

1 Introduced by the Council President at the request of the Mayor and
2 Co-Sponsored by Council Member Johnson and amended on the Floor of
3 Council:

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6 **ORDINANCE 2025-538-E**

7 AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$175,000 FROM THE
8 NORTHWEST OED FUND - CONTINGENCY ACCOUNT, TO THE
9 NORTHWEST OED FUND - SUBSIDIES AND CONTRIBUTIONS
10 TO PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS ACCOUNT, FOR THE
11 PURPOSE OF PROVIDING A NORTHWEST JACKSONVILLE
12 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FUND ("NWJEDF") BUSINESS
13 INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT (THE "BIG GRANT") TO
14 BAKER'S SPORTS, INC. ("COMPANY") TO FUND CERTAIN
15 INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS IN CONNECTION WITH
16 THE RENOVATION OF AN EXISTING BUILDING ON THE
17 PROPERTY LOCATED AT 5245 COMMONWEALTH AVENUE
18 ("PROJECT"), AS INITIATED BY REVISED B.T. 25-
19 104; MAKING CERTAIN FINDINGS, AND AUTHORIZING
20 THE MAYOR, OR HER DESIGNEE, AND THE CORPORATION
21 SECRETARY TO EXECUTE AND DELIVER, FOR AND ON
22 BEHALF OF THE CITY, AN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
23 AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY AND COMPANY, TO
24 SUPPORT THE PROJECT; AUTHORIZING THE BIG GRANT;
25 AUTHORIZING APPROVAL OF TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS BY
26 THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF ECONOMIC
27 DEVELOPMENT ("OED"); WAIVER OF THE CONFLICTING
28 PROVISION OF THE PUBLIC INVESTMENT POLICY
29 ADOPTED BY ORDINANCE 2022-726-E, AS AMENDED, TO
30 AUTHORIZE A BIG GRANT FOR THE PROJECT IN THE
31 AMOUNT OF \$175,000; PROVIDING FOR CITY OVERSIGHT

1 BY THE OED; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

2
3 **WHEREAS**, Baker's Sports, Inc. (the "Company") is seeking
4 public investment through the Northwest Jacksonville Economic
5 Development Fund in the amount of \$175,000, which consists of a
6 Northwest Business Infrastructure Grant (the "BIG Grant"), in order
7 to support certain infrastructure improvements related to the
8 renovation of an existing building on the property located at 5245
9 Commonwealth Avenue (the "Project"); and

10 **WHEREAS**, the Company estimates capital investment of
11 approximately \$900,000 and will support the retention of 165 existing
12 full-time jobs and 10 part-time jobs and the creation of an additional
13 30 full-time equivalent jobs, as further described in the Project
14 Summary, attached hereto as **Revised Exhibit 1**, labeled as "Revised
15 Exhibit 1, Rev Proj Summary, August 19, 2025 - Finance" and
16 incorporated herein by this reference; and

17 **WHEREAS**, for the reasons more fully described in the Project
18 Summary, the payment of the BIG Grant in the aforesaid amount serves
19 a paramount public purpose; and

20 **WHEREAS**, the recommended level of assistance is within Public
21 Investment Guidelines for a Northwest BIG Grant; and

22 **WHEREAS**, the Project will have a positive return of investment
23 for the City; and

24 **WHEREAS**, the Office of Economic Development ("OED") has
25 reviewed the application submitted by the Company for community
26 development and, together with representatives of the City, has
27 negotiated an Economic Development Agreement ("EDA") and, based upon
28 the contents of the EDA, has determined the EDA and the uses
29 contemplated therein to be in the public interest, and has determined
30 that the public actions and financial assistance contemplated in the
31 EDA take into account and give consideration to the long-term public

1 interests and public interest benefits to be achieved by the City;
2 and

3 **WHEREAS,** the Company has requested the City to enter into the
4 EDA in substantially the form placed **Revised On File** with the
5 Legislative Services Division; now therefore

6 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the Council of the City of Jacksonville:

7 **Section 1. Findings.** It is hereby ascertained, determined,
8 found and declared as follows:

9 (a) The recitals set forth herein are true and correct.

10 (b) The location of the Company's Project in Jacksonville,
11 Florida, is more particularly described in the EDA. The Project will
12 promote and further the public and municipal purposes of the City.

13 (c) Enhancement of the City's tax base and revenues, are
14 matters of State and City policy and State and City concern in order
15 that the State and its counties and municipalities, including the
16 City, shall not continue to be endangered by unemployment,
17 underemployment, economic recession, poverty, crime and disease, and
18 consume an excessive proportion of the State and City revenues because
19 of the extra services required for police, fire, accident, health
20 care, elderly care, charity care, hospitalization, public housing and
21 housing assistance, and other forms of public protection, services
22 and facilities.

23 (d) The provision of the City's assistance as identified in
24 the EDA is necessary and appropriate to make the Project feasible,
25 and the City's assistance is reasonable and not excessive, taking
26 into account the needs of the Company to make the Project economically
27 and financially feasible and the extent of the public benefits
28 expected to be derived from the Project.

29 (e) The Company is qualified to carry out and complete the
30 construction and equipping of the Project, in accordance with the
31 EDA.

