

1 Introduced by Council Member Morgan:
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4 **ORDINANCE 2019-333**

5 AN ORDINANCE APPROVING, AND AUTHORIZING THE
6 MAYOR, OR HIS DESIGNEE, AND CORPORATION
7 SECRETARY TO EXECUTE AND DELIVER AN AGREEMENT
8 BETWEEN THE CITY OF JACKSONVILLE AND THE
9 WILDLIFE RESCUE COALITION OF NORTHEAST
10 FLORIDA, INC., FOR LEASE OF PROPERTY WITHIN
11 THE ARLINGTON LIONS CLUB PARK, LOCATED AT
12 4322-1 RICHARD DENBY GATLIN ROAD,
13 JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA 32277, FOR USE AS AN
14 EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING CENTER FOR WILDLIFE
15 RESCUE AND REHABILITATION; PROVIDING FOR
16 OVERSIGHT BY THE DEPARTMENT OF PARKS,
17 RECREATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES; PROVIDING
18 AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

19
20 **WHEREAS**, the mission of the Wildlife Rescue Coalition of
21 Northeast Florida, Inc. ("WRCNEF") is to ensure respect for all
22 wildlife through education and conservation, while providing
23 orphaned, injured and displaced native wildlife with a second
24 chance at life; and

25 **WHEREAS**, WRCNEF is a volunteer group of citizens,
26 rehabilitators, veterinarians and wildlife advocates who have come
27 together to help native wild animals in Northeast Florida, whether
28 they be furred or feathered, clawed or pawed; and

29 **WHEREAS**, since 2003 the WRCNEF has served Baker, Clay, Duval,
30 Flagler, Nassau, St. Johns and Putnam counties, taking in
31 approximately 2000 wild animals a year for medical treatment,

1 rehabilitation, foster care and release back into their native
2 habitat; and

3 **WHEREAS**, the goal of WRCNEF is to educate the public as well
4 as treat and rehabilitate wildlife; and

5 **WHEREAS**, WRCNEF would like to open an educational center that
6 will allow people of all ages to come and learn about and
7 appreciate wildlife; and

8 **WHEREAS**, its current wildlife rescue center is located at 6853
9 Seaboard Avenue, Jacksonville, Florida 32244, and is on
10 approximately .34 acres of property with approximately 2,200 square
11 feet of indoor facilities (consisting of five donated construction
12 trailers), as well as outdoor enclosures and pens for opossums,
13 raccoons, squirrel, deer and tortoises; and

14 **WHEREAS**, the current rescue center is overcrowded on this
15 property and the existing indoor facilities (the five donated
16 construction trailers) are dilapidated and are not in a condition
17 to be relocated; and

18 **WHEREAS**, WRCNEF would like to be more centrally located within
19 the City and to relocate to an area that can allow for a new
20 modular building for the rescue center, and for an experiential
21 learning center for students to include medical triage, isolation
22 area and support care of animals; and

23 **WHEREAS**, WRCNEF envisions a separate modular building for the
24 public, including a lobby, educational area and housing for
25 permanent non-releasable educational animals and a separate area
26 for kitchen, food preparation, laundry and storage; and

27 **WHEREAS**, WRCNEF believes that the location depicted in **Exhibit**
28 **1** at Arlington Lions Club Park is suitable for its wildlife rescue
29 center and educational facility; and

30 **WHEREAS**, the City does not offer municipal services for
31 animals other than shelters for domestic animals (primarily dogs

1 and cats); and

2 **WHEREAS**, the Council finds that the lease of property
3 described in **Exhibit 1** to WRCNEF is appropriate and serves a public
4 purpose by providing for the residents of the City an opportunity
5 to be educated on wildlife rehabilitation and habitat and would
6 also serve the City as a facility that can assist with non-domestic
7 animals, now therefore

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

9 **Section 1. Agreement approved and execution authorized.**

10 There is hereby approved, and the Mayor, or his designee, and
11 Corporation Secretary are hereby authorized to execute and deliver,
12 the Lease Agreement between the City of Jacksonville and the
13 Wildlife Rescue Coalition of Northeast Florida, Inc., attached
14 hereto as **Exhibit 2**, and such insurance provisions as the City of
15 Jacksonville Risk Management Division may provide, and incorporated
16 herein by this reference (the "Agreement"). The Agreement provides
17 for an experiential learning center and wildlife rescue facility
18 which will be located at the Arlington Lions Club Park at 4322-1
19 Richard Denby Gatlin Road, Jacksonville, Florida 32277.

20 **Section 2. Oversight.** The Department of Parks,
21 Recreation and Community Services shall oversee the project
22 described herein.

23 **Section 3. Effective Date.** This ordinance shall become
24 effective upon signature by the Mayor or upon becoming effective
25 without the Mayor's signature.

26 Form Approved:

27
28 /s/ Paige H. Johnston

29 Office of General Counsel

30 Legislation prepared by Paige H. Johnston

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