

CITY COUNCIL RESEARCH DIVISION

LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY



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Bill Type and Number: Ordinance 2023-86

Introducer/Sponsor(s): Council President at the request of the Mayor

Date of Introduction: February 14, 2023

Committee(s) of Reference: NCSPHS, F

Date of Analysis: February 15, 2023

Type of Action: Agreement authorization, designation of oversight agency and one cycle emergency passage

Bill Summary: The purpose of this legislation is to authorize the Lease and Use Agreement between the City of Jacksonville and Lutheran Services Florida, Inc. for the construction and operation of a Therapeutic Early Learning Center in Victory Park, located at 3781 University Club Boulevard. The Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department will oversee the administration of the Agreement and project. One cycle emergency passage is requested because the funding from the Department of Health and Human Services for construction of the early learning center must be encumbered on or before March 1, 2023.

Background Information: Head Start is a federally funded birth-to-5 comprehensive early childhood development program for low income and/or children with special needs, in foster care or experiencing homelessness, and their families. Since 2014, Jacksonville's Head Start programming has been operated by Lutheran Services Florida (LSF). LSF identified the neighborhood and area surrounding Victory Park as an area of high need within the established service area for Head Start programs and desires to build a therapeutic early learning center in the park in Arlington. When fully constructed, the center will house eight Head Start classrooms, with accompanying age-appropriate playgrounds, plus a therapy room, a multi-purpose training and meeting room, indoor STEM exploration space and a clinic.

Policy Impact Area: Head Start - Victory Park Early Learning Center

Fiscal Impact: Total project costs are estimated at \$3,856,151.20 and federal and state grants to fully fund the project; no City match required

Analyst: Hampsey