

1 Introduced by Council Members Carlucci, Amaro, J. Carlucci and Miller
2 and Co-Sponsored by Council Members Peluso, Arias and Pittman and
3 amended by the Neighborhoods, Community Services, Public Health and
4 Safety Committee:

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7 **ORDINANCE 2024-118-E**

8 AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$2,027,000 FROM
9 GENERAL FUND - GSD FUND BALANCE TO THE
10 JACKSONVILLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC. ("JHS") TO
11 BE USED FOR RENOVATIONS TO THE FLORIDA CASKET
12 COMPANY BUILDING, LOCATED AT 318 PALMETTO
13 STREET, JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA 32202 IN ORDER TO
14 ESTABLISH A JACKSONVILLE HISTORY CENTER;
15 PROVIDING FOR A CARRYOVER OF FUNDS UNTIL MARCH
16 31, 2026; AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR, OR HER
17 DESIGNEE, AND THE CORPORATION SECRETARY TO
18 EXECUTE A SECOND AMENDMENT TO THE FY 2022-2023
19 CITY GRANT AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF
20 JACKSONVILLE AND THE JHS TO EXTEND THE TERM OF
21 THE AGREEMENT TO MARCH 31, 2026, AND TO INCREASE
22 THE MAXIMUM INDEBTEDNESS BY AN ADDITIONAL
23 \$2,027,000 FOR A NEW TOTAL MAXIMUM INDEBTEDNESS
24 NOT-TO-EXCEED \$2,527,000; PROVIDING FOR
25 OVERSIGHT BY THE GRANTS AND CONTRACT COMPLIANCE
26 DIVISION OF THE FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION
27 DEPARTMENT; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

28
29 **WHEREAS,** initially the City Council approved up-front funding
30 totaling \$50,000, with \$35,000 appropriated pursuant to Ordinance
31 2020-115-E and \$15,000 from the Mayor's Contingency Fund, to The

1 Jacksonville Historical Society, Inc. ("JHS") for renovations to the
2 Florida Casket Company Building; and

3 **WHEREAS**, the City and JHS entered into a FY 2022-2023 City
4 Grant Agreement ("Agreement"), with an effective date of October 1,
5 2022, pursuant to which the City agreed to reimburse the JHS in an
6 amount not-to-exceed the lesser of (i) \$500,000 or (ii) 29.1 percent
7 of the Project Budget for renovations to the historic Florida Casket
8 Company Building located at 318 Palmetto Street, Jacksonville,
9 Florida 32202 in order to establish a Jacksonville History Center
10 (the "Project"); and

11 **WHEREAS**, the Agreement was originally scheduled to expire on
12 September 30, 2023, but due to circumstances beyond its control, the
13 JHS incurred delays in obtaining building permits required for the
14 Project which resulted in the City and the JHS extending the term of
15 the Agreement to March 31, 2024, pursuant to Ordinance 2023-215-E,
16 to accommodate the revised completion schedule for the Project and
17 to clarify the maximum indebtedness of the City thereunder; and

18 **WHEREAS**, Project costs have increased significantly to
19 approximately \$3.4 million ("Project Budget") and in order to complete
20 Phases I and II of the renovation of the Florida Casket Company
21 Building and establish a Jacksonville History Center, additional
22 funds are required and additional time is needed; and

23 **WHEREAS**, on June 15, 1822, residents of the lower St. Johns
24 River valley, including Abraham Bellamy, Lewis Zacharia Hogans,
25 Isaiah D. Hart, John Brady, Simeon Dell, and dozens more, petitioned
26 then U.S. Secretary of State John Quincy Adams to establish a federal
27 port of entry at their place of settlement known as "Cowford" which
28 they identified for the first time as Jacksonville, in the Florida
29 Territory, so named for the territory's first governor, General Andrew
30 Jackson; and

31 **WHEREAS**, during the 201 years since the signing of that

1 petition, the place called Jacksonville became Florida's largest and
2 leading city, the center of maritime commerce, banking, insurance,
3 shipbuilding and other major industries; and

