

1 Introduced by Council Members White, Carlucci, Lahnen, Amaro, Carrico
2 and Peluso:

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4
5 **ORDINANCE 2024-713**

6 AN ORDINANCE REGARDING DEVELOPMENT AND
7 IMPLEMENTATION OF A HOMELESSNESS STRATEGIC PLAN
8 FOR DUVAL COUNTY; APPROPRIATING \$2,500,000 FROM
9 A HOMELESSNESS INITIATIVES SPECIAL REVENUE FUND
10 DESIGNATED CONTINGENCY ACCOUNT TO PROVIDE FUNDS
11 TO THE JACKSONVILLE FIRE AND RESCUE DEPARTMENT
12 (JFRD) FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF A HOMELESSNESS
13 STRATEGIC PLAN FOR DUVAL COUNTY (THE "PLAN"), OF
14 WHICH \$1,003,303 WILL BE USED TO PAY FOR
15 SALARIES, BENEFITS AND EQUIPMENT FOR PERSONNEL
16 RETAINED TO IMPLEMENT AND ADMINISTER THE PLAN,
17 INCLUDING A JFRD 24/7 EMS RESPONSE TEAM, WITH
18 THE REMAINING \$1,496,697 TO BE USED FOR
19 AUTHORIZED PLAN EXPENDITURES IN ACCORDANCE WITH
20 SECTION 111.920 (HOMELESSNESS INITIATIVES
21 SPECIAL REVENUE FUND), PART 9 (NEIGHBORHOOD
22 DEVELOPMENT), CHAPTER 111 (SPECIAL REVENUE AND
23 TRUST ACCOUNTS), *ORDINANCE CODE*, AND AS MORE
24 SPECIFICALLY DESCRIBED HEREIN; APPROVING SEVEN
25 NEW FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT POSITIONS WITHIN JFRD
26 AS DESCRIBED HEREIN; AUTHORIZING THE OFFICE OF
27 GENERAL COUNSEL AND THE COUNCIL AUDITOR'S OFFICE
28 TO MAKE ALL CHANGES NECESSARY TO EFFECTUATE THE
29 COUNCIL'S ACTION; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

30
31 **WHEREAS**, in 2022, the Council President convened a Special

1 Committee to Address Critical Quality of Life Issues (the "CQLI
2 Special Committee") that was charged with analyzing three significant
3 issues affecting the community - access to healthcare, affordable
4 housing and homelessness; and

5 **WHEREAS,** Council Member Boylan was appointed as Chair of the
6 CQLI Special Committee and he immediately convened several Working
7 Groups comprised of subject matter experts and community
8 stakeholders, each focused on access to healthcare, affordable
9 housing and homelessness - matters that are clearly interrelated; and

10 **WHEREAS,** as part of the CQLI Special Committee, the
11 Homelessness Working Group, Co-Chaired by Council Member Howland and
12 Dawn Gilman, specifically noted in its findings that "there are more
13 than 3,000 people that are currently homeless" and further, that
14 based on a series of events since 2000, there is a gap of 35,341
15 affordable homes needed to house the City's population; and

16 **WHEREAS,** the recommendations of the Homelessness Working Group
17 are outlined in the CQLI Special Committee Final Report and advocated
18 for the development of measurable goals to reach "functional zero"
19 homelessness and the need for dedicated, recurring funding; and

20 **WHEREAS,** since the conclusion of the CQLI Special Committee,
21 Mayor Deegan convened a Homelessness Work Group to continue the
22 important and difficult work of identifying the most significant
23 factors affecting the Jacksonville community and solutions to these
24 issues; and

25 **WHEREAS,** this Work Group focused on homelessness, including
26 identifying factors that lead to homelessness, how to prevent
27 homelessness, and addressing the specific needs of the City's
28 homelessness and chronic unhoused populations; all with a goal of
29 identifying mechanisms and solutions to lead these individuals and
30 families towards safe, affordable and secure housing; and

