

1 Introduced by the Council President at the Request of the Mayor and  
2 Co-Sponsored by Council Members Salem, Newby, White, Hazouri, Boylan  
3 Bowman and Ferraro:

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6 **ORDINANCE 2020-328**

7 AN ORDINANCE MAKING CERTAIN FINDINGS AND  
8 AUTHORIZING DISBURSEMENT OF \$16,548,162.10 OF  
9 BUSINESS RELIEF GRANT FUNDS TO THOSE  
10 BUSINESSES AND IN SUCH AMOUNTS AS SET FORTH ON  
11 **EXHIBIT 1** ATTACHED HERETO, FROM THE  
12 \$20,000,000 IN CARES ACT GRANT FUNDING  
13 PREVIOUSLY APPROPRIATED BY ORDINANCE 2020-235-  
14 E (THE "BUSINESS RELIEF GRANT FUNDS") TO  
15 PROVIDE ADDITIONAL FUNDING TO FOR-PROFIT AND  
16 NON-PROFIT BUSINESSES WITHIN DUVAL COUNTY  
17 NEGATIVELY IMPACTED BY COVID-19 RESPONSE  
18 MEASURES; INVOKING THE EXCEPTION OF  
19 126.107(G) (EXEMPTIONS), CHAPTER 126  
20 (PROCUREMENT CODE), *ORDINANCE CODE*, TO DIRECT  
21 CONTRACT WITH GRANT RECIPIENTS; REQUESTING  
22 THAT THE FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT  
23 AND OFFICE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OVERSEE THE  
24 COVID-19 BUSINESS RELIEF GRANT PROGRAM;  
25 REQUESTING ONE-CYCLE EMERGENCY PASSAGE;  
26 PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

27  
28 **WHEREAS**, the Novel Coronavirus Disease 2019 ("COVID-19") is a  
29 severe, acute respiratory illness that can spread among humans  
30 through respiratory transmission and presents with symptoms similar  
31 to those of influenza; and

1           **WHEREAS**, the World Health Organization previously declared  
2 COVID-19 a public health emergency of international concern; and

3           **WHEREAS**, on March 9, 2020 the Governor of the State of Florida  
4 declared a state of emergency exists in the State of Florida in  
5 regard of COVID-19; and

6           **WHEREAS**, on March 13, 2020, Mayor Lenny Curry of the City of  
7 Jacksonville proclaimed and declared a state of emergency exists in  
8 Duval County associated with COVID-19; and

9           **WHEREAS**, also on March 13, 2020, President Donald J. Trump  
10 declared a national emergency to combat COVID-19; and

11           **WHEREAS**, as elsewhere in the country, the citizens and  
12 businesses of Duval County are suffering severe economic impacts  
13 stemming in part from national, state and local measures closing  
14 certain businesses, public schools, public beaches, imposing  
15 emergency work-at-home requirements and limiting public gatherings  
16 (the "Emergency Measures") in an effort to slow the infection rate  
17 of COVID-19; and

18           **WHEREAS**, as a result of COVID-19 and the resulting Emergency  
19 Measures, the City also desires to appropriate and authorize  
20 disbursement of \$16,548,162.10 of Cares Act funding previously  
21 appropriated by Ordinance 2020-235-E to those business entities  
22 located in the City of Jacksonville that have suffered economic  
23 harm as a result of COVID-19, in such amounts as set forth on  
24 **Exhibit 1** attached hereto.

25           **WHEREAS**, disbursement of the Business Relief Grant funds is  
26 intended to lessen the severe economic impacts of COVID-19 to  
27 businesses located in Duval County and assist in the economic  
28 recovery in Duval County from the impacts of COVID-19; now  
29 therefore

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

31           **Section 1. Findings.** It is hereby ascertained,

1 determined, found and declared as follows:

2 (a) The recitals set forth herein are true and correct.

3 (b) By incentivizing job creation and retention of employees  
4 the grant program authorized hereby is designed to benefit both  
5 individuals and businesses and will promote and further the public  
6 and municipal purposes of the City and serve to limit the severe  
7 economic impacts of COVID-19.

