

CITY COUNCIL RESEARCH DIVISION LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY



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Bill Type and Number: Ordinance 2019-612

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

Date of Introduction: August 27, 2019

Committee(s) of Reference: NCSPHS, TEU

Date of Analysis: August 29, 2019

Type of Action: Repeal of prior ordinance; grant of easement; designation of oversight agency

Bill Summary: The bill repeals previous Ordinance 2017-433-E, which authorized an easement agreement between Southbank Apartment Ventures, LLC and the City of Jacksonville, and authorizes a new agreement granting the City easements over portions of the company's property on the downtown Southbank for construction of an extension of the existing Southbank Riverwalk. The Department of Parks, Recreation and Community Services is designated as the City's oversight agency for the project.

Background Information: In 2017 the City entered into an easement agreement with Southbank Apartment Ventures that would allow for the construction of an extension of the Southbank Riverwalk to the west across the company's property where a new apartment building is to be constructed (on the parking lot between the One Call building – formerly the Aetna building – and the FEC Railroad bridge). The owner of the One Call building appealed the regulatory approvals for construction of the new apartments and the parties eventually reached a settlement agreement to reduce the number of apartments to be constructed. As a result of the project being redesigned pursuant to that settlement, the former easement agreement needs to be abandoned and new easements granted to the City. The agreement provides for a 20 foot wide easement (accommodating a 12 foot wide path and 8 feet of landscaping) from Prudential Drive to the riverfront adjacent to the FEC railroad line, a 20 foot wide easement (accommodating a 12 foot wide multi-use path and 8 feet of landscaping consisting of a minimum 2 foot wide grass strip adjacent to the curb and the remainder on the interior side of the path) along the northerly border of Prudential Drive, and the expansion of the existing portion of the Riverwalk along the Southbank of the St. Johns River running through the Property from its current width of approximately 5 feet to a total width of 20 feet.

Policy Impact Area: Southbank Riverwalk extension

Fiscal Impact: None to the City as a result of the adjustment of the easements. Southbank Apartment Ventures will pay to construct the Riverwalk extension.

Analyst: Clements