31 **WHEREAS,** the important work initiated by both the CQLI Special

1 Committee and the Mayor's Homelessness Work Group is ongoing, and the
2 City of Jacksonville continues to convene community stakeholders and
3 experts to further identify and formulate strategies for addressing
4 homelessness; and

5 **WHEREAS,** the appropriation outlined in this Ordinance is
6 intended to build upon and implement strategies arising from the
7 recommendations of the CQLI Special Committee in its Final Report and
8 to promulgate the ideas and strategic planning that occurred in the
9 Mayor's Work Group to address homelessness; and

10 **WHEREAS,** more specifically, this Ordinance is intended to fund
11 opportunities that will help the City to assist with and address the
12 needs of the number of homeless individuals identified during the
13 most recent point-in-time count - approximately 566 street homeless;
14 and

15 **WHEREAS,** the City's Director of Strategic Partnerships will
16 act as the point person to coordinate and oversee all aspects of
17 implementing a Homelessness Strategic Plan for Duval County (the
18 "Plan") to address homelessness in Jacksonville in a manner that is
19 reliable, transparent and data driven; and

20 **WHEREAS,** the initial phase of the Plan provides for
21 establishing an appropriate framework of personnel and consultants
22 within the City followed by a focus on increasing shelter beds,
23 providing wrap around services, and case management services with an
24 ultimate goal to reach functional zero homelessness; and

25 **WHEREAS,** an important part of this Plan will be to maintain
26 appropriate data in the homeless data collection system that is
27 available to all members of the Northeast Florida Continuum of Care
28 and currently utilized by the City and other local homeless services
29 providers known as the "Homeless Management Information System"
30 ("HMIS"); and

31 **WHEREAS,** the HMIS is maintained and operated by Changing

1 Homelessness, Inc. who, in accordance with federal regulations, is
2 responsible for selecting the HMIS lead agency; and

3 **WHEREAS,** each agency is responsible for entering client level
4 data, understanding that better data collection and analysis will
5 allow our community and its stakeholders to receive real-time
6 information that reflects how the City's tax-payer dollars are being
7 utilized to address homelessness in Duval County; and

8 **WHEREAS,** to reach the currently-known 566 street homeless
9 individuals living in Duval County, there is a need to increase
10 outreach teams to ensure all parts of the County receive consistent
11 and comprehensive support, both day and night, and that increased
12 shelter space and/or beds are made available; and

13 **WHEREAS,** to move individuals and families from the street into
14 shelters and stable housing, there is a need for coordinated intake
15 to perform assessments, enter data, and gather all necessary documents
16 for available programs, and to refer eligible clients to appropriate
17 services and programs; and

18 **WHEREAS,** Jacksonville Fire and Rescue Department (JFRD)
19 personnel are first responders with training in first aid, advanced
20 cardiac life support, Narcan administration, and more, and these
21 individuals have the compassion necessary to offer assistance to
22 Duval County's street homeless, many of whom are suffering from
23 physical and mental ailments; and

24 **WHEREAS,** it is for the above reasons that it is appropriate
25 for JFRD to oversee the implementation and administration of a
26 strategic plan that is designed to assist one of Duval County's most
27 vulnerable populations; now therefore

28 **BE IT ORDAINED** by the Council of the City of Jacksonville:

29 **Section 1. Appropriation.** For the 2024-2025 fiscal year,
30 within the City's budget, there are hereby appropriated the indicated
31 sum(s) from the account(s) listed in subsection (a) to the account(s)

1 listed in subsection (b):

2 (The account information is attached hereto as **Exhibit 1** and
3 incorporated herein by this reference)

4 (a) Appropriated from:

5 See **Exhibit 1** \$2,500,000

6 (b) Appropriated to:

7 See **Exhibit 1** \$2,500,000

8 (c) Explanation of Appropriation:

