

1 Introduced by Council Member Pittman:
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4 **ORDINANCE 2023-445**

5 AN ORDINANCE REGARDING THE SHERIFF'S POWERS AND
6 DUTIES; AMENDING CHAPTER 11 (OFFICE OF THE
7 COUNCIL SECRETARY) TO CREATE A NEW POSITION
8 UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE COUCIL SECRETARY OF
9 COUNCIL SECURITY OFFICER; AMENDING CHAPTER 37
10 (OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF), PART 1 (ORGANIZATION),
11 SECTION 37.101 (SHERIFF'S POWERS AND DUTIES),
12 *ORDINANCE CODE*, TO CREATE A NEW SUBSECTION
13 REGARDING DEVELOPMENT OF A SECURITY PLAN FOR
14 CITY HALL AND OTHER PUBLIC BUILDINGS AND
15 FACILITIES FOR THE SAFETY OF THE PUBLIC, THE
16 EMPLOYEES AND THE ELECTED OFFICIALS; PROVIDING
17 FOR CODIFICATION INSTRUCTIONS; PROVIDING AN
18 EFFECTIVE DATE.

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20 **WHEREAS**, the Council recognizes the primary purpose of the
21 Jacksonville City Hall is to conduct the business of the City and
22 provide a site for appropriate interactions between the public and
23 their elected officials from both the City's Executive Branch and
24 Legislative Branch; and

25 **WHEREAS**, Council members and other City employees, as a
26 responsibility and duty of their Offices and employment, regularly
27 conduct community meetings at public facilities across the City to
28 learn about, consult with and address the needs of Jacksonville's
29 residents; and

30 **WHEREAS**, in many instances, the executive and legislative
31 business of the City, by its very nature, creates or results in strong

1 emotional reactions from people affected by the many governmental
2 decisions made; and

3 **WHEREAS**, with increasing frequency locally, statewide and
4 nationally, private individuals are resorting to threatening and
5 violent confrontations with public officials and employees in their
6 workplaces; and

7 **WHEREAS**, with the passage of House Bill 543, enrolled as Chapter
8 2023-18, Laws of Florida, which became effective on July 1, 2023,
9 there is no longer a requirement for citizens to obtain a concealed
10 weapons license, which required a mandatory background check and a
11 firearms training course before being allowed to carry a hidden weapon
12 or firearm into public buildings; and

13 **WHEREAS**, personal safety concerns have been raised by
14 employees and officials after recent interactions at Council
15 meetings, in the City Hall atrium, at the front and rear entrances
16 and along the second, third and fourth floors of City Hall; and

17 **WHEREAS**, gunshots and physical violence have recently been
18 inflicted on City Hall causing damage to windows (including the window
19 of the Mayor's Office), glass doors and the building, itself; and

20 **WHEREAS**, the failure to appropriately address the safety
21 concerns interferes with the ability to conduct the business of the
22 City because the City's employees, officials and citizens fear
23 personal harm to themselves, their co-workers and their families; and

24 **WHEREAS**, there does not appear to be any security plan or
25 procedure for addressing these safety concerns, which are best
26 developed and implemented by the Sheriff's Office; now therefore

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

28 **Section 1. Amending Chapter 11 (Office of the Council**
29 **Secretary), Section 11.101 (Office of the Council Secretary created.)**
30 **and Section 11.110 (Reserved.), Ordinance Code.** Chapter 11 (Office
31 of the Council Secretary), Section 11.101 (Office of the Council

1 Secretary created.) and Section 11.110 (Reserved.), *Ordinance Code*,
2 are hereby amended to create a new position of Council Security
3 Officer under the general supervision and direction of the Council
4 Secretary to read as follows:

5 **CHAPTER 11. - OFFICE OF THE COUNCIL SECRETARY**

6 **Sec. 11.101. - Office of the Council Secretary created.**

7 There is hereby created the Office of the
8 Council Secretary which shall be a department of the legislative
9 branch of the consolidated government. All laws relating generally
10 to the administration of government shall, so far as applicable,
11 govern the Office of the Council Secretary. The Council Secretary is
12 the head of the department, and shall be responsible for all matters
13 of staff support for the Council. This Office shall include: a
14 Legislative Services Division, a Research Division, an
15 Administrative Services Division, a Council Security Officer
16 position and a Public Information Division.

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18 **Sec. 11.110. - ~~Reserved~~Council Security Officer.**

19 There is hereby created a Council Security Officer position
20 who shall be responsible for assisting with implementing the security
21 risk management plan for the Council, including providing input to
22 the Sheriff for development of the security risk management plan for
23 City Hall and for any other location utilized by the Council for
24 community meetings or events. Additionally, the Council Security
25 Officer shall develop and implement an education plan for training
26 Council members and its staff regarding personal and group safety
27 measures for use during City activities. The Council Security Officer
28 shall be appointed by the Personnel Committee and confirmed by the
29 Council and serve at the pleasure of the Personnel Committee and the
30 Council and shall not be in the classified service of the City and
31 shall not be subject to the civil service laws affecting the

1 City. The Council Security Officer shall be under the general
2 supervision and direction of the Council Secretary.

3 **Section 2. Amending Chapter 37 (Office of the Sheriff),**
4 **Part 1 (Organization), Part 1 (Organization), Section 37.101**
5 **(Sheriff's powers and duties.), Ordinance Code.** Chapter 37 (Office
6 of the Sheriff.), Part 1 (Organization), Section 37.101 (Sheriff's
7 powers and duties.), *Ordinance Code*, is hereby amended to create a
8 new subsection (n) to read as follows:

9 **CHAPTER 37. - OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF**

10 **PART 1. - ORGANIZATION**

11 **Sec. 37.101. - Sheriff's powers and duties.**

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13 (n) To develop and implement a security risk management plan for
14 City Hall and for use by City officials and employees at public
15 meetings away from City Hall. The security plan should reduce
16 the vulnerabilities in and around City Hall (including all
17 points of ingress and egress for pedestrians and vehicles)
18 through implementation of mitigation measures which are focused
19 on ensuring the safety of the occupants or patrons and ensuring
20 the business continuity of the building and its operations.
21 Additionally, a general security risk management plan should be
22 developed for use by City Officials holding or attending
23 community meetings at locations away from City Hall. A site-
24 specific security risk management plan should also be developed
25 and implemented for any other public building or facility if it
26 is determined there is a security need. All security risk
27 management plans shall be, at a minimum, reviewed annually and
28 updated or modified as appropriate. The Sheriff shall
29 coordinate with the Public Works Director, the Public Buildings
30 Division Chief, the Director of Parks and Recreation and any
31 other City official with jurisdiction over the meeting location

