

**CITY COUNCIL RESEARCH DIVISION
LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY**



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117 West Duval Street
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Bill Type and Number: Ordinance 2024-620

Introducer/Sponsor(s): Council Member Diamond

Date of Introduction: August 13, 2024

Committee(s) of Reference: R, F

Date of Analysis: August 15, 2024

Type of Action: Termination of interlocal agreement and approval of transfer of remaining non-monetary assets

Bill Summary: This bill terminates the Interlocal Agreement Regarding Veterans' Suicide Prevention between Baker County, Clay County, Nassau County, St. Johns County and the City of Jacksonville. Any remaining non-monetary assets of the Northeast Florida Fire Watch Council will be transferred to The Fire Watch Project, Inc.

Background Information: In 2019 the Counties of Baker, Clay, Nassau and St. Johns and the City of Jacksonville/Duval County authorized execution of an Interlocal Agreement Regarding Veterans' Suicide Prevention which established the Northeast Florida Fire Watch Council, a separate multi-jurisdictional governmental entity created for the purpose of developing and promoting programs and initiatives to reduce the number of suicides among military veterans living in northeast Florida. City Council approved the Interlocal Agreement through Ordinance 2019-701-E.

In May 2020, the Fire Watch Council launched several veteran suicide prevention programs including, most notably, the Watch Stander Program. Since then, the program has trained 6,500 volunteers, and per Florida Department of Health data veteran suicides are declining. It is no longer necessary to maintain Northeast Florida Fire Watch Council's status as a separate, multi-jurisdictional governmental entity, and this legislation will transition their programs to a private sector successor better structured and equipped to expand those programs geographically. All non-monetary assets (intellectual property, logos and branding) will be transferred to the Fire Watch Project, Inc., a Florida not-for-profit entity created to carry on the mission, programs and initiatives of the Fire Watch Council. Any remaining monetary assets will be used for a celebration.

Policy Impact Area: Northeast Florida Fire Watch Council sunset

Fiscal Impact: No direct cost to the City

Analyst: Hampsey