

CITY COUNCIL RESEARCH DIVISION LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY

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Bill Type and Number: Ordinance 2023-868

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

Date of Introduction: December 12, 2023

Committee(s) of Reference: NCSPHS, F, TEU, Waterways Commission

Date of Analysis: December 14, 2023

Type of Action: Authorization to execute permit and hold harmless agreement; designation of oversight agency

Bill Summary: The bill authorizes the execution of a revocable permit and hold harmless agreement between the City, Jacksonville University and OCEARCH to authorize JU and OCEARCH to utilize the new city-owned dock at Mayport for the docking of the OCEARCH research vessel. The Mayor is authorized to make technical modifications to the agreement provided that no modification to the agreement may increase the financial obligations or liability of the City to an amount in excess of the amount stated in the agreement or decrease the duties and obligations of JU or OCEARCH as stated in the agreement. The Department of Parks, Recreation and Community Services is designated as the City's oversight agency for the agreement.

Background Information: OCEARCH is a well-known global non-profit organization conducting shark research, which is headquartered at Jacksonville University. In 2019, Jacksonville University entered into a 10-year lease agreement with the City of Jacksonville for waterfront property in Mayport located at 4610 Ocean Street for research, educational and outreach programming in partnership with OCEARCH. The City has recently constructed a new docking facility immediately adjacent to the leased property that was designed to accommodate both research vessels on an outer concrete fixed dock and public recreational vessels on an inner floating dock. The City desires to grant priority use of the fixed dock to JU and OCEARCH for research and educational purposes for an initial thirty-year term with four 5-year renewal options for no usage fee and subject to the terms and conditions in the proposed revocable permit and hold harmless agreement.

Policy Impact Area: Docking facility usage; Mayport redevelopment

Fiscal Impact: The agreement provides for free use of the dock by OCEARCH.

Analyst: Clements