

1 Introduced by Council Members Carlucci, Amaro, J. Carlucci and Miller:  
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4 **ORDINANCE 2024-118**

5 AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$2,027,000 FROM  
6 GENERAL FUND - GSD FUND BALANCE TO THE  
7 JACKSONVILLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC. ("JHS") TO  
8 BE USED FOR RENOVATIONS TO THE FLORIDA CASKET  
9 COMPANY BUILDING, LOCATED AT 314 PALMETTO  
10 STREET, JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA 32202 IN ORDER TO  
11 ESTABLISH A JACKSONVILLE HISTORY CENTER;  
12 PROVIDING FOR A CARRYOVER OF FUNDS UNTIL MARCH  
13 31, 2026; AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR, OR HER  
14 DESIGNEE, AND THE CORPORATION SECRETARY TO  
15 EXECUTE A SECOND AMENDMENT TO THE FY 2022-2023  
16 CITY GRANT AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF  
17 JACKSONVILLE AND THE JHS TO EXTEND THE TERM OF  
18 THE AGREEMENT TO MARCH 31, 2026, AND TO INCREASE  
19 THE MAXIMUM INDEBTEDNESS BY AN ADDITIONAL  
20 \$2,027,000 FOR A NEW TOTAL MAXIMUM INDEBTEDNESS  
21 NOT-TO-EXCEED \$2,577,000; PROVIDING FOR  
22 OVERSIGHT BY THE GRANTS AND CONTRACT COMPLIANCE  
23 DIVISION OF THE FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION  
24 DEPARTMENT; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.  
25

26 **WHEREAS**, initially the City Council approved up-front funding  
27 totaling \$50,000, with \$35,000 appropriated pursuant to Ordinance  
28 2020-115-E and \$15,000 from the Mayor's Contingency Fund, to The  
29 Jacksonville Historical Society, Inc. ("JHS") for renovations to the  
30 Florida Casket Company Building; and

31 **WHEREAS**, the City and JHS entered into a FY 2022-2023 City

1 Grant Agreement ("Agreement"), with an effective date of October 1,  
2 2022, pursuant to which the City agreed to reimburse the JHS in an  
3 amount not-to-exceed the lesser of (i) \$500,000 or (ii) 29.1 percent  
4 of the Project Budget for renovations to the historic Florida Casket  
5 Company Building located at 318 Palmetto Street, Jacksonville,  
6 Florida 32202 in order to establish a Jacksonville History Center  
7 (the "Project"); and

8 **WHEREAS**, the Agreement was originally scheduled to expire on  
9 September 30, 2023, but due to circumstances beyond its control, the  
10 JHS incurred delays in obtaining building permits required for the  
11 Project which resulted in the City and the JHS extending the term of  
12 the Agreement to March 31, 2024, pursuant to Ordinance 2023-215-E,  
13 to accommodate the revised completion schedule for the Project and  
14 to clarify the maximum indebtedness of the City thereunder; and

15 **WHEREAS**, Project costs have increased significantly to  
16 approximately \$3.4 million ("Project Budget") and in order to complete  
17 Phases I and II of the renovation of the Florida Casket Company  
18 Building and establish a Jacksonville History Center, additional  
19 funds are required and additional time is needed; and

20 **WHEREAS**, on June 15, 1822, residents of the lower St. Johns  
21 River valley, including Abraham Bellamy, Lewis Zacharia Hogans,  
22 Isaiah D. Hart, John Brady, Simeon Dell, and dozens more, petitioned  
23 then U.S. Secretary of State John Quincy Adams to establish a federal  
24 port of entry at their place of settlement known as "Cowford" which  
25 they identified for the first time as Jacksonville, in the Florida  
26 Territory, so named for the territory's first governor, General Andrew  
27 Jackson; and

28 **WHEREAS**, during the 201 years since the signing of that  
29 petition, the place called Jacksonville became Florida's largest and  
30 leading city, the center of maritime commerce, banking, insurance,  
31 shipbuilding and other major industries; and

1           **WHEREAS,** Jacksonville's identity stands on the legacies of  
2 complex and diverse people and events of its past; and

3           **WHEREAS,** the Great City of Jacksonville, now 201 years old,  
4 stands as Florida's largest city and the largest city in the  
5 contiguous United States, yet it lacks a public history center; and

6           **WHEREAS,** Jacksonville lags behind its progressive peer cities  
7 that boast public history centers; Tampa, Orlando and Miami have each  
8 invested significant civic energy and resources into their public  
9 history, including the Tampa Bay History Center which occupies a  
10 60,000 sq. ft. purpose-built facility in Tampa's downtown waterfront  
11 district, the Miami History Museum which spans 70,000 sq. ft. within  
12 the Miami-Dade Cultural Plaza, and the Orange County History Center  
13 which resides in a five-story downtown building erected in 1927; and

14           **WHEREAS,** Jacksonville possesses centuries of untold stories  
15 spanning its vast geography, from the tales of Jacksonville's earliest  
16 settlers in the 16th century and its incorporation as a city in 1832,  
17 to its consolidation in 1968, there are countless diverse narratives  
18 of past communities that demand preservation and retelling; and

