

1 Introduced by Council Members Hazouri, Priestly Jackson, Dennis,  
2 Wilson, Cumber, Freeman, Boylan, Morgan, Carlucci, Salem and Newby  
3 and Co-Sponsored by Council Members Bowman, Ferraro, Diamond,  
4 Pittman, DeFoor, R. Gaffney, Becton, and White:  
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7 **RESOLUTION 2019-895**

8 A RESOLUTION DECLARING JANUARY AS HUMAN  
9 TRAFFICKING AWARENESS MONTH AND DESIGNATING  
10 JANUARY 23, 2020 AS HUMAN TRAFFICKING  
11 AWARENESS DAY IN JACKSONVILLE; REQUESTING  
12 EMERGENCY PASSAGE UPON INTRODUCTION; PROVIDING  
13 AN EFFECTIVE DATE.  
14

15 **WHEREAS**, human trafficking is a form of modern-day slavery.  
16 Traffickers use force, fraud, and coercion to engage men, women,  
17 and children into commercial sex, labor, or services. It is a  
18 federal crime to compel a person into such horrific situations  
19 against his or her will. However, inducing a minor into commercial  
20 sex is considered human trafficking regardless of the presence of  
21 force, fraud or coercion; and

22 **WHEREAS**, human trafficking is among the top three largest  
23 criminal industries in the world, and is continuously growing. The  
24 International Labor Organization estimates that there are 40.3  
25 million victims of human trafficking globally. There is no official  
26 estimate of the total number of human trafficking victims in the  
27 U.S. Polaris, a non-profit organization which runs the National  
28 Human Trafficking Hotline and tracks human trafficking nationwide  
29 by state, estimates that the total number of victims nationally  
30 reaches into the hundreds of thousands when estimates of both adult  
31 and minor sex trafficking and labor trafficking are aggregated; and

1       **WHEREAS**, victims of human trafficking can frequently be found  
2 in domestic labor situations, sweatshop factories, construction,  
3 farm work, fisheries, hotel and tourist industries, janitorial  
4 services, restaurant services, and the sex industry; and

5       **WHEREAS**, traffickers use violence, threats, deception, debt  
6 bondage, and other manipulative tactics to press victims into lives  
7 of servitude and abuse, frequently subjecting victims to rape,  
8 beatings, confinement, debt bondage, and psychological abuse; and

9       **WHEREAS**, according to figures collected from the National  
10 Human Trafficking Hotline, Florida ranks third in the U.S., behind  
11 California and Texas, in human trafficking cases reported by each  
12 state. Northeast Florida is disproportionately affected by human  
13 trafficking due to the large volume of interstate commerce and  
14 travel on I-10 and I-95, and the high demand for services due to  
15 the presence of vacation destinations and military bases within our  
16 large city; and

17       **WHEREAS**, the Northeast Florida Human Trafficking Coalition, a  
18 collaborative effort of public and private organizations serving  
19 Northeast Florida, is working to develop a systematic approach to  
20 identifying, rescuing, and restoring victims of human trafficking  
21 in Northeast Florida through professional training, community  
22 awareness, technical assistance, coordinating services, and  
23 investigating and prosecuting traffickers; and

24       **WHEREAS**, the agencies of the Northeast Florida Human  
25 Trafficking Task Force have joined together in a community  
26 awareness campaign to "Look Beneath the Surface" and identify and  
27 assist victims of human trafficking through Human Trafficking  
28 Awareness Week; now therefore

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

30       **Section 1.**       The month of January is declared Human  
31 Trafficking Awareness Month and January 23, 2020 is designated as

1 Human Trafficking Awareness Day in Jacksonville, and encourages  
2 citizens, businesses, and City employees to take advantage of all  
3 local opportunities to become educated on this important topic.

4 **Section 2. Requesting emergency passage upon introduction**  
5 **pursuant to Council Rule 4.901 Emergency.** Emergency passage upon  
6 introduction of this legislation is requested. The nature of the  
7 emergency is that this legislation recognizes the Month of January  
8 as Human Tracking awareness month and this is the last council  
9 meeting prior to January and the first Council Meeting in January  
10 is January 14, half way through the month being recognized.

11 **Section 3. Effective Date.** This Resolution shall become  
12 effective upon signature by the Mayor or upon becoming effective  
13 without the Mayor's signature.

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15 Form Approved:

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17 /s/ *Margaret M. Sidman*

18 Office of General Counsel

19 Legislation Prepared By: Yvonne P. Mitchell, City Council Research

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