

**CITY COUNCIL RESEARCH DIVISION
LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY**



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Bill Type and Number: Ordinance 2023-863

Introducer/Sponsor(s): Council President at the request of the Downtown Investment Authority

Date of Introduction: December 12, 2023

Committee(s) of Reference: NCSPHS, R

Date of Analysis: December 14, 2023

Type of Action: Ordinance Code amendment

Bill Summary: The bill amends Ordinance Code Chapter 154 – Alcoholic Beverages – to revise definitions and to create a new Jacksonville Riverwalk Specialty Center Downtown providing for the outdoor consumption of alcoholic beverages under certain regulated conditions along the Northbank and Southbank Riverwalks, pursuant to a provision in the *Florida Statutes*.

Background Information: *Florida Statutes* Sec. 561.20(2)(b) permits the establishment of “specialty centers” in defined geographic areas where the sale and consumption of alcoholic beverages is permitted in public places where that would not otherwise be permitted. A “specialty center” is defined as a geographic area with a development of at least 50,000 square feet of leasable area containing restaurants, entertainment facilities and specialty shops, located adjacent to a navigable water body. The Northbank and Southbank Riverwalks meet this definition due to the combined adjacent commercial properties along their length, and the DIA proposes to create a defined Jacksonville Riverwalk Open Container Area so that alcoholic beverages may be sold and consumed on the riverwalks in a regulated fashion.

The amendment defines the “specialty area” as the properties abutting the Northbank and Southbank Riverwalks along their entire lengths, except for St. Johns River Park (Friendship Fountain area), between the river and the next adjacent public roadway. The amendment provides that alcoholic beverages must be sold by a licensed alcoholic beverage premises in a special purpose cup no larger than 16 ounces and bearing a Jacksonville Riverwalk logo, and may be consumed between the hours of 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 a.m. No person may possess more than 2 approved containers at a time. If an event is permitted by the City which allows alcoholic beverages in a park within the Jacksonville Riverwalk Specialty Area, then that park may be included within the Jacksonville Riverwalk Open Container Area for the duration of the event, provided such is requested by the event permit holder and approved as part of the event permit. Possession of any open container containing an alcoholic beverage within the Jacksonville Riverwalk Specialty Center that does not meet these requirements shall be unlawful.

Policy Impact Area: Alcoholic beverage consumption on public property; downtown activation

Fiscal Impact: Undetermined

Analyst: Clements