

CITY COUNCIL RESEARCH DIVISION

LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY



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Bill Type and Number: Resolution 2023-584

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

Date of Introduction: August 22, 2023

Committee(s) of Reference: R

Date of Analysis: August 21, 2023

Type of Action: Appointment confirmation and Directive to Legislative Services to notify certain parties pursuant to Council Rule 4.1103

Bill Summary: This bill confirms the Mayor's appointment of Randle P. DeFoor as the General Counsel. The Legislative Services Division is directed to notify the Clerk of the Court, Property Appraiser, Sheriff, Supervisor of Elections, Tax Collector and Chairperson of the Duval County School Board and encourage them to provide oral or written input and guidance to the Rules Committee and any other committee considering this appointment, as to the fitness of the appointee to be General Counsel, in accordance with Council Rule 4.1103 (Confirmation of the General Counsel).

Background Information: Section 7.01, *Jacksonville Charter* established an office of the City of Jacksonville to be known as the office of general counsel, which shall have the responsibility for furnishing legal services to the city and its independent agencies. Per Sec. 7.03, *Jacksonville Charter*, the General Counsel shall be licensed to practice law in the State of Florida and have at least 10 years' experience as a practicing attorney or judge. The confirmation of the General Counsel requires approval of no less than 13 members of the Council and the term of the General Counsel coincides with the remainder of the term of the Mayor.

The General Counsel's Qualification Review Committee, comprised of five attorneys consisting of the Jacksonville Bar Association President, two former general counsels and two members of the Florida Bar Board of Governors, commenced meeting in July 2023 and advertised for interested candidates for the General Counsel position for 3 weeks. On August 9, 2023, the General Counsel's Qualification Review Committee voted unanimously to strongly recommend Ms. DeFoor to be appointed as General Counsel. The position is held currently by an acting General Counsel appointed to serve for a period of 90 days beginning July 1, 2023.

Ms. DeFoor holds a bachelor's degree from the University of the South, a J.D. from the Cumberland School of Law at Samford University, and she has been a member of the Florida Bar since 1990. She has worked as the Senior Vice President, National Agency Counsel at Fidelity National Title Group since 2013. Prior to her tenure at Fidelity, she was a Senior Vice President at Regency Centers for 16 years.

Ms. DeFoor was the District 14 Jacksonville City Council Member from 2019-2023 and served as the Chair of the NCSPHS Committee, the Value Adjustment Board, the Special Committee on Resiliency, and as Vice Chair of the Rules, Finance, Waterways Committees. As a council member, she was also a liaison to JEA and JAA. Ms. DeFoor is a member of the Downtown Rotary, the Innocence Project of Florida Board, and the Women's Board of Wolfson's Children's Hospital. She resides in Duval County in council district 9.

Policy Impact Area: Office of General Counsel operations

Fiscal Impact: The salary range for this position is \$205,510.28 - \$335,527.01 annually

Analyst: Hampsey