

1 Introduced by the Council President at the request of the DIA and  
2 Co-Sponsored by Council Members J. Carlucci and Peluso and amended  
3 by the Rules Committee:  
4  
5

6 **ORDINANCE 2023-863-E**

7 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 154.101  
8 (DEFINITIONS), PART 1 (IN GENERAL), CHAPTER 154  
9 (ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES), *ORDINANCE CODE*, TO ADD  
10 CERTAIN DEFINITIONS; CREATING A NEW SECTION  
11 154.115 (JACKSONVILLE RIVERWALK SPECIALTY  
12 CENTER), PART 1 (IN GENERAL), CHAPTER 154  
13 (ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES), *ORDINANCE CODE*, TO CREATE  
14 AND ESTABLISH THE JACKSONVILLE RIVERWALK  
15 SPECIALTY CENTER DOWNTOWN; PROVIDING FOR  
16 CODIFICATION INSTRUCTIONS; PROVIDING AN  
17 EFFECTIVE DATE.  
18

19 **WHEREAS**, Jacksonville's Northbank Riverwalk, as designed,  
20 extends along the north side of the St. Johns River, from the western  
21 edge of the Fuller Warren bridge right-of-way to Metropolitan Park,  
22 offering Downtown visitors fantastic river and wildlife views as they  
23 leisurely amble along its paved pathway; and

24 **WHEREAS**, Jacksonville's Southbank Riverwalk lies directly  
25 across the St. Johns River from the Northbank Riverwalk, this similar  
26 special use path, which is in parts a concrete boardwalk over water,  
27 extends along the south side of the St. Johns River and offers  
28 beautiful views of the downtown skyline, riverboats, birds, and  
29 dolphins; and

30 **WHEREAS**, the Northbank Riverwalk and Southbank Riverwalk are  
31 lined with adjacent parks, such as Corkscrew Park, Riverfront Plaza,

1 Shipyards West Park, St. Johns River Park and Friendship Fountain,  
2 and the parks at RiversEdge, and others, as well as over 50,000 square  
3 feet of leasable space in adjacent commercial developments; and

4 **WHEREAS**, establishing a specialty center along the Northbank  
5 and Southbank Riverwalks will allow patrons the opportunity to  
6 purchase alcoholic drinks at designated locations along the  
7 Riverwalks and enjoy imbibing their beverages as they stroll along  
8 the St. Johns River, taking in all the beauty that Jacksonville has  
9 to offer; and

10 **WHEREAS**, Florida Statutes defines a "specialty center" as a  
11 defined geographic area with a development of at least 50,000 square  
12 feet of leasable area containing restaurants, entertainment  
13 facilities and specialty shops, located adjacent to a navigable water  
14 body; and

15 **WHEREAS**, Section 561.20(2)(b), *Florida Statutes*, allows the  
16 sale of alcoholic beverages by vendors within a specialty center, for  
17 consumption by patrons located within the defined geographic area of  
18 the specialty center open container area; and

19 **WHEREAS**, the creation of the Jacksonville Riverwalk Specialty  
20 Center will attract patrons and increase economic activity to the  
21 Downtown area, which will bestow benefit upon both visitors and  
22 residents; and

23 **WHEREAS**, on October 18, 2023, the DIA Board approved Resolution  
24 2023-10-06, approving this amendment to Chapter 154 of the Ordinance  
25 Code, to create and establish the Jacksonville Riverwalk Specialty  
26 Center within Downtown, a copy of which is attached hereto as **Exhibit**  
27 **1**; now therefore

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

29 **Section 1. Amending Section 154.101 (Definitions), Part 1**  
30 **(In General), Chapter 154 (Alcoholic Beverages), Ordinance Code.**  
31 Section 154.101 (Definitions), Part 1 (In General), Chapter 154

(Alcoholic Beverages), *Ordinance Code*, is hereby amended to read as follows:

**Chapter 154 - ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES**

**Part 1. - IN GENERAL**

\* \* \*

**Sec. 154.101. - Definitions.**

(a) Whenever used in this Chapter, the following definitions pertaining to alcoholic beverages shall apply. The determination of the percentage of alcohol by volume shall be made as provided in F.S. § 561.01.

