

1 Introduced by Council President Newby & Council Members Freeman,
2 Salem, Carlucci, Gaffney, White, Morgan, Dennis, Hazouri and Bowman
3 and Co-Sponsored by Council Members Pittman, Priestly Jackson,
4 Becton, Cumber & Boylan:
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7 **RESOLUTION 2021-556-A**

8 A RESOLUTION URGING THE CITIZENS OF
9 JACKSONVILLE TO BECOME VACCINATED AGAINST THE
10 COVID-19 VIRUS AT THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE
11 OPPORTUNITY; REQUESTING EMERGENCY PASSAGE UPON
12 INTRODUCTION; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.
13

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

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

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

30 **WHEREAS**, in the last month, cases of the extremely contagious
31 and extremely dangerous delta variant of the COVID-19 virus have

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Form Approved:

 /s/ Paige H. Johnston

Office of General Counsel

Legislation Prepared By: Jeff Clements, City Council Research

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