19           **WHEREAS,** on August 27, 1960, when NAACP Youth Council members  
20 tried to peacefully engage in lunch counter demonstrations at such  
21 Jacksonville stores as Grant's, Kress's and Woolworth, the sit-in  
22 demonstrators were beaten with ax handles; this event came to be  
23 known as "Ax Handle Saturday" and added Jacksonville's name to  
24 Birmingham, Selma and a host of other cities where the struggle for  
25 respect and human dignity led to a proud history where black and  
26 white members of the community worked for social justice; and

27           **WHEREAS,** Asa Philip Randolph (1889-1979), from the age of two  
28 grew up in Jacksonville and attended the Cookman Institute for Boys,  
29 where he was valedictorian of his 1907 graduating class, but after  
30 four years of disillusionment, in 1911, Randolph left Jacksonville  
31 for New York City and became the most influential American civil

1 rights leader of the twentieth century, whose immense work and years  
2 of planning directly resulted in the 1963 March on Washington, one  
3 of the climactic events of the American struggle for Civil Rights and  
4 the stage for the landmark address by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. ;  
5 and

6 **WHEREAS**, the Jacksonville History Center, incorporating the  
7 former 1920 Florida Casket Company Building and the original 1878 St.  
8 Luke's Hospital, will address the present absence of a diverse public  
9 history center. Its mission is to offer a state-of-the-art local  
10 museum featuring rotating curated exhibits, to serve as a dedicated  
11 space for the collection, archiving, and processing of diverse  
12 historical documentation and artifacts, and to provide a venue for  
13 events; and

14 **WHEREAS**, the Emerald Trail, a 30-mile urban trail and linear  
15 park system currently under construction, runs adjacent to the Project  
16 site, and will connect the new Jacksonville History Center with 14  
17 historic neighborhoods, Downtown, the St. Johns River, McCoys Creek  
18 and Hogans Creek; and

19 **WHEREAS**, opening a Jacksonville History Center to the public  
20 will very likely compel citizens with interesting and valuable  
21 historic collections to offer items related to the Great City of  
22 Jacksonville to be displayed and preserved within the Jacksonville  
23 History Center for the enjoyment of all; and

24 **WHEREAS**, establishing the Jacksonville History Center will be  
25 of vast benefit to the city: promoting community gathering and  
26 connection, dialogue on issues, community storytelling and  
27 conversation, and functioning as a community treasure-keeper for  
28 visitors to relish for many generations to come; and

29 **WHEREAS**, on June 22, 2022, the JHS received a Certificate of  
30 Appropriateness from the Jacksonville Historic Preservation  
31 Commission for the proposed exterior changes to the Florida Casket



1 Budget. However, this does not preclude the City Council from  
2 providing additional funding through future legislation as it relates  
3 to the Project Budget or as it relates to funding the furnishings of  
4 the building (Phase III) or any additional Phases.

5 **Section 3. Carryover.** The funds appropriated in Section 1  
6 of this ordinance shall not lapse but shall carryover until March 31,  
7 2026.

8 **Section 4. Approval and Authorization to Execute.** The  
9 Mayor, or her designee, and the Corporation Secretary are hereby  
10 authorized to execute and deliver a second amendment to the FY  
11 2022-2023 City Grant Agreement between the City of Jacksonville and  
12 the Jacksonville Historical Society, Inc., in substantially the form  
13 attached hereto as **Exhibit 2** and incorporated herein by this reference  
14 (the "Second Amendment"), to extend the term of the Agreement to  
15 March 31, 2026, and to increase the City's maximum indebtedness under  
16 the Agreement by an additional \$2,027,000 for a new total maximum  
17 indebtedness not-to-exceed the lesser of (i) \$2,577,000 or (ii) 75  
18 percent of the Project Budget. The Second Amendment may include such  
19 additions, deletions and changes as may be reasonable, necessary and  
20 incidental for carrying out the purposes thereof, as may be acceptable  
21 to the Mayor, or her designee, with such inclusion and acceptance  
22 being evidenced by execution of the Second Amendment by the Mayor,  
23 or her designee; provided however, no modifications to the Second  
24 Amendment may increase the financial obligations of the City to an  
25 amount in excess of the amount stated herein or decrease the duties  
26 and obligations of the JHS, and any such modifications shall be  
27 technical only and shall be subject to appropriate legal review and  
28 approval by the Office of General Counsel and the Office of Risk  
29 Management for appropriate insurance and indemnification terms. For  
30 the purposes of this Ordinance, the term "technical changes" is  
31 defined as those changes having no financial impact to the City, and

1 any other non-substantive changes that do not substantively increase  
2 the duties and responsibilities of the City under the provisions of  
3 the Agreement.

4 **Section 5. Oversight Department.** The Grants and Contract  
5 Compliance Division of the Finance and Administration Department  
6 shall oversee the Agreement described herein.

7 **Section 6. Effective Date.** This Ordinance shall become  
8 effective upon signature by the Mayor or upon becoming effective  
9 without the Mayor's signature.

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Form Approved:

          /s/ Carla A. Lopera          

Office of General Counsel

Legislation Prepared By: Carla A. Lopera

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