8 (c) The Business Relief Grants are designed to provide rapid  
9 economic relief to businesses in the City in order to maintain the  
10 viability of such businesses and the employment of individuals  
11 thereof, thus maintaining the City's tax base and revenues, and  
12 provide economic assistance to individuals financially harmed from  
13 the impacts of COVID-19.

14 (d) Enhancement of the City's tax base and revenues, are  
15 matters of State and City policy and State and City concern in  
16 order that the State and its counties and municipalities, including  
17 the City, shall not continue to be endangered by unemployment,  
18 underemployment, economic recession, poverty, crime and disease,  
19 and consume an excessive proportion of the State and City revenues  
20 because of the extra services required for police, fire, accident,  
21 health care, elderly care, charity care, hospitalization, public  
22 housing and housing assistance, and other forms of public  
23 protection, services and facilities.

24 (e) The grants authorized hereby will provide economic relief  
25 to businesses located in the City of Jacksonville, thus encouraging  
26 ongoing compliance with the Emergency Measures and benefitting the  
27 health, safety and welfare of the citizens of Duval County.

28 (f) The provision of the City's assistance as set forth  
29 herein is necessary and appropriate, and the City's assistance is  
30 reasonable and not excessive, taking into account the extent of the  
31 public benefits expected to be derived from the grants authorized

1 hereby, and taking into account all other forms of assistance  
2 available.

3 (g) The authorizations provided by this Ordinance are for  
4 public uses and purposes for which the City may use its powers as a  
5 county, municipality and as a political subdivision of the State of  
6 Florida and may expend public funds, and the necessity in the  
7 public interest for the provisions herein enacted is hereby  
8 declared as a matter of legislative determination.

9 (h) This Ordinance is adopted pursuant to the provisions of  
10 Chapters 163, 166 and 125, Florida Statutes, as amended, the City's  
11 Charter, and other applicable provisions of law.

12 **Section 2. Business Relief Program grants approved.** By  
13 this Ordinance, the City is authorized and directed to provide  
14 Business Relief Grants to those Duval County businesses and in such  
15 amounts as set forth on **Exhibit 1** attached hereto and incorporated  
16 herein by reference.

17 **Section 3. Invoking the exception to Section 126.107(g),**  
18 **Ordinance Code.** The City is hereby authorized to enter into grant  
19 agreements with the grant recipients set forth on **Exhibit 1**, for  
20 the purposes of providing non-faith based services to the citizens  
21 of Duval County. Pursuant to Section 126.107(g) (Exemptions), Part  
22 1 (General Regulations), Chapter 126 (Procurement Code), Ordinance  
23 Code, such procurement is exempted from competitive solicitation  
24 because the supplies or services are to be provided by those  
25 specifically prescribed within authorizing legislation that  
26 appropriates the same. With the exception of the foregoing, all  
27 other provisions of Chapter 126, Ordinance Code, shall remain in  
28 full force and effect. The failure of a grant recipient to enter  
29 into the applicable grant agreement shall render such entity  
30 ineligible for the grant funds authorized hereby.

31 **Section 4. Oversight Department.** The Finance and

1 Administration Department and Office of Economic Development shall  
2 provide oversight for the Program.

3 **Section 5. Requesting one cycle emergency passage**  
4 **pursuant to Council Rule 4.901 Emergency.** Once cycle emergency  
5 passage of this legislation is requested. The nature of the  
6 emergency is that the negative health and economic impacts of  
7 COVID-19 are ongoing and immediate economic assistance will assist  
8 in maintaining the viability of businesses and financial needs of  
9 the citizens of Duval County impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

10 **Section 6. Effective Date.** This ordinance shall become  
11 effective upon signature by the Mayor or upon becoming effective  
12 without the Mayor's signature.

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14 Form Approved:

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17 Office of General Counsel

18 Legislation prepared by: John Sawyer

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