~~(a)~~ (1) Alcoholic beverages means and includes distilled spirits and all beverages containing one-half of one percent or more of alcohol by volume.

~~(b)~~ (2) Fourteen percent alcoholic beverages means and includes all beverages containing more than 14 percent of alcohol by volume.

~~(c)~~ (3) Intoxicating beverages means and includes only those alcoholic beverages containing more than 4.007 percent of alcohol by volume.

~~The determination of the percentage of alcohol by volume shall be made as provided in F.S. § 561.01.~~

(b) For the purposes of this Part, the following terms, phrases, words, and their derivations, as listed in alphabetical order herein, shall have the meaning contained below:

(1) Approved Container means a cup that bears the Jacksonville Riverwalk Logo, is no larger than 16 ounces and is approved by the City for sale and use in the Jacksonville Riverwalk Specialty Center.

(2) Licensed premises means the area licensed by the state for the sale of alcoholic beverages, pursuant to Florida Statutes, as amended.

1           (3) Licensee means a legal or business entity, person, or  
2           persons that hold a license issued by the Florida  
3           Division of Alcohol and Tobacco for the sale of alcoholic  
4           beverages.

5           (4) Open container means any container of alcoholic beverage  
6           which is immediately capable of being consumed from or  
7           the seal of which has been broken.

8           (5) Jacksonville Riverwalk Open Container Area means the  
9           Riverwalk, and the Riverwalk Connectors, as shown in  
10           Figure 1 of Section 154.115 below, where possession and  
11           consumption of alcoholic beverages, in conformance with  
12           this Part, are permitted between the hours of 11:00 a.m.  
13           - 10:00 p.m. Sunday through Thursday, and 11:00 a.m. -  
14           midnight on Friday and Saturday, unless otherwise posted  
15           by the Director of the Parks, Recreation and Community  
16           Services Department.

17           (6) Jacksonville Riverwalk Specialty Center means the area  
18           shown in Figure 1 of Section 154.115 below, that includes  
19           licensed premises on or near the Jacksonville Riverwalk  
20           where one may exit the licensed premises with open  
21           containers onto the Jacksonville Riverwalk Open  
22           Container Area.

23           **Section 2.           Creating           Section           154.115           (Jacksonville**  
24 **Riverwalk Specialty Center), Part 1 (In General), Chapter 154**  
25 **(Alcoholic Beverages), Ordinance Code.** Section 154.115 (Jacksonville  
26 Riverwalk Specialty Center), Part 1 (In General), Chapter 154  
27 (Alcoholic Beverages), *Ordinance Code*, is hereby created to read as  
28 follows:

29                           **Chapter 154 - ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES**

30                                   **Part 1. - IN GENERAL**

31   \* \* \*

1 **Sec. 154.115. - Jacksonville Riverwalk Specialty Center.**

2 (a) *Creation of Jacksonville Riverwalk Specialty Center.*

3 Pursuant to F.S. § 561.20(2)(b), the City does hereby create  
4 and establish a specialty center along and contiguous to the  
5 Northbank and Southbank Riverwalks adjacent to the St. Johns  
6 River Downtown with the areas and boundaries as set forth  
7 and designated in Figure 1 below, to be called the  
8 Jacksonville Riverwalk Specialty Center.

9 (b) *Possession of open containers of alcohol within the*  
10 *Jacksonville Riverwalk Open Container Area.*

11 (1) A person who legally obtains an alcoholic beverage from  
12 a licensed premises within the Jacksonville Riverwalk  
13 Specialty Center may possess and/or consume the  
14 alcoholic beverage within the Jacksonville Riverwalk  
15 Open Container Area so long as the alcoholic beverage  
16 is in an Approved Container.

