

# CITY COUNCIL RESEARCH DIVISION LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY



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**Bill Type and Number:** Ordinance 2024-635

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

**Date of Introduction:** August 13, 2024

**Committee(s) of Reference:** NCSPHS, R, F

**Date of Analysis:** August 15, 2024

**Type of Action:** Establishment of an independent board, new *Ordinance Code* chapter and sections, and *Ordinance Code* amendments

**Bill Summary:** This bill establishes Jacksonville Journey Forward, a public body and independent board of the City through a new Chapter 85, *Ordinance Code*. Section 24.601, Section 28.103, Section 34.801, Sections 77.107, Section 77.111, Section 77.115, Section 90.102, Section 111.330, and Section 126.506, *Ordinance Code* are amended. A new Section 126.507, *Ordinance Code* is created. The amendments and new provisions contained in this ordinance become effective October 1, 2024.

**Background Information:** In 2009, the Jacksonville Journey was established under Mayor John Peyton to address the unacceptable number of violent crimes. City leaders collaborated with public and private community stakeholders to find solutions and money to identify and address factors that contribute to crime. Through the Journey's crime reduction programs, there was a significant reduction in the violent crime rate from 2011 through 2016 until funding for Jacksonville Journey programs was reduced or eliminated. Jacksonville Journey Forward will reconvene community leaders and stakeholders to address factors and circumstances that contribute to crime. It will create necessary entities to identify, reduce and eliminate factors contributing to crime; coordinate with and support the JSO to assure the continued reduction of violent crime; build on recent successes to assure Jacksonville is a safe and healthy place to live and work; and strive to erase the negative perception of Jacksonville's crime rate.

The board of Jacksonville Journey Forward (JJF) will be tasked to review and make recommendations regarding community-based programs, services, activities, and contracts related to factors contributing to crime prevention, intervention, and rehabilitation, neighborhood safety and stability, and the prevention of juvenile and adult recidivism. The JJF board will consist of 11 members appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by council, with 1 of those members recommended by the Sheriff and 1 by the State Attorney. Membership will comply with the requirements of Chapter 50, *Ordinance Code*, serve 4-year terms, and to the extent feasible the members have experience with public health, education, workforce development, contract and compliance, afterschool/camp operations, juvenile diversion programs, violence prevention or intervention, ex-offender re-entry programs, and community engagement. The Sheriff will designate one liaison to attend JJF board meetings.

The JJF Board, along with community leaders and stakeholders, will develop a "Community-based Plan" to include immediate and long-term actions and goals related to crime reduction and public safety. The Plan will describe the comprehensive approach to community-based crime prevention, intervention, and rehabilitation, and neighborhood safety and stability. The Board will submit an annual report each December to the Mayor and Council and annually submit a proposed budget to the Mayor.

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Through this legislation, the *Ordinance Code* will be amended in various ways to define functions of JJF:

- Coordinate with the Grants and Contract Compliance Division to City grants regarding crime reduction or public safety.
- Coordinate with the Director of Parks, Recreation and Community Services to incorporate goals, and performance metrics in Parks Department contracts or programs.
- Coordinate with the Neighborhoods Department to inform neighborhood organizations, including CPACs, about Jacksonville Journey initiatives and programs.
- Review KHA essential service programs, and juvenile justice program metrics and goals.
- Coordinate with the Board of Library Trustees on metrics and programs affecting crime reduction or public safety.
- Creation of a Jacksonville Journey Forward Trust Fund for all donations and contributions of money, including gifts and grants, received for use toward achieving JJF purposes.
- Receive an annual report from the Chief of Procurement and make recommendations regarding the ex-offender program.
- Collaborate with and make recommendations to JSO regarding crime prevention, with implementation at the discretion of the Sheriff.

**Policy Impact Area:** Jacksonville Journey Forward

**Fiscal Impact:** Funding for Jacksonville Journey Forward appropriated through separate legislation

**Analyst:** Hampsey