

1 Introduced by Council Member Dennis and amended by the
2 Neighborhoods, Community Services, Public Health & Safety Committee
3 and amended on the Floor of Council:
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6 **RESOLUTION 2020-325-A**

7 A RESOLUTION REGARDING THE PUBLIC HEALTH AND
8 SAFETY CONCERNS FOR THE RESIDENTS OF THE CITY
9 OF JACKSONVILLE; URGING THE SHERIFF TO WORK
10 COOPERATIVELY WITH THE STATE ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
11 WITH PUBLIC INPUT IN ORDER TO REFINE AND
12 IMPROVE THE CURRENT POLICY REGARDING THE
13 RELEASE OF BODY CAMERA FOOTAGE RELATED TO
14 CLAIMS OF POLICE VIOLENCE OR MISCONDUCT, AS
15 PERMITTED BY LAW; REQUESTING THAT THE SHERIFF
16 AND THE STATE ATTORNEY'S OFFICE PROVIDE THE
17 PUBLIC WITH ACCESS TO BODY CAMERA FOOTAGE,
18 WHERE PERMITTED BY LAW AND WHERE THE
19 INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE AS A PUBLIC RECORD;
20 DIRECTING UPON ADOPTION THE LEGISLATIVE
21 SERVICES DIVISION TO FORWARD COPIES OF THIS
22 RESOLUTION TO THE SHERIFF, THE STATE ATTORNEY
23 AND THE PUBLIC DEFENDER; PROVIDING AN
24 EFFECTIVE DATE.
25

26 **WHEREAS**, the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office (JSO) began
27 implementing a body camera program in the fall of 2018; and

28 **WHEREAS**, the release of body camera footage where police
29 violence or misconduct is alleged can be beneficial to the public
30 to help build transparency and trust in the community; and

1 **WHEREAS**, recent events of alleged police misconduct have
2 renewed calls from the public for release of body camera video of
3 police shootings in Jacksonville and in other communities
4 throughout the nation; and

5 **WHEREAS**, while the Council appreciates that body camera
6 footage should not and cannot be released by JSO or the State
7 Attorney's Office while a criminal investigation is underway, the
8 Council believes that body camera footage should be released timely
9 as a public record after all investigations and internal review by
10 JSO has been completed and the investigations closed; and

11 **WHEREAS**, there remains some uncertainty of the public at large
12 as to the current JSO policy regarding the release of body camera
13 footage and the Council believes that the public would benefit from
14 the transparency of understanding the JSO policy on release of body
15 camera footage; and

16 **WHEREAS**, the Sheriff, at a news conference held on Tuesday,
17 June 2, 2020 indicated that he was open to changing the body camera
18 video release policy, if it's legally allowable, and that he would
19 communicate further with the State Attorney's Office regarding
20 formulation of the policy; and

21 **WHEREAS**, the Council encourages the Sheriff and the State
22 Attorney to continue their ongoing discussions to promote
23 transparency in the release of body camera footage, where allowed
24 by law; and

25 **WHEREAS**, the Council recognizes that the release of body
26 camera footage involves a balance between protecting the integrity
27 of the investigation and determining at what point the video is a
28 public record to which the public can view it; and

29 **WHEREAS**, for the above reasons, the City of Jacksonville
30 supports the Sheriff and the State Attorney in working to improve

1 upon the current policy regarding the release of body camera
2 footage to allow for the utmost transparency in the process, as
3 permitted by law, and following the closure of all relevant
4 investigative measures by JSO and the State Attorney's Office; and

5 **WHEREAS**, the City Council desires to express these sentiments
6 to the Sheriff, the State Attorney and to the citizens of
7 Jacksonville; now therefore

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

9 **Section 1. Encouraging cooperation by the Sheriff and the**
10 **State Attorney's Office, with public input where possible, to**
11 **refine and improve the current policy.** The Council of the City of
12 Jacksonville hereby encourages the Sheriff and the State Attorney
13 to refine and improve the current policy regarding the release of
14 body camera footage, to the extent permissible by law, to allow for
15 the utmost transparency to the public when all investigations have
16 been concluded and the video is deemed a public record. The
17 Council also urges the Sheriff and the State Attorney, to the
18 extent possible, to take input from the public prior to modifying
19 the policy so that interested citizens may provide input in the
20 process and as to the policy.

21 **Section 2. Urging the Sheriff and State Attorney to**
22 **provide access to body camera footage policy and related**
23 **information to the public.** The Council also urges the Sheriff and
24 the State Attorney that once the policy has been refined, that JSO
25 and the State Attorney's Office inform the public of the final
26 iteration of the policy and provide a copy of the policy on their
27 respective websites, and direct the public to additional
28 information so that the public has access to the policy and may
29 make requests for information consistent with the policy.

1 **Section 3. Direction to Circulate upon Adoption.** The
2 Council hereby directs, upon adoption, the Legislative Services
3 Division to forward copies of this resolution to the Sheriff, the
4 State Attorney and the Public Defender.

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

8 Form Approved:

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10 /s/ Margaret M. Sidman

11 Office of General Counsel

12 Legislation Prepared By: Paige H. Johnston

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