

**CITY COUNCIL RESEARCH DIVISION  
LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY**



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**Bill Type and Number:** Resolution 2024-956

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

**Date of Introduction:** November 26, 2024

**Committee(s) of Reference:** R

**Date of Analysis:** November 25, 2024

**Type of Action:** Appointment confirmation

**Bill Summary:** This bill confirms the Mayor's appointment of William C. Gentry to the Jacksonville Journey Forward Board, as a member with experience in violence prevention or intervention, education, and community engagement, for an initial 4-year term expiring September 30, 2028.

**Background Information:** Ordinance 2024-635-E established the Jacksonville Journey Forward as a public body within the executive branch of the City to assess and make recommendations regarding community-based programs, services, activities, and contracts related to factors contributing to crime prevention, intervention, and rehabilitation as well as neighborhood safety and stability, and the prevention of juvenile and adult recidivism.

Section 85.105(a), *Ordinance Code*, outlines the composition of the Jacksonville Journey Forward Board which shall consist of eleven voting members, four of whom are appointed by the Mayor, three of whom shall be appointed by the Council President, with one appointment each from: the Sheriff of Duval County, the State Attorney of the Fourth Judicial Circuit, the Superintendent of Duval County Public Schools, and the Chief Judge for the Fourth Judicial Circuit.

To the extent feasible, the JJF Board should include individuals with experience in public health, education, workforce development, contracts and compliance, afterschool/camp operations, juvenile diversion programs, violence prevention or intervention, ex-offender re-entry programs, law enforcement and community engagement.

Mr. Gentry holds a bachelor's degree from Jacksonville University and law degree from the University of Florida College of Law. He currently works at the Law Office of W C Gentry PA. Mr. Gentry has served on the board of the Early Learning Coalition, as a member of the Duval County School Board, the Jacksonville Journey, the Jacksonville Journey 2016 Oversight Committee, Ethics Commission, and the Safety and Crime Reduction Commission. He resides in Duval County in council district 5.

**Policy Impact Area:** Jacksonville Journey Forward Board operations

**Fiscal Impact:** No direct cost to the City

**Analyst:** Hampsey