

Introduced by Council Member Peluso and Co-Sponsored by Council Member Johnson and amended by the Neighborhoods, Community Services, Public Health and Safety Committee:

**ORDINANCE 2025-856-E**

AN ORDINANCE REGARDING THE HOMELESSNESS INITIATIVES COMMISSION; AMENDING SECTION 86.104 (FUNCTIONS, POWERS AND DUTIES), CHAPTER 86 (HOMELESSNESS INITIATIVES COMMISSION), *ORDINANCE CODE*, TO EXTEND THE DEADLINE TO CREATE A FIVE-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN AND TO REMOVE THE REQUIREMENT THAT THE HOMELESSNESS INITIATIVES COMMISSION SUBMIT ITS INITIAL ANNUAL RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CHANGES TO THE STRATEGIC PLAN AND ACTION PLAN ON MARCH 1, 2026; PROVIDING FOR CODIFICATION INSTRUCTIONS; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

**WHEREAS**, the City Council established the Homelessness Initiatives Commission (the "Commission") on March 12, 2024, pursuant to Ordinance 2024-111-E (the "Enabling Ordinance"); and

**WHEREAS**, the full composition of the members of the Commission were not appointed until August 27, 2024; and

**WHEREAS**, in recognition of the delay in the appointments of the members of the Commission, the September 1, 2024, deadline for the creation of an annual Action Plan and the December 31, 2024, deadline for the creation of a five-year Strategic Plan, were extended to March 31, 2025, and December 31, 2025, respectively, pursuant to Ordinance 2024-765-E; and

**WHEREAS**, subsequently with the passage of House Bill 1365

1 (2024) by the Florida Legislature and the City Council's passage of  
2 Ordinance 2024-687-E, the newly-formed Commission immediately turned  
3 its attention to monitoring the City's response to the increased  
4 stress on available services and resources for Duval County's homeless  
5 and chronically unhoused populations, services already under stress,  
6 to ensure the efficiency and effectiveness of the response; and

7 **WHEREAS,** while monitoring the effects of the implementation of  
8 the two new laws, including bringing online additional beds and other  
9 services for the homeless and chronically unhoused populations as  
10 necessary to mitigate the effects of the anti-camping laws, the  
11 Commission, transitioning from a reactive phase toward a proactive  
12 phase, worked diligently to create a Request for Proposal ("RFP") to  
13 hire a consultant to facilitate the creation of a one-year Action  
14 Plan and a five-year Strategic Plan; and

15 **WHEREAS,** said RFP was published March 12, 2025, however after  
16 multiple setbacks in the process, negotiations with a consultant  
17 successfully concluded in the last week of October 2025 and a  
18 contract is in process; and

19 **WHEREAS,** in recognition of the delay in obtaining the  
20 consultant, the deadline for the creation of an annual Action Plan  
21 was further extended from March 31, 2025, to December 31, 2025, by  
22 Ordinance 2025-223-E; and

23 **WHEREAS,** at a meeting held on September 8, 2025, the Commission  
24 requested an extension for the deadline for the five-year Strategic  
25 Plan from December 31, 2025, to December 31, 2026, to allow the  
26 Commission sufficient time to work with the consultant to prepare a  
27 data-driven, decision-making, transparent, accountable and actionable  
28 Strategic Plan; now therefore

29 **BE IT ORDAINED** by the Council of the City of Jacksonville:

30 **Section 1. Amending Section 86.104 (Functions, powers and**  
31 **duties), Chapter 86 (Homelessness Initiatives Commission), Ordinance**

**Code.** Section 86.104 (Functions, powers and duties), Chapter 86 (Homelessness Initiatives Commission), *Ordinance Code*, is hereby amended to read as follows:

**CHAPTER 86 - HOMELESSNESS INITIATIVES COMMISSION**

**\* \* \***

**Sec. 86.104. - Functions, powers and duties.**

In addition to such powers, duties and authority as may be set forth elsewhere in the Ordinance Code, the Commission is hereby authorized to:

**\* \* \***

- (d) Create a five-year Strategic Plan outlining appropriate programs, services and initiatives to combat homelessness - this Strategic Plan should be tailored to address the unique needs of Duval County's homeless and chronic unhoused populations; the initial Strategic Plan shall be presented to the Council committee of reference tasked with reviewing and making recommendations on measures addressing homelessness on or before October 31, 2026~~December 31, 2025~~;

**\* \* \***

- (f) Annually review the Strategic Plan and Action Plan and make recommendations to the Council committee of reference tasked with reviewing and making recommendations on measures addressing homelessness for updates and changes to both Plans on or before March 1 each year~~beginning March 1, 2026~~;

**\* \* \***

**Section 2. Codification Instructions.** The Codifier and the Office of General Counsel are authorized to make all chapter and division "tables of contents" consistent with the changes set forth herein. Such editorial changes and any others necessary to make the

Ordinance Code consistent with the intent of this legislation are approved and directed herein, and changes to the Ordinance Code shall be made forthwith and when inconsistencies are discovered.

**Section 3. Effective Date.** This Ordinance shall become effective upon signature by the Mayor or upon becoming effective without the Mayor's signature.

Form Approved:

/s/ Mary E. Staffopoulos

Office of General Counsel

Legislation Prepared By: Shannon MacGillis

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