

1 Introduced by Council Member Diamond & Co-Sponsored by Council
2 Members Morgan, Ferraro, Hazouri, Becton, Bowman, Boylan, Carlucci,
3 Cumber, DeFoor, Freeman, Gaffney, Newby, Pittman, Priestly Jackson,
4 Salem, White and Wilson and amended on the Floor of Council:
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7 **RESOLUTION 2020-323-A**

8 A RESOLUTION DESIGNATING THE MONTH OF JUNE AS
9 POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER AWARENESS MONTH
10 IN JACKSONVILLE; REQUESTING EMERGENCY PASSAGE
11 UPON INTRODUCTION; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE
12 DATE.
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14 **WHEREAS**, Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) is a mental
15 health problem that some people develop after experiencing or
16 witnessing a life-threatening event, like combat, a natural
17 disaster, a car accident, or sexual assault; and

18 **WHEREAS**, anyone can develop PTSD at any age and PTSD presents
19 with a range of symptoms, the cause of which may be overlooked or
20 misdiagnosed as having resulted from past trauma; and

21 **WHEREAS**, there are currently about 8 million people in the
22 United States with PTSD; and

23 **WHEREAS**, seven to eight out of every 100 Americans will
24 experience PTSD at some point during their lives, with women being
25 twice as likely as men to develop PTSD, and those who suffer from
26 PTSD are more likely to attempt suicide and 2-4 times more likely
27 to have a substance use disorder; and

28 **WHEREAS**, over 540,000 veterans have been diagnosed with PTSD
29 and nearly 300,000 veterans who returned from Iraq and Afghanistan
30 are currently suffering from PTSD; and

1 **WHEREAS**, depression and PTSD are the most common mental health
2 problems faced by returning troops, with 30% of soldiers developing
3 mental health problems within 3-4 months of being home, and
4 unfortunately, 20-22 veterans commit suicide each day in the United
5 States; and

6 **WHEREAS**, the annual cost to society of anxiety disorders is
7 estimated to be over \$42.3 billion often due to misdiagnosis and
8 ongoing treatment and people with PTSD have among the highest rates
9 of healthcare service use, with almost 50% of all outpatient mental
10 health patients having PTSD; and

11 **WHEREAS**, according to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs,
12 in the past year the number of diagnosed cases in the military has
13 jumped 50%, and this figure represents only those reported and
14 diagnosed, and it is important to understand and encourage those
15 individuals with PTSD to assist them in handling their stress and
16 PTSD and help them to move forward; and

17 **WHEREAS**, in general, promoting mental health and wellness
18 leads to higher overall productivity, better educational outcomes,
19 lower crime rates, stronger economies, lower health care costs,
20 improved family life, improved quality of life and increased
21 lifespan; and

22 **WHEREAS**, the goal of PTSD Awareness Month is to spread
23 awareness about PTSD symptoms and effects, as well as advance the
24 discussion about diagnosis, treatment, and care for those suffering
25 from the effects of PTSD; and

26 **WHEREAS**, the Jacksonville City Council recognizes the
27 importance of helping those who are suffering from PTSD to find
28 resources they need to start the healing process and recognizes the
29 importance of awareness and education, access to services and
30 acceptance of PTSD diagnosis and treatment to a person's overall
31 success and supports the recognition of June as Post-Traumatic

1 Stress Disorder Awareness month; now therefore

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

3 **Section 1.** The City of Jacksonville hereby declares the
4 month of June as Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Awareness month in
5 Jacksonville and urges all citizens to help spread the word that
6 effective PTSD treatments are available and that these treatments
7 work and can lead to a better quality of life for those impacted.
8 Citizens are urged to learn more about PTSD and to help raise
9 awareness of the many different treatment options and make a
10 difference in the lives of Veterans and others who have experienced
11 trauma. To that end, the City supports awareness and education for
12 the public, along with advocating for policies that support people
13 with PTSD and their families.

14 **Section 2. Requesting emergency passage upon introduction**
15 **pursuant to Council Rule 4.901 Emergency.** Emergency passage upon
16 introduction of this legislation is requested. The nature of the
17 emergency is that June is designated nationally as Post-Traumatic
18 Stress Disorder Awareness month and the City Council desires to
19 show its support for the national dialogue on PTSD awareness and
20 wishes to make strides locally for acceptance and support for
21 individuals with PTSD within the local community.

22 **Section 3. Effective Date.** This Resolution shall become
23 effective upon signature by the Mayor or upon becoming effective
24 without the Mayor's signature.

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26 Form Approved:

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28 /s/ Paige H. Johnston

29 Office of General Counsel

30 Legislation Prepared By: Paige H. Johnston

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