

1 Introduced by Council Member Pittman & Co-Sponsored by Council  
2 Members Salem, Morgan, Bowman, Dennis, Carlucci, Newby and Hazouri:

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5 **RESOLUTION 2021-85-A**

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 and commemorative activities that take place in connection with the  
2 event to enhance their knowledge of Jacksonville's history in this  
3 regard.

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

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8 Form Approved:

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10 /s/ Paige H. Johnston

11 Office of General Counsel

12 Legislation Prepared By: Jeff Clements, City Council Research

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