

CITY COUNCIL RESEARCH DIVISION

LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY



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Bill Type and Number: Ordinance 2023-186

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

Date of Introduction: March 14, 2023

Committee(s) of Reference: R

Date of Analysis: March 14, 2023

Type of Action: Appointment concurrence confirmation and *Ordinance Code* waiver

Bill Summary: This bill confirms concurrence with the State Surgeon General's proposed appointment of Antonio Nichols as Medical Director of the Department of Health Duval County Public Health Unit and confirms the joint appointment of Mr. Nichols to this position by the District Administrator for the Department of Health and the Mayor. Certain Requirements in Section 29.102 (Director), Chapter 29 (Public Health Unit), *Ordinance Code* that the Medical Director be an M.D. or a D.O. and have a Master's Degree in Public Health are waived.

Background Information: Pursuant to Section 154.04 (b) *Florida Statutes*, the county health department director shall be a physician who is trained in public health administration and shall be appointed by the State Surgeon General after the concurrence of the boards of county commissioners of the respective counties.

Pursuant to Section 29.102, *Ordinance Code* the Public Health Unit shall be headed by a Public Health Unit Medical Director. The Medical Director shall be an M.D. or a D.O. licensed under F.S. Ch. 458 or F.S. Ch. 459 and shall have a Master's Degree in Public Health, provided, that, should no outstanding candidates be found, then in lieu of the Master's Degree in Public Health, the Medical Director shall have at least five years of public health management experience at the highest executive level. The Medical Director shall be appointed pursuant to the procedures set forth in F.S. § 154.04, with joint appointment by the District Administrator for the Department of Health and the Mayor, with confirmation by the Council. The Medical Director and Administrator shall have the authority and perform duties as set forth by law for a County Public Health Unit.

Antonio Nichols has over 20 years of experience in public health and leadership. He has worked for the Department of Health since 2005 in several capacities, including administrative services manager, finance director and assistant director of administration and operations. Mr. Nichols currently serves as the interim health officer and administrator/public health unit medical director for the Florida Department of Health in Duval County. Mr. Nichols holds a bachelor's degree in business administration from Florida Metropolitan University and an MBA from Everest University. Although Mr. Nichols does not have an M.D. or a D.O. or a Master's Degree in Public Health, he does have more than five years of public health management experience at the highest executive level.

Policy Impact Area: Department of Health Duval County Public Health Unit - Medical Director

Fiscal Impact: Approximate salary range is \$140,000 - \$160,000

Analyst: Hampsey