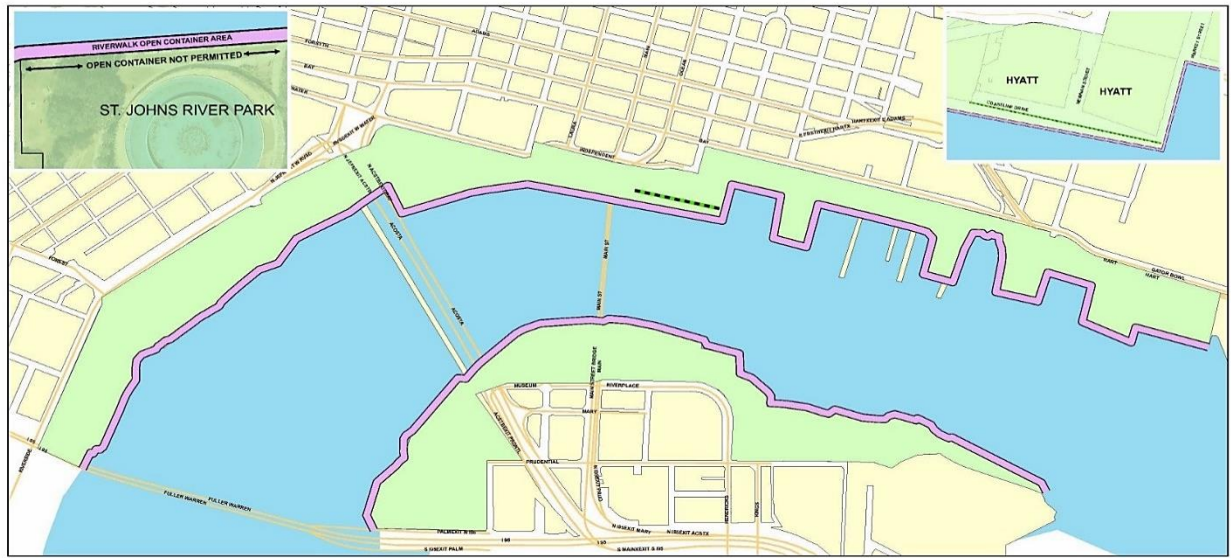
17 (2) A person may only enter a licensed premises with an  
18 alcoholic beverage if the alcoholic beverage is in an  
19 Approved Container and only into that portion of the  
20 licensed premises that extends into the Jacksonville  
21 Riverwalk Open Container Area.

22 (3) No person may possess more than two (2) open containers  
23 of alcoholic beverage in an Approved Container while in  
24 the Jacksonville Riverwalk Open Container Area.

25 (c) *Open container in public parks not allowed.* Except by valid  
26 permit or license, no person shall possess or consume in any  
27 public park within the Jacksonville Riverwalk Specialty  
28 Center any open container of alcoholic beverage. However, if  
29 an event is permitted by the City which allows alcoholic  
30 beverages in a park within the Jacksonville Riverwalk  
31 Specialty Center, then that park may be included within the

Jacksonville Riverwalk Open Container Area for the duration of the event, provided such is requested by the event permit holder and approved as part of the event permit. During the time of such event, alcohol may be consumed in the Jacksonville Riverwalk Open Container Area in an approved container issued by the holder of the event permit.

(d) Open containers of alcoholic beverages purchased outside the Jacksonville Riverwalk Specialty Center not allowed in the Jacksonville Riverwalk Specialty Center. Except as provided in this section, possession of any open container containing an alcoholic beverage within the Jacksonville Riverwalk Specialty Center shall be unlawful and punishable in accordance with the appropriate laws.



Legend

- RIVERWALK SPECIALTY CENTER
- RIVERWALK CONNECTORS
- RIVERWALK OPEN CONTAINER AREA



Figure 1: Jacksonville Riverwalk Open Container Area

**Section 3. Codification Instructions.**

The Codifier and the Office of General Counsel are authorized to make all chapter and division "tables of contents" consistent with the changes set forth

1 herein. Such editorial changes and any others necessary to make the  
2 Ordinance Code consistent with the intent of this legislation are  
3 approved and directed herein, and changes to the Ordinance Code shall  
4 be made forthwith and when inconsistencies are discovered.

5 **Section 4. Effective Date.** This Ordinance shall become  
6 effective upon signature by the Mayor or upon becoming effective  
7 without the Mayor's signature.

8  
9 Form Approved:

10  
11           /s/ Mary E. Staffopoulos          

12 Office of General Counsel

13 Legislation Prepared By: Carla A. Lopera

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