

CITY COUNCIL RESEARCH DIVISION

LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY



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Bill Type and Number: 2020-759

Introducer/Sponsor(s): Council Member Pittman

Date of Introduction: December 8, 2020

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

Date of Analysis: December 8, 2020

Type of Action: *Ordinance Code* amendment

Bill Summary: This bill amends Chapter 614 (Jacksonville Public Order and Safety Code), *Ordinance Code*, to create a new Section 614.102 (Large Gatherings Prohibited). The Section defines large gatherings to be: 50 or more individuals standing or sitting closer than six feet from each other, outside of a completely-enclosed structure, in or near any public right-of-way, property or building in the City for business or social purposes, and which prevents the safe ingress, egress or through-passage of individuals in a public right-of-way, on a property or near a building, where the public has a right of access. Unless extended by council, this legislation will sunset on December 31, 2021.

The owner or person in charge of a building or property will: prohibit unpermitted large gatherings, and authorize a law enforcement officer to reasonably request individuals to move or leave if any person is sitting or standing in the public right-of-way, near a building or on the property without consent.

Penalty to property owners if they fail to prohibit the large gathering: law enforcement will issue a First Warning; if law enforcement responds to 2 or more large gatherings at a property, building or public right-of-way, and the owner will be subject to a \$500.00 civil penalty.

Penalty to those in the large gathering: written warning for a First Violation; violations of the provisions of this Section after receiving a prior written warning, will be assessed a civil fine of \$25.00 for each violation.

Exceptions: Special Events pursuant to Chapter 191, *Ordinance Code*; individuals exercising First Amendment rights of the United States and the Florida Constitution, such as freedom of religion, freedom of speech and the right of assembly; and any bona fide athletic event, government-sanctioned activity or any other event where COVID-19 precautions are implemented and enforced.

Background Information: The purpose of this legislation is to reduce the spread of COVID-19, in accordance with the Federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommended practice of social distancing and minimizing personal contact with large gatherings. This bill will minimize the opportunities for person-to-person spread of the COVID-19 virus by coordinating enforcement efforts with owners of properties where large gatherings occur in order to advance public health and safety of the community.

Policy Impact Area: COVID-19 and large public gatherings

Fiscal Impact: Undetermined cost for enforcement

Analyst: Hampsey