4 **WHEREAS,** Jacksonville's identity stands on the legacies of
5 complex and diverse people and events of its past; and

6 **WHEREAS,** the Great City of Jacksonville, now 201 years old,
7 stands as Florida's largest city and the largest city in the
8 contiguous United States, yet it lacks a public history center; and

9 **WHEREAS,** Jacksonville lags behind its progressive peer cities
10 that boast public history centers; Tampa, Orlando and Miami have each
11 invested significant civic energy and resources into their public
12 history, including the Tampa Bay History Center which occupies a
13 60,000 sq. ft. purpose-built facility in Tampa's downtown waterfront
14 district, the Miami History Museum which spans 70,000 sq. ft. within
15 the Miami-Dade Cultural Plaza, and the Orange County History Center
16 which resides in a five-story downtown building erected in 1927; and

17 **WHEREAS,** Jacksonville possesses centuries of untold stories
18 spanning its vast geography, from the tales of Jacksonville's earliest
19 settlers in the 16th century and its incorporation as a city in 1832,
20 to its consolidation in 1968, there are countless diverse narratives
21 of past communities that demand preservation and retelling; and

22 **WHEREAS,** on August 27, 1960, when NAACP Youth Council members
23 tried to peacefully engage in lunch counter demonstrations at such
24 Jacksonville stores as Grant's, Kress's and Woolworth, the sit-in
25 demonstrators were beaten with ax handles; this event came to be
26 known as "Ax Handle Saturday" and added Jacksonville's name to
27 Birmingham, Selma and a host of other cities where the struggle for
28 respect and human dignity led to a proud history where black and
29 white members of the community worked for social justice; and

30 **WHEREAS,** Asa Philip Randolph (1889-1979), from the age of two
31 grew up in Jacksonville and attended the Cookman Institute for Boys,

1 where he was valedictorian of his 1907 graduating class, but after
2 four years of disillusionment, in 1911, Randolph left Jacksonville
3 for New York City and became the most influential American civil
4 rights leader of the twentieth century, whose immense work and years
5 of planning directly resulted in the 1963 March on Washington, one
6 of the climactic events of the American struggle for Civil Rights and
7 the stage for the landmark address by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.;
8 and

9 **WHEREAS,** the Jacksonville History Center, incorporating the
10 former 1920 Florida Casket Company Building and the original 1878 St.
11 Luke's Hospital, will address the present absence of a diverse public
12 history center. Its mission is to offer a state-of-the-art local
13 museum featuring rotating curated exhibits, to serve as a dedicated
14 space for the collection, archiving, and processing of diverse
15 historical documentation and artifacts, and to provide a venue for
16 events; and

17 **WHEREAS,** the Emerald Trail, a 30-mile urban trail and linear
18 park system currently under construction, runs adjacent to the Project
19 site, and will connect the new Jacksonville History Center with 14
20 historic neighborhoods, Downtown, the St. Johns River, McCoys Creek
21 and Hogans Creek; and

22 **WHEREAS,** opening a Jacksonville History Center to the public
23 will very likely compel citizens with interesting and valuable
24 historic collections to offer items related to the Great City of
25 Jacksonville to be displayed and preserved within the Jacksonville
26 History Center for the enjoyment of all; and

27 **WHEREAS,** establishing the Jacksonville History Center will be
28 of vast benefit to the city: promoting community gathering and
29 connection, dialogue on issues, community storytelling and
30 conversation, and functioning as a community treasure-keeper for
31 visitors to relish for many generations to come; and

1 **WHEREAS,** on June 22, 2022, the JHS received a Certificate of
2 Appropriateness from the Jacksonville Historic Preservation
3 Commission for the proposed exterior changes to the Florida Casket
4 Company Building; and

5 **WHEREAS,** on August 11, 2022, the JHS received Final Approval
6 from the Downtown Development Review Board for the renovation, design,
7 and site plan of the Project; now therefore

