

1 Introduced by Council President Hazouri:  
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4 **RESOLUTION 2021-396**

5 A RESOLUTION THANKING THE UNITED STATES  
6 MARINES FOR CHOOSING JACKSONVILLE AND THE  
7 HYATT REGENCY HOTEL AS THE SITE TO QUARANTINE  
8 MARINE CORPS RECRUITS PRIOR TO THEIR ARRIVAL  
9 FOR BASIC TRAINING AT PARIS ISLAND; PROVIDING  
10 AN EFFECTIVE DATE.  
11

12 **WHEREAS**, The United States Marine Corps was founded on  
13 November 10, 1775, when the Continental Congress ordered that two  
14 battalions of Marines be raised for service as landing forces with  
15 the American naval fleet. Marines have participated in all wars of  
16 the United States, being in most instances first, or among the  
17 first, to fight. In addition, Marines have executed more than 300  
18 landings on foreign shores and served in every major U.S. Naval  
19 action since 1775; and

20 **WHEREAS**, the United States Marine Corps (USMC) enlists  
21 approximately 38,000 new recruits each year. During the course of  
22 this mission, the USMC safeguarded, cared for, and transported more  
23 than 19,000 poolees during the entire span (Citadel, Atlanta and  
24 Jacksonville) of the Task Force. Specific to the Jacksonville  
25 Mission, the USMC safeguarded, cared for, and received 7,350  
26 poolees; and

27 **WHEREAS**, in response to the COVID-19 outbreak, the USMC  
28 launched Operation ROM quarantining recruits prior to entering  
29 basic training. In December 2020, Hyatt Regency Jacksonville was  
30 awarded the ROM 2.0 Lodging Contract valued at \$17,718,039, the  
31 largest group contract in the history of Hyatt hotels; and

1           **WHEREAS**, between January 10, 2021, and July 11, 2021, USMC  
2 took possession of Hyatt Regency Jacksonville's main guest room  
3 tower to house men and women recruited by local USMC recruiting  
4 offices throughout the United States, East of the Mississippi,  
5 prior to the recruits entering Paris Island to complete basic  
6 training. Hyatt Regency Jacksonville supported the USMC mission by  
7 providing lodging for 7,720 recruits and U.S. Marine staff. It also  
8 served approximately 500,000 meals throughout a six-month period;  
9 and

10           **WHEREAS**, the United States Marine Corps' decision to bring the  
11 recruiting mission to Jacksonville had a significant economic  
12 impact on Downtown's North and Southbank lodging industry. Along  
13 with the multimillion-dollar contract awarded to Hyatt Regency  
14 Jacksonville, additional Jacksonville lodging establishments  
15 exceeded typical occupancy and were able to collect higher rates.  
16 The Marines brought in over 88,000 rooms to a desperately  
17 struggling Downtown area during the pandemic. Their economic impact  
18 during these very tough times for the destination was over \$26  
19 million, and this \$18 million account for the Hyatt helped spur  
20 Jacksonville to a tourism recovery faster than any other  
21 destination in the state; and

22           **WHEREAS**, as the hotel industry was devastated by the effect of  
23 the COVID-19 outbreak, the USMC mission resulted in a significant  
24 number of hotel industry workers being brought back to work in  
25 Downtown Jacksonville. The United States Marine Corps also  
26 supported several local businesses including veteran and minority  
27 owned business that provided transportation, laundry services, and  
28 food and beverage products. Without this critical support, many of  
29 these businesses would not have been able to remain open and  
30 operational during the time of the COVID-19 pandemic. Within the  
31 community, the USMC partnered with Pets for Vets and Armed Forces

1 for the Arts providing additional exposure for key Marine staff  
2 facilitating the mission; and

3 **WHEREAS**, during the mission, the USMC and Hyatt Regency  
4 Jacksonville were also able to support local charities including  
5 the Trinity Rescue Mission and Sulzbacher Center for the Homeless  
6 with more than 15,000 pounds of food donations; now therefore

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

8 **Section 1.** The City hereby thanks the United States  
9 Marine Corps for choosing Jacksonville and the Hyatt Regency  
10 Jacksonville Hotel as the East Coast site for Operation ROM,  
11 quarantining thousands of Marine recruits to ensure COVID safety  
12 before they were transported to Paris Island for the completion of  
13 boot camp. The size of the room block commitment provided a  
14 tremendous boost to Jacksonville's lodging industry and had a great  
15 effect on the area's economy in general, helping Jacksonville's  
16 economy to recover from the COVID pandemic more quickly than most  
17 other cities in Florida and nationally. Jacksonville is proud to  
18 have played a part in securing the national defense and assisting  
19 the Marine Corps in performing its vital mission.

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

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25 Form Approved:

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27 /s/ Margaret M. Sidman

28 Office of General Counsel

29 Legislation Prepared By: Jeff Clements, City Council Research

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