

1 Introduced by Council President Hazouri & Co-Sponsored by Council
2 Member Bowman:

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5 **RESOLUTION 2021-396-A**

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

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

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

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

1 largest group contract in the history of Hyatt hotels; and

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

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

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

1 community, the USMC partnered with Pets for Vets and Armed Forces
2 for the Arts providing additional exposure for key Marine staff
3 facilitating the mission; and

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

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

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

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

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26 Form Approved:

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28 /s/ Paige H. Johnston

29 Office of General Counsel

30 Legislation Prepared By: Jeff Clements, City Council Research

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