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

9 **Section 1. Appropriation.** For the 2023-2024 fiscal year,
10 within the City's budget, there are hereby appropriated the indicated
11 sum(s) from the account(s) listed in subsection (a) to the account(s)
12 listed in subsection (b):

13 (The account information is attached hereto as **Exhibit 1** and
14 incorporated herein by this reference)

15 (a) Appropriated from:

16 See **Exhibit 1** \$2,027,000

17 (b) Appropriated to:

18 See **Exhibit 1** \$2,027,000

19 (c) Explanation of Appropriation:

20 The funding above is an appropriation from General Fund -
21 GSD Fund Balance to the JHS Activity Subsidies and
22 Contributions to Private Organizations account for
23 renovations to the historic Florida Casket Company Building
24 in order to establish a Jacksonville History Center.

25 **Section 2. Purpose.** The purpose of the appropriation in
26 Section 1 is to provide \$2,027,000 in additional funding to the JHS
27 to be used for Phases I and II of the renovations to the Florida
28 Casket Company Building in order to establish a Jacksonville History
29 Center. In addition to addressing significant structural issues to
30 make the building safe, the renovations will include creation of a
31 museum and exhibition space devoted to Jacksonville's unique and

1 diverse history, an archival processing, preservation, and research
2 space for the JHS's collections, and an event venue and meeting space.
3 The JHS is responsible for all cost overruns related to the Project
4 Budget. However, this does not preclude the City Council from
5 providing additional funding through future legislation as it relates
6 to the Project Budget or as it relates to funding the furnishings of
7 the building (Phase III) or any additional Phases.

8 **Section 3. Carryover.** The funds appropriated in Section 1
9 of this ordinance shall not lapse but shall carryover until March 31,
10 2026.

11 **Section 4. Approval and Authorization to Execute.** The
12 Mayor, or her designee, and the Corporation Secretary are hereby
13 authorized to execute and deliver a second amendment to the FY
14 2022-2023 City Grant Agreement between the City of Jacksonville and
15 the Jacksonville Historical Society, Inc., in substantially the form
16 attached hereto as **Revised Exhibit 2**, labeled as "Revised Exhibit 2,
17 Rev 2nd Amd to Agmt, March 4, 2024 - NCSPHS" and incorporated herein
18 by this reference (the "Second Amendment"), to extend the term of the
19 Agreement to March 31, 2026, and to increase the City's maximum
20 indebtedness under the Agreement by an additional \$2,027,000 for a
21 new total maximum indebtedness not-to-exceed the lesser of
22 (i) \$2,527,000, or (ii) 75 percent of the Project Budget less \$50,000
23 in previously disbursed funds. The Second Amendment may include such
24 additions, deletions and changes as may be reasonable, necessary and
25 incidental for carrying out the purposes thereof, as may be acceptable
26 to the Mayor, or her designee, with such inclusion and acceptance
27 being evidenced by execution of the Second Amendment by the Mayor,
28 or her designee; provided however, no modifications to the Second
29 Amendment may increase the financial obligations of the City to an
30 amount in excess of the amount stated herein or decrease the duties
31 and obligations of the JHS, and any such modifications shall be

1 technical only and shall be subject to appropriate legal review and
2 approval by the Office of General Counsel and the Office of Risk
3 Management for appropriate insurance and indemnification terms. For
4 the purposes of this Ordinance, the term "technical changes" is
5 defined as those changes having no financial impact to the City, and
6 any other non-substantive changes that do not substantively increase
7 the duties and responsibilities of the City under the provisions of
8 the Agreement.

9 **Section 5. Oversight Department.** The Grants and Contract
10 Compliance Division of the Finance and Administration Department
11 shall oversee the Agreement described herein.

12 **Section 6. Effective Date.** This Ordinance shall become
13 effective upon signature by the Mayor or upon becoming effective
14 without the Mayor's signature.

15
16 Form Approved:

17
18 /s/ Mary E. Staffopoulos

19 Office of General Counsel

20 Legislation Prepared By: Carla A. Lopera

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