

**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 2023-376

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

Date of Introduction: June 13, 2023

Committee(s) of Reference: NCSPHS, F, TEU

Date of Analysis: June 15, 2023

Type of Action: Authorization to execute land purchase; designation of oversight agencies

Bill Summary: The bill authorizes the execution of a purchase agreement between the City and Circle of Faith Ministries, Inc. for the acquisition of two parcels of land totaling 0.83 acres adjacent to the Norman Film Studio property on Arlington Road. It designates the Real Estate Division as the oversight agency for the property acquisition and the Parks, Recreation and Community Development Department as the oversight agency thereafter for the use of the property.

Background Information: The bill authorizes the purchase of two lots totaling 0.83 acres located on Arlington Road and Commerce Street in the Old Arlington area adjacent to the City-owned Norman Film Studio property for a purchase price of \$384,000. The two lots are part of the larger property originally developed as the Eagle Studio in 1916 when Jacksonville was a national center for moviemaking before the industry moved to California in the 1920s. Richard Norman, a white filmmaker, purchased the studio in 1920 and made a number of “race films” for Black audiences starring Black casts portraying Black life in positive and exciting stories. In 2002 the City purchased 4 of the 5 original film studio buildings and a combination of City and private funding raised by Norman Studios Silent Film Museum, Inc. is being used to restore the smaller buildings. This bill would acquire the larger sound stage building from the current owner, Circle of Faith Ministries which uses the building as their sanctuary.

Policy Impact Area: Historic landmark preservation and restoration

Fiscal Impact: The purchase cost of the remaining building and property is \$384,000.

Analyst: Clements