

1 Introduced by Council Member Pittman:  
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4 **RESOLUTION 2021-85**

5 A RESOLUTION DECLARING MAY 20TH AS "FLORIDA'S  
6 EMANCIPATION DAY IN JACKSONVILLE"; PROVIDING AN  
7 EFFECTIVE DATE.  
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9 **WHEREAS**, the Jacksonville City Council recognizes that the  
10 observance of the end of slavery is part of the history and heritage  
11 of Florida and of the United States; and

12 **WHEREAS**, the City Council opposes and rejects any form of  
13 oppression and supports Jacksonville's citizens, religious groups,  
14 and all other organizations working to achieve genuine equality and  
15 to protect the human rights of all people; and

16 **WHEREAS**, Emancipation Day in Florida is traditionally celebrated  
17 on May 20<sup>th</sup> to recognize the emancipation of African-American slaves,  
18 as proclaimed by Union General Ed McCook in Tallahassee on May 20,  
19 1865, 11 days after the end of the American Civil War and two years  
20 after the Emancipation Proclamation was first issued by President  
21 Abraham Lincoln; and

22 **WHEREAS**, declaring Emancipation Day in Jacksonville is another  
23 step in recognizing the long history of slavery and subsequent  
24 emancipation in Florida and will contribute to better understanding  
25 and reconciliation among our citizens; now therefore

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

27 **Section 1.** The City of Jacksonville hereby declares May 20<sup>th</sup>  
28 of each year as "Florida's Emancipation Day in Jacksonville" in  
29 recognition of the end of slavery in the state at the end of the  
30 Civil War and urges all citizens to participate in the educational  
31 and commemorative activities that take place in connection with the

1 event to enhance their knowledge of Jacksonville's history in this  
2 regard.

3           **Section 2.           Effective Date.**   This Resolution shall become  
4 effective upon signature by the Mayor or upon becoming effective  
5 without the Mayor's signature.

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7 Form Approved:

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9 /s/ Paige H. Johnston

10 Office of General Counsel

11 Legislation Prepared By: Jeff Clements, City Council Research

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