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Mayor and Council Members Celebrate Teacher of the Year by Presenting Council Resolution

JACKSONVILLE, FL – Mayor Donna Deegan and City Council Members Rahman Johnson (District 14), Ken Amaro (District 1), and Terry Parker Principal Robert Hudson will be presenting a City Council Resolution honoring Gustavo Guzman, on his selection as the VyStar Duval County EDDY Teacher of the Year. The presentation will take place at **1:00 pm on Friday, May 17th, at Terry Parker High School (7301 Parker School Road, Jacksonville, FL 32211).**

Guzman, a first-generation college graduate, is a biology teacher at Terry Parker High School. He has been recognized for his outstanding contributions to education. During the 33rd Annual EDDY Awards, he was named Teacher of the Year.

Earning an undergraduate degree from Edward Waters University, Guzman also earned a Master of Education in Policy and Advocacy less than a week ago from the same institution.

“I have to reach my students where they are, help them grow, help them thrive, in school and in life,” said Guzman who like some of his students was raised in a single parent household.

His journey is inspirational. He is the son of immigrant agricultural laborers, who initially had no plans on becoming a teacher. During his work as a cross-country runner at Edward Waters he discovered his love of and for education. Guzman volunteers with his fraternity Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity and is the site director for the 5000 Role Models of Excellence program, mentoring minority male youth.

Council Member Johnson, who knows Guzman from his time as a professor at Edward Waters remains proud of this accomplishment.

“In the classroom, his impact is evident. Last year his classes had a 22% increase in test scores. His work is why traditional public education is so very important,” said Council Member Johnson.

As the 2024 Duval County Teacher of the Year, Mr. Guzman will receive a cash prize, a classroom grant, and serve as an ex-officio member on the Jacksonville Public Education Fund Board of Directors. Additionally, he is a candidate for Florida Teacher of the Year which will be awarded in July.

Council Member Rahman Johnson

Jacksonville City Council Member Rahman Johnson, Ph.D. was elected to represent District 14 in May 2023. The district encompasses the southwestern portion of the city to the Clay County line, including 103rd Street, Argyle Forest, and Oak Leaf Plantation. Council Member Johnson is dedicated to improving Jacksonville through responsible governance and community-focused initiatives. His work focuses on economic development, enhancing public safety, and addressing critical infrastructure needs in his district and throughout the city. Johnson serves on the Land Use and Zoning and Rules Standing Committees. He is also the liaison for the Joint Planning Committee, the Library Board of Trustees.

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