call and began to transport a 38 year-old male  
26 patient to the nearest hospital, UF Health Jacksonville. While on  
27 route to the hospital, the patient became aggressive and attacked  
28 Capt. Norris; and

29 **WHEREAS**, during the struggle, Eng. Harper, hearing Capt.  
30 Norris' screams for help, pulled over the rescue unit and bravely

1 attempted to subdue the attacker. During the altercation, both  
2 Capt. Norris and Eng. Harper received stab wounds, but Capt. Norris  
3 was severely wounded. Eng. Harper was able to subdue the attacker  
4 long enough for the severely injured Capt. Norris to call for  
5 backup. The Fire Rescue Communications team dispatched another Fire  
6 and Rescue unit, contacted the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office, and  
7 crucially contacted UF Health to notify them of the situation. Lt.  
8 Ress arrived in the Rescue 4 unit and immediately helped Eng.  
9 Norris to subdue the attacker until the JSO officers arrived; and

10 **WHEREAS**, Eng. Harper and Lt. Ress' bravery and selflessness  
11 undoubtedly helped to save the life of Capt. Norris. Without the  
12 quick actions and determination to subdue the attacker by Eng.  
13 Harper, and the immediate assistance of Lt. Ress, this bad  
14 situation could have easily become a terrible tragedy; now  
15 therefore

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

17 **Section 1.** The City of Jacksonville hereby honors and  
18 commends Jacksonville Fire and Rescue Engineer Vincent Harper and  
19 Lieutenant Ramon Ress for their bravery and selflessness in aiding  
20 Captain Latorrence Norris who was attacked and severely injured in  
21 the line of duty, and for their continued service to the community  
22 with the Jacksonville Fire and Rescue Department. The City is  
23 extremely grateful for their brave and selfless response to the  
24 emergency situation.

25 **Section 2. Effective Date.** This Resolution shall become  
26 effective upon signature by the Mayor or upon becoming effective  
27 without the Mayor's signature.

28 Form Approved:

29  
30 /s/ Paige H. Johnston

31 Office of General Counsel

1 Legislation Prepared By: Anthony J. Baltiero, City Council Research

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