

1 Introduced by Council Member Diamond:
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4 **RESOLUTION 2021-189**

5 A RESOLUTION DESIGNATING THE MONTH OF APRIL AS
6 SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH IN JACKSONVILLE
7 AND ENCOURAGING THOSE IMPACTED BY SEXUAL
8 ASSAULT TO SPEAK UP AND SPEAK OUT; REQUESTING
9 EMERGENCY PASSAGE UPON INTRODUCTION; PROVIDING
10 AN EFFECTIVE DATE
11

12 **WHEREAS**, in April, and every month to follow, people across
13 the country are encouraged to raise their voices to show support
14 for survivors of sexual assault and speak out if they have
15 experienced sexual assault themselves. One month is not enough time
16 to solve this serious issue, but it is a great place to start; and

17 **WHEREAS**, the statistics regarding sexual assaults in the
18 United States are startling but important to know and understand.
19 Every 98 seconds, an American is sexually assaulted. Nearly 1 in 5
20 women, and 1 in 67 men, in the United States have experienced rape
21 (or attempted rape) at one point in their lives. 63 percent of
22 sexual assaults are not reported and only 5 out of every 1,000
23 perpetrators will end up in prison, which is why it is so important
24 to speak up and speak out against sexual assault; and

25 **WHEREAS**, in Jacksonville, there are groups and organizations
26 that are active in the fight against sexual assault and that are
27 dedicated to providing support to survivors. Foremost among them is
28 the Women’s Center of Jacksonville, Inc. (WCJ), a nonprofit
29 Jacksonville-based organization offering education, support, and
30 advocacy to survivors of all ages and genders. WCJ is the only
31 certified rape crisis center in Duval, Baker and Nassau Counties.

1 WCJ offers community education, counseling, referral assistance,
2 support, and advocacy; now therefore

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

4 **Section 1.** The City of Jacksonville hereby designates the
5 month of April as Sexual Assault Awareness Month and encourages
6 those impacted by sexual assault to speak up, speak out, and know
7 that there are resources available in the City of Jacksonville to
8 provide support to survivors and their families.

9 **Section 2. Requesting emergency passage upon introduction**
10 **pursuant to Council Rule 4.901.** Emergency passage upon introduction
11 of this Resolution is requested so that it can be passed at the
12 last full City Council meeting prior to the start of April.

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

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17 Form Approved:

18
19 /s/ Paige H. Johnston

20 Office of General Counsel

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

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