

**CITY COUNCIL RESEARCH DIVISION
LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY**



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Bill Type and Number: Ordinance 2024-985

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

Date of Introduction: December 10, 2024

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

Date of Analysis: December 6, 2024

Type of Action: Appropriation

Bill Summary: This bill appropriates \$50,000 in grant funds from the State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Historical Resources. The funds will be used for the purpose of protecting and restoring Sunset Memorial Cemetery's African American heritage and historical significance. Oversight of the project will be provided by the Department of Public Works, Mowing and Landscape Management Division.

Background Information: The purpose of this legislation is to allocate grant funds received from the State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Historical Resources, to protect and restore Sunset Memorial Cemetery. The restoration project emphasizes the cemetery's African American heritage and historical significance. The grant, initiated through B.T 25-028, does not require a local matching contribution. The grant term began on July 1, 2023, and will end on June 30, 2025. Maintenance of Sunset Memorial Cemetery, along with other abandoned or neglected cemeteries in Jacksonville, has been an ongoing issue for many years. Recognizing the neglect of abandoned cemeteries as a significant problem, the Jacksonville City Council previously created a Blue Ribbon Commission through Ordinance 2004-1349-A to investigate this issue countywide. The City has appropriated funds from time to time to clean and maintain the historic African American cemeteries along Moncrief Road.

Policy Impact Area: Cemetery Maintenance

Fiscal Impact: This bill appropriates \$50,000 in state grant funds, with no matching requirement from the City.

Analyst: Jimenez