(f) The authorizations provided by this Ordinance are for public uses and purposes for which the City may use its powers as a county, municipality and as a political subdivision of the State of Florida and may expend public funds, and the necessity in the public interest for the provisions herein enacted is hereby declared as a matter of legislative determination.

This Ordinance is adopted pursuant to the provisions of Chapters 163, 166 and 125, *Florida Statutes*, as amended, the City's Charter, and other applicable provisions of law.

Section 2. Appropriation. For the 2024-2025 fiscal year, within the City's budget, there are hereby appropriated the indicated sum(s) from the account(s) listed in subsection (a) to the account(s) listed in subsection (b):

(Revised B.T. 25-104, attached hereto as **Revised Exhibit 2**, labeled as "Revised Exhibit 2, Rev B.T. 25-104, August 19, 2025 - Finance" and incorporated herein by this reference):

(a) Appropriated from:

See Revised B.T. 25-104	\$175,000
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(b) Appropriated to:

See Revised B.T. 25-104	\$175,000
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(c) Explanation of Appropriation

The funding above is an appropriation of \$175,000 from the Northwest OED Fund - Contingency account, to the Northwest OED Fund - Subsidies and Contributions to Private Organizations account, for the purpose of providing a Northwest Jacksonville Economic Development Fund ("NWJEDF") Business Infrastructure Grant to the Company to assist in funding infrastructure improvements to support the renovation of an existing building.

Section 3. Purpose. The purpose of the appropriation in Section 2 is to provide the Company funding in the form of a Northwest Jacksonville Business Infrastructure Grant in an amount not to exceed

1 \$175,000 to fund infrastructure improvements needed to complete the
2 Project.

3 **Section 4. Economic Development Agreement Approved.** The
4 Mayor, or her designee, and the Corporation Secretary are hereby
5 authorized to execute and deliver, for and on behalf of the City, the
6 EDA between the City and the Company, in substantially the form placed
7 **Revised On File** with the Legislative Services Division (with such
8 "technical" changes as herein authorized), for the purpose of
9 implementing the recommendations of the OED as set forth herein and
10 further described in the Project Summary, attached hereto as **Revised**
11 **Exhibit 1.**

12 The EDA may include such additions, deletions, and changes as
13 may be reasonable, necessary, and incidental for carrying out the
14 purposes thereof, as may be acceptable to the Mayor or her designee,
15 with such inclusion and acceptance being evidenced by execution of
16 the EDA by the Mayor or her designee. No modification of the EDA may
17 increase the financial obligations or the liability of the City and
18 any such modification shall be technical only and shall be subject
19 to appropriate legal review and approval of the General Counsel or
20 his or her designee and all other appropriate action required by law.
21 "Technical" is herein defined as including, but not limited to,
22 changes in legal descriptions and surveys, descriptions of
23 infrastructure improvements and/or any road project, ingress and
24 egress, easements and rights of way, performance schedules (provided
25 that no performance schedule may be extended for more than one year
26 without City Council approval), design standards, access, and site
27 plans which have no financial impact.

28 **Section 5. Designation of Authorized Official/OED Contract**
29 **Monitor.** The Mayor is designated as the authorized official of the
30 City for the purpose of executing and delivering any contracts, notes,
31 and documents and furnishing such information, data, and documents

1 for the EDA as may be required and otherwise to act as the authorized
2 official of the City in connection with the EDA, and is further
3 authorized to designate one or more other officials of the City to
4 exercise any of the foregoing authorizations and to furnish or cause
5 to be furnished such information and take or cause to be taken such
6 action as may be necessary to enable the City to implement the EDA
7 according to its terms. The OED is hereby required to administer and
8 monitor the EDA and to handle the City's responsibilities thereunder,
9 including the City's responsibilities under the EDA working with and
10 supported by all relevant City departments.

11 **Section 6. Further Authorizations.** The Mayor, or her
12 designee, and the Corporation Secretary, are hereby authorized to
13 execute the EDA and all other contracts and documents and otherwise
14 take all necessary action in connection therewith and herewith. The
15 Executive Director of the OED, as contract administrator, is
16 authorized to negotiate and execute all necessary changes and
17 amendments to the EDA and other contracts and documents, to effectuate
18 the purposes of this legislation without further Council action,
19 provided such changes and amendments are limited to amendments that
20 are technical in nature (as described in Section 4 hereof), and
21 further provided that all such amendments shall be subject to
22 appropriate legal review and approval by the General Counsel, or his
23 or her designee, and all other appropriate official action required
24 by law.

25 **Section 7. Oversight Department.** The OED shall oversee the
26 Project described herein.

27 **Section 8. Waiver of Public Investment Policy.** The
28 conflicting provision of the Public Investment Policy ("PIP") adopted
29 by Ordinance 2022-726-E, as amended, limiting BIG Grants to 10 percent
30 of the total proposed project cost up to \$125,000 is hereby waived
31 to authorize a BIG Grant for the Project in the amount of \$175,000

as provided herein. This waiver is justified because the capital investment of \$900,000 is needed in the community and will provide job opportunities to the surrounding area.

Section 9. Effective Date. This Ordinance shall become effective upon signature by the Mayor or upon becoming effective without the Mayor's signature.

Form Approved:

/s/Mary E. Staffopoulos

Office of General Counsel

Legislation Prepared By: Joelle J. Dillard

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