

CITY COUNCIL RESEARCH DIVISION

LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY



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Bill Type and Number: Ordinance 2022-573

Introducer/Sponsor(s): Council Member Diamond

Date of Introduction: July 26, 2022

Committee(s) of Reference: NCSPHS, F

Date of Analysis: July 27, 2022

Type of Action: Ordinance amendment

Bill Summary: This bill amends Section 380.210 (Jacksonville Litter Law), Part 2 (Garbage Collection Regulations), Chapter 380 (Solid Waste Management), *Ordinance Code*. The purpose of this legislation is to prohibit balloon and sky lantern releases.

Background Information: Balloons and sky lanterns released into the atmosphere return to the land and waterways as litter, can travel thousands of miles, and may create a blight in pristine, remote areas. Balloon releases endanger the environment, form destructive forms of floating garbage, threaten animals, such as sea turtles and other wildlife, and can cause power outages. The release of sky lanterns has led to many reported incidents of personal injury and property damage, as well as wildfires. The National Association of State Fire Marshals has advocated for a nationwide ban on the release of sky lanterns.

Policy Impact Area: Balloon or sky lantern release prohibition

Fiscal Impact: No direct cost to the City

Analyst: Hampsey