

CITY COUNCIL RESEARCH DIVISION LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY



EAMON J. WEBB
Research Assistant
(904) 255-5140

City Hall, Suite 425
Jacksonville, FL 32202
FAX (904) 255-5229

Bill Type and Number: Ordinance 2024-111

Introducer/Sponsor(s): the Special Committee on Homelessness and Affordable Housing (Council Members Joe Carlucci, Amaro, Arias, Miller, and Peluso)

Date of Introduction: February 13, 2024

Committee(s) of Reference: NCSPHS, R

Date of Analysis: February 15, 2024

Type of Action: Ordinance Code amendment; providing for codification instructions

Bill Summary: This creates a new Chapter 86 of the Ordinance Code to codify the existence, functions, powers, and duties of the Homelessness Initiatives Commission. It clarifies that sections and subsections within the Ordinance are severable. It directs the Codifier and Office of General Counsel to edit all chapter and division “table of contents” consistent with the changes in this Ordinance.

The Commission will serve as an advisory body to oversee and make recommendations regarding the use and distribution of all funds deposited in the Homelessness Initiatives Special Revenue Fund.

It will be comprised of seven voting members: four members of the public appointed by the Council President and confirmed by the Council and three members of the public appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by the Council.

The Commission will have two liaisons that will serve in non-voting positions that will not be considered members of the Commission for Florida’s Open Meetings Law purposes. One liaison will be a City Council Member appointed by the Council President; one will be appointed by the Sheriff, with preference given to an officer who regularly works and interacts with the Duval County homeless and/or chronically unhoused populations. Members shall serve staggered three-year terms.

The goals of the Commission shall be mainly to review and assess the current unmet needs of Duval County’s homeless and chronically unhoused populations, to identify public and private funding sources to assist this population, to create a five-year Strategic Plan outlining appropriate initiatives to combat homelessness (the first of which shall be presented to the Council Committee of reference on or before December 31, 2024), to create an annual Action Plan that includes specific goals and measurables related to the Strategic Plan (the first of which shall be presented to the Council Committee of reference on or before September 1, 2024), to annually review the Strategic Plan and Action Plan, and to act as a motivating and coordinating body to encourage joint public and private participation in serving the needs of Duval’s homeless and chronically unhoused populations.

The Commission shall select a chairperson and vice-chairperson from among its members to serve for a one-year term, beginning in July. Decisions and recommendations of the Commission shall require a concurring vote of a majority of members present, with four members constituting a quorum. The Commission shall meet monthly, with notice of regular meetings being posted at least seven days in advance. The monthly meeting requirement is for all months except between June and August of each year and between November and December each year, with the Commission only being required to meet once in those spans.

Background Information: Understanding that homelessness is an issue of critical concern in Duval County, the Council created the Homeless Initiatives Special Revenue Fund via Ordinance 2024-0041-E, distinct from the Homelessness Diversion Special Revenue Fund created via Ordinance 2023-0804-E, which specifically focuses on aiding first-time homeless individuals or families. Funds in an amount equal to 4% of all approved economic development agreement incentives during the fiscal year, excluding Community Redevelopment Area projects, shall be transferred into the Homelessness Initiatives Special Revenue Fund.

The Special Committee on Homelessness and Affordable Housing met between November 2023 and February 2024 to discuss the optimal funding mechanism and structure for the commission to best achieve the goal of aiding the chronically unhoused population of Duval County. A Council Member and representative from the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office are included as liaisons so that they may engage in conversation with members of the Commission not limited by Florida's Open Meetings Law.

Policy Impact Area: Homelessness initiatives

Fiscal Impact: No immediate fiscal impact; creating a commission to advise homelessness initiatives

Analyst: Webb