

**CITY COUNCIL RESEARCH DIVISION
LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY**



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Bill Type and Number: Ordinance 2023-759

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

Date of Introduction: October 24, 2023

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

Date of Analysis: October 26, 2023

Type of Action: Appropriation; approval of economic development forgivable loan; waiver of Northwest Jacksonville Economic Development Fund guidelines

Bill Summary: The bill appropriates \$500,000 from the Northwest Jacksonville Economic Development Fund/Investment Pool Earnings to provide a forgivable loan to First Coast No More Homeless Pets, Inc. for the expansion of its existing animal care facility. It authorizes execution of documents and technical amendments by staff and designates the Office of Economic Development as the City's oversight agency for the loan. The guidelines of the Northwest Jacksonville Economic Development Fund are waived to permit project funding in excess of the percentage allowed under the guidelines.

Background Information: FCNMHP provides low-cost veterinary care to assist low to moderate income pet owners to obtain the veterinary services needed to keep dogs and cats in homes and out of shelters. The City is proposing to offer a \$500,000 Forgivable Loan for the expansion and renovation of the facility located on Norwood Avenue near I-95, to be provided through the Northwest Jacksonville Economic Development Fund. The organization will purchase an adjacent building and convert it to additional shelter space. The completion of the project is expected by the end of calendar year 2025, with the creation of 6 new FTE jobs (in addition to 47 retained jobs) by the end of calendar year 2027. The loan will be forgivable over a period of 5 years (\$100,000 per year) on the condition that the new jobs are created and maintained.

In 2022 FCNMHP provided \$405,000 in charitable care to help ensure that no animal would be surrendered or euthanized due to the lack of the owner's ability to pay for care. In partnership with the City of Jacksonville Animal Care and Protective Services (ACPS), FCNMHP provided 3,251 free spay/neuter dog and cat surgeries to qualifying low-income pet owners in Duval County. Additionally, in cooperation with ACPS to humanely control the feral cat population, FCNMHP provided 5,740 free spay/neuter surgeries for feral or community cats across Jacksonville neighborhoods. Overall, in 2022 FHNMHP performed 21,819 spay/neuter surgeries, of which half were feral cats through programs funded by donors and a contract with Animal Care and Protective Services.

Policy Impact Area: Animal care and control

Fiscal Impact: The bill appropriates a \$500,000 forgivable loan

Analyst: Clements