

CITY COUNCIL RESEARCH DIVISION LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY



JEFFREY R. CLEMENTS
Chief of Research
(904) 255-5137

117 West Duval Street
City Hall, Suite 425
Jacksonville, FL 32202
FAX (904) 255-5229

Bill Type and Number: Ordinance 2019-769

Introducer/Sponsor(s): Council President at the request of the Tourist Development Council

Date of Introduction: October 22, 2019

Committee(s) of Reference: NCSPHS, F

Date of Analysis: October 24, 2019

Type of Action: Appropriation; Ordinance Code amendment

Bill Summary: The bill appropriates \$40,000 from the Tourist Development Council's equestrian center grant account (\$20,000 from FY18-19, \$20,000 from FY19-20) to a new special revenue fund for equestrian center grants and allows grant funding to carry-over from one fiscal year to another. The bill also amends Ordinance Code Chapter 111 – Special Revenue and Trust Accounts – in Part 6 – Economic and Community Development – to add Equestrian Center Grants as another sub-category of TDC all-years account in Section 111.600 – Tourist Development Tax Special Revenue Fund. The bill amends Ordinance Code Chapter 666 – Duval County Tourist Development Plan – to add a new Equestrian Center Grants Account. Finally, the bill adopts amendments to the TDC's grant guidelines to allow the TDC to authorize Convention Grants to be directly awarded by Visit Jacksonville's Convention Sales and Services Contractor and Equestrian Center Grants to be directly awarded by the Equestrian Center facility manager subject to established grant guidelines and any other terms and conditions as deemed appropriate by the TDC.

Background Information: At its September 2019 meeting the TDC board discussed the fact that for some time Visit Jacksonville has negotiated convention sales grants with groups to secure their commitment to bring events in the city, then brought those grant requests to the TDC for final approval which is seldom, if ever, denied. The board discussed and then agreed to seek an amendment to the Tourist Development Plan to permit the TDC to authorize Visit Jacksonville (in the case of convention grants) and the Equestrian Center manager (in the case of Equestrian Center grants) to make grant commitments to recipients and oversee grant administration without pre-approval by the TDC board, subject to the usual reimbursement and reporting requirements.

Policy Impact Area: TDC operations

Fiscal Impact: The bill appropriates \$40,000 from the Tourist Development Council's equestrian center grant account to a new special revenue fund for equestrian center grants.

Analyst: Clements