

**CITY COUNCIL RESEARCH DIVISION  
LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY**



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**Bill Type and Number:** Ordinance 2024-172

**Introducer/Sponsor(s):** Council President at the request of the Mayor

**Date of Introduction:** February 27, 2024

**Committee(s) of Reference:** F, NCSPHS

**Date of Analysis:** February 29, 2024

**Type of Action:** Authorization of the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department to accept a donation for the enhancement of a parks project; appropriation of funds for a park enhancement project; amendment to the 2024-2028 Capital Improvement Plan (“CIP”)

**Bill Summary:** This bill approves and authorizes the Director of the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department to accept a donation from The Placemaking and Equity Fund, Inc., for the enhancement of Lift Ev’ry Voice and Sing Park in the amount of \$868,506 in accordance with Section 111.105(b) of the Ordinance Code. The donation requires that \$125,000 be dedicated to the construction of a mist fountain, that \$228,000 be dedicated to stage construction, and that the remainder of funds be expended on general enhancement of the park. The bill appropriates the donation to the CIP project titled “Parks QOL – Lift Ev’ry Voice and Sing Park”. It amends the 2024-2028 Five-Year CIP to reflect this appropriation.

**Background Information:** The Placemaking and Equity Fund, Inc., in partnership with Everbank, NA, Jacksonville Transportation Authority, the Jacksonville Jaguars Foundation, and the Jessie Ball duPont Fund have offered to donate \$868,506 for the enhancement of Lift Ev’ry Voice and Sing Park, located in the historic LaVilla neighborhood at 176 Lee Street North between W. Adams and Houston Streets in Council District 7.

The park honors James Weldon Johnson and John Rosamond Johnson, who co-wrote “Lift Ev’ry Voice and Sing,” which is often called the “Black National Anthem.” The director of the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department desires to accept this donation, with \$125,000 specifically being utilized for the construction of a mist fountain and \$228,000 for the construction of a stage, and requires Council approval of the donation in accordance with Section 111.105(b) of the Ordinance Code.

As this bill requires the Five-Year CIP to be amended, it requires a two-thirds vote of present Council members for passage.

**Policy Impact Area:** Parks construction

**Fiscal Impact:** This bill appropriates a \$868,506 private donation to pay for park improvements.

**Analyst:** Webb