

1 Introduced by Council President Newby & Council Members Freeman,
2 Salem, Carlucci, Gaffney, White, Morgan, Dennis, Hazouri and
3 Bowman:

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6 **RESOLUTION 2021-556**

7 A RESOLUTION URGING THE CITIZENS OF
8 JACKSONVILLE TO BECOME VACCINATED AGAINST THE
9 COVID-19 VIRUS AT THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE
10 OPPORTUNITY; REQUESTING EMERGENCY PASSAGE UPON
11 INTRODUCTION; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

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13 **WHEREAS**, for the last year and half, the world has been
14 subjected to the greatest public health pandemic in more than 100
15 years in the form of the COVID-19 virus, with the World Health
16 Organization reporting just shy of 200 million confirmed infection
17 cases worldwide as of early August, and over 4.2 million deaths
18 worldwide; and

19 **WHEREAS**, the United States and the State of Florida have been
20 hard-hit as well, with the Centers for Disease Control and
21 Prevention recording 35.1 million confirmed cases and nearly
22 612,000 deaths in the U.S. and just over 2.6 million confirmed
23 cases and just under 40,000 deaths in Florida; and

24 **WHEREAS**, through the herculean efforts of researchers and
25 pharmaceutical companies, several coronavirus vaccines were
26 developed, tested, and approved as safe and effective for emergency
27 use by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to combat the pandemic
28 and help slow the spread of the disease; and

29 **WHEREAS**, in the last month, cases of the extremely contagious
30 and extremely dangerous delta variant of the COVID-19 virus have
31 surged around the world, in the United States, and in Florida,

1 particularly in areas where vaccination rates are low, posing a
2 rising threat to the health of everyone and an especially serious
3 challenge to hospitals and health care professionals, who are being
4 overwhelmed by the caseload; and

5 **WHEREAS,** the best, most practical, and easiest way for
6 citizens to protect themselves and others from the ravages of the
7 COVID virus and to slow its spread and reduce the likelihood of
8 further variants developing is to become fully vaccinated with one
9 of the approved vaccines; now therefore

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

11 **Section 1.** The City Council hereby urges and strongly
12 recommends that all Jacksonville citizens over the age of 12 become
13 vaccinated against the COVID-19 virus at the earliest possible
14 opportunity, unless advised otherwise by a medical professional due
15 to a pre-existing medical condition or other legitimate health
16 concern. Achieving a high level of vaccinations throughout the
17 community is the best way to protect ourselves, our loved ones, and
18 our community from the pain and suffering the virus has already
19 inflicted and will continue to inflict if we do not rise to the
20 challenge and protect one another from this danger.

21 **Section 2. Requesting emergency passage upon introduction**
22 **pursuant to Council Rule 4.901.** Emergency passage upon
23 introduction of this Resolution is requested in order to urge the
24 public to take immediate action to combat the rapid rise in new
25 COVID infections being experienced in our community to protect the
26 public health and safety in a timely manner.

27 **Section 3. Effective Date.** This Resolution shall become
28 effective upon signature by the Mayor or upon becoming effective
29 without the Mayor's signature.
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3 Form Approved:

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6 Office of General Counsel

7 Legislation Prepared By: Jeff Clements, City Council Research

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