9 The funding above is an appropriation of \$2,500,000 from a
10 Homelessness Initiatives Special Revenue Fund Designated
11 Contingency account to the Jacksonville Fire and Rescue
12 Department (JFRD) for implementation and administration of
13 a Homelessness Strategic Plan for Duval County (the
14 "Plan"). This appropriation includes \$1,003,303 to pay the
15 salaries and benefits of personnel retained to implement
16 and administer the Plan, which will include a 24/7 JFRD
17 EMS response team, and the costs for equipment, uniforms,
18 and other gear necessary to properly outfit said personnel.
19 The remaining \$1,496,697 will be used for authorized
20 expenditures pursuant to the Homelessness Initiatives
21 Special Revenue Fund (Section 111.920 (Homelessness
22 Initiatives Special Revenue Fund), Part 9 (Neighborhood
23 Development), Chapter 111 (Special Revenue and Trust
24 Accounts), *Ordinance Code*), and in accordance with this
25 Ordinance.

26 **Section 2. Purpose.** The purpose of the appropriation in
27 Section 1 is to provide funds to JFRD to hire or retain appropriate
28 personnel as necessary for implementation of a comprehensive
29 strategic plan to address matters affecting Duval County's homeless
30 population. These funds will also allow JFRD the ability to outfit
31 said personnel with the uniforms, gear and equipment necessary to

1 establish an appropriate framework for multi-phased implementation
2 of said Plan.

3 The Plan will follow initial recommendations from the CQLI
4 Special Committee and the Mayor's Homelessness Work Group, with the
5 intent that the 5-year strategic plan (supplemented with an annual
6 action plan) to be developed by the newly created Homelessness
7 Initiatives Commission (the "Commission") will act as a guide for
8 future phases of the overall Plan. The recommendations from the
9 Commission will be integral in providing direction to the City
10 regarding how any future funds set aside for the Plan should be
11 utilized. The appropriation herein is intended to cover initial costs
12 and expenses for implementation of the Plan to be supplemented by
13 future appropriation requests to fund additional phases.

14 In addition to personnel and equipment expenses, initial costs
15 and expenses to be funded by the \$1,496,697 appropriated by this
16 legislation for authorized expenditures under the Homelessness
17 Initiatives Special Revenue Fund (Section 111.920, *Ordinance Code*),
18 will include costs for expansion of the HMIS, the provision of case
19 management and wrap around services to Duval County's homeless
20 population which may include, but is not limited to, health and mental
21 health services, homeless diversion programs (e.g. Chronically
22 Homeless Offenders Program ("CHOP") and the Mental Health Offender
23 Program ("MHOP")), clothing, transportation assistance, rapid
24 rehousing, food/meals, showers, laundry, outreach, employment
25 assistance, employment/vocation training, social security application
26 assistance, medication access, daytime storage, and access to
27 Homeward Bound and legal assistance. In addition, alternative housing
28 opportunities will be explored including options for permanent
29 supportive housing, short-term housing, hotels, tiny houses or other
30 appropriate non-congregate shelter beds. Initial personnel needs will
31 include creation of a 24/7 EMS response team (Outreach Team) within

1 JFRD that will have direct interaction with the homeless population,
2 as well as exploration of the potential to provide 24/7 shelter staff
3 as those services are brought online.

4 **Section 3. Approval of Positions.** There are hereby
5 approved the seven new full-time equivalent positions outlined in
6 **Exhibit 2**, attached hereto and incorporated herein by this reference.
7 These positions include two new Fire Lieutenants, one new Fire Captain
8 and four new Firefighter Engineers who will serve as JFRD's new
9 homeless persons EMS response team.

10 **Section 4. Office of General Counsel and Council Auditor's**
11 **Office Authorization.** The Office of General Counsel and the Council
12 Auditor's Office are hereby authorized to make all changes to titles,
13 tables of content, Ordinance Code, journal entries, schedules,
14 attachments, editorial and text changes consistent with the changes
15 set forth herein to Ordinance 2024-504 to effectuate the Council's
16 action.

17 **Section 5. Effective Date.** This Ordinance shall become
18 effective upon signature by the Mayor or upon becoming effective
19 without the Mayor's signature.

20
21 Form Approved:

22
23 /s/ Mary E. Staffopoulos

24 Office of General Counsel

25 Legislation Prepared By: Dylan Reingold

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