

**CITY COUNCIL RESEARCH DIVISION
LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY**



JEFFREY R. CLEMENTS
Chief of Research
(904) 255-5137

117 West Duval Street
City Hall, Suite 425
Jacksonville, FL 32202
FAX (904) 255-5229

Bill Type and Number: Ordinance 2020-316

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

Date of Introduction: June 9, 2020

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

Date of Analysis: June 11, 2020

Type of Action: Appropriation; budget ordinance amendment; Ordinance Code waivers; designation of oversight agency; request for one-cycle fast track approval

Bill Summary: The bill appropriates \$1,620,000 from the Tourist Development Council's Special Revenue Fund Development Account and \$600,000 from the TDC's Special Revenue Fund Contingency Account (total of \$2,220,000) to the TDC's Operations Account to utilize reserve funds to offset a portion of the anticipated losses in tourist development tax revenues in fiscal year 2019-20 due to the COVID-19 pandemic emergency. The bill amends the FY19-20 budget ordinance (2019-504-E) to revise the TDC's budget schedule to reflect the anticipated revenue shortfall and the transfer of these reserve funds to the operating budget. It waives the provisions of Ordinance Code Chapter 111 - Special Revenue and Trust Accounts and Chapter 666 - Duval County Tourist Development Plan to permit the use of these funds for supplemental operating revenues, which is not a listed use for funds in the TDC Development and Contingency accounts. The Tourist Development Council is designated as the oversight agency for the funds and fast track approval of the ordinance on one committee cycle is requested.

Background Information: Because of the COVID-19-related travel restrictions and economic disruption, bed tax revenues have dropped precipitously over the last several months and the TDC projects that revenues will fall short of budget for the fiscal year by somewhere between \$2 million and \$3 million. The TDC therefore requests to reallocate \$2.22 million from its Contingency and Development reserve accounts into its Operating Account to make up the revenue shortfall and allow its contractor – Visit Jacksonville Inc. – to continue performing its tourist information bureau, tourism marketing, and convention sales and service functions with minimal service reductions.

Policy Impact Area: Tourism promotion

Fiscal Impact: The bill appropriates \$2.22 million from the TDC's two reserve accounts to its operating budget to help offset the anticipated revenue shortfall.

Analyst: Clements