

1 Introduced by Council Member Dennis and Co-Sponsored by Council
2 Members Carlucci, Priestly Jackson, Pittman, Hazouri, Gaffney and
3 Morgan:

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6 **RESOLUTION 2021-162-A**

7 A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING MARCH 31, 2021 AS
8 CESAR CHAVEZ DAY; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

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10 **WHEREAS**, Cesar Chavez was born on March 31, 1927 in Yuma,
11 Arizona, one of five children. When a bank foreclosure forced them
12 to leave their small farm, the Chavez family joined numerous others
13 in migrating to California, looking for work and following the
14 harvest during the Great Depression. The labor was intense,
15 woefully underpaid and provided squalid living conditions in
16 overcrowded, primitive housing with no electricity or running
17 water; and

18 **WHEREAS**, raised into the life of a migrant farm worker, Cesar
19 Chavez was exposed to deplorable working conditions, dangerous
20 pesticides and denied the most basic protections, including minimum
21 wages, health care, and access to drinking water. Cesar Chavez
22 devoted his life to correcting these injustices, because he
23 believed every job has dignity, every life has value, and that
24 everyone should have the chance to get ahead. After returning from
25 military service during World War II, Chavez fought for freedom in
26 American agricultural fields. Alongside Dolores Huerta, he founded
27 the United Farm Workers, and through decades of organizing, even in
28 the face of opposition, he grew a movement to advance "La Causa"
29 across the country; and

30 **WHEREAS**, Cesar Chavez utilized non-violent civil disobedience

1 methods - worker strikes, boycotts and hunger fasts - modeled after
2 Mahatma Gandhi and Martin Luther King Jr. to affect social change.
3 In 1966, Chavez led striking farm workers on a 340-mile march from
4 Delano to Sacramento, California to bring awareness to "La Causa"
5 of farmworkers. He then organized a grape boycott that drew 17
6 million supporters nationwide, forcing growers to accept some of
7 the first farm worker contracts in history. As a result of his
8 efforts, California passed the state's landmark Agricultural Labor
9 Relations Act in 1975, which established and protected the rights
10 of all farmworkers to form unions and bargain for better wages and
11 working conditions; and

12 **WHEREAS**, when Cesar Chavez passed away in his sleep in 1993 at
13 the age of 66, more than 40,000 people attended his funeral. In
14 1994, President Bill Clinton awarded Chavez a posthumous Medal of
15 Freedom, the highest civilian award; and

16 **WHEREAS**, in 2014 March 31st was proclaimed by President Barack
17 Obama to be Cesar Chavez Day, a U.S. federal commemorative holiday
18 to celebrate the birth and legacy of the civil rights and labor
19 movement activist. Cesar Chavez Day is also honored in ten states:
20 California, Arizona, Colorado, Illinois, Michigan, New Mexico,
21 Texas, Utah, Wisconsin and Rhode Island; now therefore

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

23 **Section 1.** The City of Jacksonville hereby recognizes
24 March 31, 2021 as Cesar Chavez Day to celebrate the founder of the
25 first United Farm Workers Union and one of America's greatest
26 champions for social justice, and also to honor his tireless
27 organizing, his resilience through setbacks and his refusal to
28 scale back his dreams. Jacksonville City Council encourages the
29 observation of Cesar Chavez Day as an opportunity to participate in
30 service projects to honor his legacy and to improve the lives of
31 all in our community, and to appreciate the everyday contributions

1 our farm workers make to our economy and livelihood.

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

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6 Form Approved:

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8 /s/ Paige H. Johnston

9 Office of General Counsel

10 Legislation Prepared By: Colleen Hampsey, City Council Research

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