

1 Introduced by Council Member Howland:
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4 **RESOLUTION 2025-693**

5 A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE COUNCIL'S SUPPORT
6 FOR LOCAL BILL J-2, TO BE CONSIDERED BY THE DUVAL
7 COUNTY LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION, WHICH WOULD AMEND
8 CHAPTER 2004-464, LAWS OF FLORIDA, AS AMENDED BY
9 CHAPTER 2005-328, TO RENAME THE JACKSONVILLE
10 AVIATION AUTHORITY AS THE "JACKSONVILLE AVIATION
11 AND AEROSPACE AUTHORITY," TO PROVIDE THAT THE
12 AUTHORITY SHALL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ECONOMIC
13 DEVELOPMENT OF CECIL AIRPORT AS A REGIONAL,
14 STATE AND NATIONAL AEROSPACE AND RELATED
15 INDUSTRY HUB, TO REQUIRE ONE MEMBER APPOINTED BY
16 THE MAYOR AND ONE MEMBER APPOINTED BY THE
17 GOVERNOR TO THE GOVERNING BODY FOR THE AUTHORITY
18 SHALL BE FROM THE AEROSPACE AND RELATED
19 INDUSTRY, TO DEFINE "AEROSPACE AND RELATED
20 INDUSTRY," AND TO REQUIRE ANNUAL SUBMITTAL OF AN
21 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR CECIL AIRPORT TO
22 THE CITY COUNCIL FOR REVIEW CONCURRENT WITH ITS
23 REVIEW OF THE AUTHORITY'S ANNUAL BUDGET;
24 PROVIDING FOR THE STATE J-BILL PROCESS AND
25 RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE LOCAL PROPONENT;
26 DIRECTING THE DUVAL DELEGATION COORDINATOR TO
27 FORWARD TO CIVIC PLUS A COPY OF ANY SPECIAL ACT
28 OF THE STATE LEGISLATURE THAT WOULD EFFECTUATE
29 THIS REQUEST; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.
30

31 **WHEREAS,** the Jacksonville Aviation Authority (the "JAA") was

1 established as an independent authority within the Consolidated
2 Government of the City of Jacksonville with a mission "to manage,
3 operate, maintain and develop an airport system that exceeds the
4 aviation needs of the City of Jacksonville, Northeast Florida and
5 Southeast Georgia"; and

6 **WHEREAS**, through the strong leadership of its Board of Directors
7 and executive management team, the JAA has excelled in fulfillment
8 of this mission as evidenced by ongoing modernization and expansion
9 of the Jacksonville International Airport, culminating in the planned
10 addition of at least six additional gates in a new Concourse B; and

11 **WHEREAS**, while furtherance of this mission is integral to the
12 purpose for which the JAA was established, the authority also operates
13 with a vision to "enhance the JAA's standing as a premiere economic
14 engine for the City of Jacksonville and the Northeast Florida region";
15 and

16 **WHEREAS**, the aforementioned vision statement recognizes the
17 JAA's unique position and responsibility to look beyond just the
18 aviation needs of the region, and takes into account the economic and
19 other opportunities a broader focus and reach has to offer; and

20 **WHEREAS**, the JAA is currently pursuing a number of projects and
21 initiatives at Cecil Airport with an eye toward expansion within the
22 aerospace industry; and

23 **WHEREAS**, during its meeting on August 7, 2025, the JAA Board of
24 Directors approved a specific effort to grow within the aerospace
25 market when it voted unanimously to approve pursuit of a Federal
26 Aviation Administration reentry license for Cecil Spaceport at Cecil
27 Airport along with potential development of a "space vehicle
28 facility"; and

29 **WHEREAS**, expansion of the JAA mission to develop opportunities
30 within the aerospace and related industries would have a significant
31 impact on the JAA's standing as a premiere economic engine not only

1 for the City and the region, but also within the United States and
2 international markets; and

3 **WHEREAS**, to ensure the continued success of its growth in the
4 aerospace and related industries, it is imperative that this be
5 delineated as a core function of the JAA, that this core function be
6 supported by a well-trained workforce, and that opportunities be
7 created to draw public and private industries to the region to drive
8 job growth and to support the economic success of these initiatives;
9 and

10 **WHEREAS**, to ensure the JAA's mission and forward-thinking vision
11 continue to align, the City Council hereby expresses its support for
12 Local Bill J-2 to amend the Charter of the City of Jacksonville to
13 rename the Jacksonville Aviation Authority as the "Jacksonville
14 Aviation and Aerospace Authority" and to establish that it will be
15 responsible for economic development of Cecil Airport as a premier
16 aerospace and related industries hub; now therefore

17 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the Council of the City of Jacksonville:

18 **Section 1. Support of Local Bill J-2.** The Council hereby
19 expresses its support for Local Bill J-2 to be considered by the
20 Duval County Legislative Delegation for the 2026 State Legislative
21 Session. Said Local Bill J-1 would amend Chapter 2004-464, Laws of
22 Florida, as amended by Chapter 2005-328, Laws of Florida, to rename
23 the Jacksonville Aviation Authority as the "Jacksonville Aviation and
24 Aerospace Authority," to provide that the authority shall be
25 responsible for economic development of Cecil Airport as a regional,
26 state and national aerospace and related industry hub, to require one
27 member appointed by the Mayor and one member appointed by the Governor
28 to the governing body for the authority shall be from the aerospace
29 and related industry, to provide a definition of "aerospace and
30 related industry", and to require annual submittal of an economic
31 development plan for Cecil Airport to the City Council for its review

1 concurrent with the authority's annual budget. A true and correct
2 copy of said Local Bill J-2 is attached hereto as **Exhibit 1**.

3 **Section 2. State J-Bill Process and Responsibilities of**
4 **Local Proponent.** The House of Representatives sponsor will deliver
5 Local Bill J-2 to House Bill Drafting. The local proponent will be
6 responsible for complying with the provisions of the Local Bill Filing
7 Manual including, but not limited to, advertising and public hearing
8 requirements. The Duval Delegation Local Bill hearing will occur on
9 October 22, 2025, in the City Council Chamber.

10 **Section 3. Directing the Duval Delegation Coordinator to**
11 **Forward to Civic Plus a Copy of Any Special Act of the State**
12 **Legislature Which Effectuates this Request.** The Duval Delegation
13 Coordinator is hereby directed to forward to Civic Plus, formerly
14 known as "Municode," a copy of any Special Act of the State
15 Legislature that effectuates the amendments to the City Charter of
16 the City of Jacksonville, or any part thereof, proposed herein so
17 that, if approved, the amendments can be catalogued in Article 4
18 (Jacksonville Aviation Authority), Part B - Related Laws, of the
19 Charter and Related Laws of the City of Jacksonville.

20 **Section 4. Effective Date.** This Resolution shall become
21 effective upon signature by the Mayor or upon becoming effective
22 without the Mayor's signature.

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24 Form Approved:

25
26 /s/Mary E. Staffopoulos

27 Office of General Counsel

28 Legislation Prepared By: Mary E. Staffopoulos

29 GC-#1706605-v1-Reso_Supporting_J-2_-_JAA_Charter_Amd_(2025) (Howland).docx