

Introduced by Council Member Lahnen:

**ORDINANCE 2025-265-E**

AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$3,000,000 FROM GENERAL FUND OPERATING RESERVES TO THE GENERAL FUND OPERATING SUBSIDIES AND CONTRIBUTIONS TO OTHER GOVT ACCOUNT TO PROVIDE FUNDS TO THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH FLORIDA ("UNF") FOR THE UNF ESPORTS PROGRAM (THE "PROGRAM") AS DESCRIBED HEREIN; PROVIDING FOR CARRYOVER TO FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026; WAIVING SECTION 118.107 (NONPROFITS TO RECEIVE FUNDING THROUGH A COMPETITIVE EVALUATED AWARD PROCESS), PART 1 (GENERAL PROVISIONS), CHAPTER 118 (CITY GRANTS), *ORDINANCE CODE*, TO ALLOW FOR A DIRECT CONTRACT WITH UNF; APPROVING, AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR, OR HER DESIGNEE, AND THE CORPORATION SECRETARY TO EXECUTE AND DELIVER ON BEHALF OF THE CITY A GRANT AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF JACKSONVILLE AND UNF FOR THE PROGRAM; FINDING THAT THE PROGRAM CONSTITUTES WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT IN DUVAL COUNTY FOR PURPOSES OF MEETING A PORTION OF THE SUPPLEMENTAL CITY FINANCIAL COMMITMENT FOR THE COUNTYWIDE STRATEGIC FOCUS AS DESCRIBED IN THE SUPPLEMENTAL JACKSONVILLE STADIUM COMMUNITY BENEFITS AGREEMENT APPROVED BY ORDINANCE 2024-905-E; PROVIDING FOR OVERSIGHT BY THE GRANTS AND CONTRACT COMPLIANCE DIVISION OF THE FINANCE DEPARTMENT; REQUESTING EMERGENCY PASSAGE UPON INTRODUCTION; PROVIDING AN



1 will offer annual Esports tournaments, mentorship and skills training  
2 for high school students interested in pursuing collegiate Esports,  
3 workshops on career pathways in gaming, game development,  
4 broadcasting and Esports management, and integration of  
5 Esports-related curricula in high school STEM and business programs.

6 A portion of the City funds will be used to pay the salaries and  
7 benefits for several positions to manage and administer the Program.  
8 In addition, a large portion of the City funds will be used to  
9 purchase, install and configure audio visual equipment for the Esports  
10 arena, to purchase high-performance computers, software and other  
11 equipment to support the Program, to pay for printing and advertising  
12 costs, and to purchase team uniforms for Esports tournaments.

13 **Section 3. Carryover.** The funds appropriated herein shall  
14 not lapse but shall carryover to fiscal year 2025-2026.

15 **Section 4. Waiver of Section 118.107, Ordinance Code.** The  
16 provisions of Section 118.107 (Nonprofits to receive funding through  
17 a competitive evaluated award process), Part 1 (General Provisions),  
18 Chapter 118 (City Grants), *Ordinance Code*, are hereby waived to allow  
19 for a direct contract with UNF. This waiver is justified because the  
20 Program provides a unique opportunity for students in Jacksonville  
21 to develop the necessary skills and talent to obtain and maintain  
22 high-demand careers in the rapidly-growing and competitive digital  
23 economy.

24 **Section 5. Approval and Authorization to Execute.** There is  
25 hereby approved, and the Mayor, or her designee, and the Corporation  
26 Secretary are hereby authorized to execute and deliver on behalf of  
27 the City a grant agreement with UNF in an amount not-to-exceed  
28 \$3,000,000, subject to the Term Sheet and Budget more particularly  
29 described in **Exhibit 2**, for a term commencing on May 1, 2025 through  
30 September 30, 2026, and all other contracts and documents, including  
31 extensions, renewals and amendments to the agreement, and to otherwise

1 take all action necessary to effectuate the intent of this Ordinance,  
2 subject to appropriate legal review and approval by the General  
3 Counsel, or his or her designee, and the City's Risk Management  
4 Division for appropriate insurance and indemnification requirements  
5 in accordance with Section 128.601, *Ordinance Code*.

6       **Section 6. Finding that the Program Constitutes Workforce**  
7 **Development for Purposes of Meeting a Portion of the Supplemental**  
8 **City Financial Commitment as Described in the Supplemental Community**  
9 **Benefits Agreement Approved by Ordinance 2024-905-E.** The City has  
10 determined that the \$3,000,000 investment with UNF for the Program  
11 as described herein provides a unique opportunity for workforce  
12 development within Duval County. Therefore, this contribution shall  
13 be counted toward the Supplemental City Financial Commitment for the  
14 Countywide Strategic Focus as outlined in the Supplemental  
15 Jacksonville Stadium Community Benefits Agreement between the City  
16 of Jacksonville and Jacksonville Jaguars, LLC, as described in and  
17 approved by Ordinance 2024-905-E.

18       **Section 7. Oversight Department.** The Grants and  
19 Contract Compliance Division of the Finance Department shall oversee  
20 the project described herein.

21       **Section 8. Requesting Emergency Passage Upon Introduction**  
22 **Pursuant to Council Rule 4.901 Emergency.** Emergency passage upon  
23 introduction of this legislation is requested. The nature of the  
24 emergency is that UNF has requested these funds be made available as  
25 soon as possible as Program activities are scheduled to begin on May  
26 1, 2025.

27       **Section 9. Effective Date.** This Ordinance shall become  
28 effective upon signature by the Mayor or upon becoming effective  
29 without the Mayor's signature.  
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Form Approved:

/s/ Mary E. Staffopoulos

Office of General Counsel

Legislation Prepared By: Mary E. Staffopoulos

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