

CITY COUNCIL RESEARCH DIVISION LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY



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Bill Type and Number: Ordinance 2025-713

Introducer/Sponsor(s): Council Member Johnson

Date of Introduction: September 9, 2025

Committee(s) of Reference: NCSPHS, F

Date of Analysis: September 9, 2025

Type of Action: Appropriation; waiver of ordinance code; one-cycle emergency passage

Bill Summary: This bill appropriates \$10,000 from the Special Council Contingency account to the Jacksonville Association of Black Journalists (Jacksonville NABJ) – Subsidies and Contributions to Private Org account to provide funding to NABJ Northeast Florida, Inc. (Jax NABJ) for the Jacksonville NABJ Government, Legal and Youth Media Initiative. The ordinance provides for carryover to Fiscal Year 2025-2026, waives Section 118.107 (Competitive Evaluated Award Process; Waiver & Disclosures) of the Ordinance Code to allow for a direct contract with Jax NABJ, authorizes the Mayor, or her designee, and the Corporation Secretary to execute and deliver an agreement between the City and Jax NABJ, assigns oversight to the Grants and Contracts Compliance Division of the Finance Department, and requests one cycle emergency passage.

Background Information: The purpose of this legislation is to fund the Jacksonville NABJ Government, Legal and Youth Media Initiative, which is comprised of workshops designed to strengthen local journalism capacity and civic engagement. The program will educate participants on engaging effectively with government, provide legal insights into government processes, recognize excellence among local media professionals, and offer youth programming for high school and college students interested in civic journalism. Funds will be used for program costs such as office supplies, printing and advertising, and materials for facilitators and participants. A waiver of Section 118.107 is included to permit a direct contract with Jax NABJ, justified by the unique focus of the program on improving civic engagement and journalism best practices, while also enhancing the accuracy and visibility of local news coverage.

Policy Impact Area: Civic engagement

Fiscal Impact: This bill appropriates \$10,000 from the Special Council Contingency account to Jax NABJ for the Government, Legal and Youth Media Initiative.

Analyst: Jimenez