

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

**ORDINANCE 2025-429-E**

AN ORDINANCE APPROVING AN EXCEPTIONAL PLANTING PROJECT AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH FLORIDA CAMPUS LOCATED AT 1 UNF DRIVE, JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA 32224, PURSUANT TO SECTION 94.107 (EXCEPTIONAL PLANTING PROJECTS REFERRAL TO CITY COUNCIL), CHAPTER 94 (TREE COMMISSION), *ORDINANCE CODE*, IN A NOT-TO-EXCEED AMOUNT OF \$375,000; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

**WHEREAS**, the Tree Commission was established by Ordinance 2017-397-E, as described in Chapter 94, *Ordinance Code*, which tasks the Tree Commission to, among a number of other duties, identify and implement initiatives and projects that develop and maintain a healthy tree canopy throughout the City; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council established the City's "Level 3 Tree Planting Program" pursuant to Ordinance 2020-213-E, which allows entities to propose tree planting projects on public property to be funded by the Tree Protection and Related Expenses Trust Fund; and

**WHEREAS**, on April 28, 2025, the Tree Commission voted to recommend approval to use \$367,000 in funding from the City's Level 3 Tree Planting Program for a Level 3 tree planting project submitted by the Public Trust Environmental Legal Institute of Florida, Inc. (the "Public Trust") for the planting of 199 trees over five locations throughout the University of North Florida ("UNF") campus (the "Project"), with no existing trees expected to be removed because of

1 the Project; and

2       **WHEREAS**, the Public Works Request to the Mayor's Budget Review  
3 Committee for approval of the UNF Tree Planting Project, the Staff  
4 Report, and the Level 3 Application for UNF Tree Planting Project  
5 ("Application"), have been placed **On File** with the Legislative  
6 Services Division, and there is sufficient funding available in the  
7 City's Level 3 Tree Planting Program for the Project; and

8       **WHEREAS**, staff of the Public Trust will administer and provide  
9 oversight for the Project, which is designed to create enhanced tree  
10 canopy, shade, wildlife habitat and other important ecological  
11 services at the UNF campus for the benefit Duval County residents  
12 that live on the campus and who attend school at UNF, as well as the  
13 many visitors to the University of North Florida; and

14       **WHEREAS**, on May 12, 2025, the Mayor's Budget Review Committee  
15 recommended approval of the Project to be funded in the amount of  
16 \$367,000 from the City's Level 3 Tree Planting Program; and

17       **WHEREAS**, Section 94.107, *Ordinance Code*, provides that any  
18 Level 2 or Level 3 planting project that, in whole or in cumulative  
19 portions or stages, exceeds \$300,000 is deemed an "Exceptional  
20 Planting Project" that upon a favorable recommendation from both the  
21 Tree Commission and the Mayor's Budget Review Committee shall require  
22 Council approval prior to commencement of the project; now therefore

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

24       **Section 1.** The City Council approves the Level 3  
25 Exceptional Planting Project submitted by the Public Trust  
26 Environmental Legal Institute of Florida, Inc., for the planting of  
27 199 trees in five locations on the University of North Florida campus,  
28 pursuant to Section 94.107 (Exceptional Planting Projects Referral  
29 to City Council), Chapter 94 (Tree Commission), *Ordinance Code*, as  
30 approved by the Tree Commission and the Mayor's Budget Review  
31 Committee. The cumulative total funding from the City's Level 3 Tree

Planting Program for the Project shall not exceed \$375,000, which includes the estimated cost of \$367,000 for the Project based on the Application by the Public Trust Environmental Legal Institute of Florida, Inc., and a small contingency to cover additional incidental costs which may arise during implementation of the Project.

**Section 2. 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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