

**CITY COUNCIL RESEARCH DIVISION
LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY**



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Bill Type and Number: Ordinance 2020-580

Introducer/Sponsor(s): Council Member Pittman

Date of Introduction: September 22, 2020

Committee(s) of Reference: NCSPHS, R

Date of Analysis: September 18, 2020

Type of Action: Charter amendment

Bill Summary: This amends Section 614.106 (Loitering, soliciting, begging, etc., in public offices or buildings open to the public), Chapter 614 (Jacksonville Public Order and 26 Safety Code), *Ordinance Code*, to prohibit unlawful gatherings, lingering, loitering, sitting or standing in or near any public right-of-way or building; adds a new subsection to make it unlawful for a person to refuse or fail to comply with a request to disperse; and amends the penalty to a Class "D" offense.

Background Information: The purpose of the legislation is to allow the owner, lessee, managing agent, or person in charge of a building or property to authorize law enforcement to reasonably request a person to disperse, move or leave the public right-of-way or building. Crowds of people continuously congregate in parking lots and streets, playing loud music, from Friday-Sunday in District 8. Typically, the gatherings occur at gas stations, open spaces, and neighborhoods, usually between 10:00 p.m. - 2:00 a.m. or longer, leaving the areas with riddled trash. The crowds and vehicles are blocking the public right of way and private residence driveways. Business owners, managers, and residents are concerned. Many of these individuals are afraid of retaliation from crowds and due not contact JSO. Furthermore, crowds do not wear masks or practice social distancing, which is detrimental to all Jacksonville citizens' safety and welfare.

Policy Impact Area: Public safety, public buildings, right-of-way, loitering, large gatherings

Fiscal Impact: None

Analyst: Mitchell