

# CITY COUNCIL RESEARCH DIVISION

## LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY



**COLLEEN HAMPSEY,**  
**RESEARCH ASSISTANT**  
(904) 255-5151

117 West Duval Street  
City Hall, Suite 425  
Jacksonville, FL 32202  
FAX (904) 630-3403

**Bill Type and Number:** 2020-315

**Introducer/Sponsor(s):** Council Member Newby

**Date of Introduction:** June 9, 2020

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

**Date of Analysis:** June 8, 2020

**Type of Action:** Appropriation, designation of oversight agency and emergency passage

**Bill Summary:** This bill is an appropriation of \$25,000 from a City Council operating contingency to the Downtown Businesses Financial Assistance program. The City will provide a one-time payment of up to \$1500 to approved applicants. Any unspent funds will revert back to the account of origin. The Finance and Administration Department will provide oversight for the program and provide monthly reports. Emergency passage is requested due to the immediate needs for repairs in order to reopen for business.

**Background Information:** On May 30, following a peaceful protest, some individuals engaged in the destruction and defacing of public property and vandalism against private property. These local businesses are concurrently facing severe economic impacts stemming in part from national, state and local emergency measures and forced closures due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The purpose of this legislation is to provide financial assistance for property damaged in the civil unrest period (May 30 – June 1, 2020) to businesses located in Downtown Jacksonville. For a period of two months from the effective date of this Ordinance, the City is authorized to award Financial Assistance grants to eligible Downtown businesses in Jacksonville. These grant funds can be used for property damage repairs, added security measures or other business expenses needed due to the impacts created by the civil unrest.

Eligibility criteria include: must have a business in Downtown Jacksonville; must demonstrate an impact of property damages or vandalism due to the civil unrest which occurred between May 30 – June 1; the applying business must own the building or represent that the business is responsible of the repair to the property; only one business application per address.

**Policy Impact Area:** Downtown business property damage

**Fiscal Impact:** Appropriation of \$25,000

**Analyst:** Hampsey