

1 The Neighborhoods, Community Services, Public Health and Safety  
2 Committee offers the following Substitute to File No. 2024-713:

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4 Introduced by Council Members White, Carlucci, Lahnen, Amaro, Carrico  
5 and Peluso:

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8 **ORDINANCE 2024-713**

9 AN ORDINANCE REGARDING DEVELOPMENT AND  
10 IMPLEMENTATION OF A HOMELESSNESS STRATEGIC PLAN  
11 FOR DUVAL COUNTY; APPROPRIATING \$1,003,303 FROM  
12 A HOMELESSNESS INITIATIVES SPECIAL REVENUE FUND  
13 DESIGNATED CONTINGENCY ACCOUNT TO PROVIDE FUNDS  
14 TO THE JACKSONVILLE FIRE AND RESCUE DEPARTMENT  
15 (JFRD) TO PAY FOR SALARIES, BENEFITS AND  
16 EQUIPMENT FOR PERSONNEL RETAINED TO IMPLEMENT  
17 AND ADMINISTER A HOMELESSNESS STRATEGIC PLAN FOR  
18 DUVAL COUNTY (THE "PLAN"), INCLUDING A JFRD 24/7  
19 EMS RESPONSE TEAM, AS MORE SPECIFICALLY  
20 DESCRIBED HEREIN; APPROVING SEVEN NEW FULL-TIME  
21 EQUIVALENT POSITIONS WITHIN JFRD AS DESCRIBED  
22 HEREIN; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

23  
24 **WHEREAS,** in 2022, the Council President convened a Special  
25 Committee to Address Critical Quality of Life Issues (the "CQLI  
26 Special Committee") that was charged with analyzing three significant  
27 issues affecting the community - access to healthcare, affordable  
28 housing and homelessness; and

29 **WHEREAS,** Council Member Boylan was appointed as Chair of the  
30 CQLI Special Committee and he immediately convened several Working  
31 Groups comprised of subject matter experts and community

1 stakeholders, each focused on access to healthcare, affordable  
2 housing and homelessness - matters that are clearly interrelated; and

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

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

13 **WHEREAS,** since the conclusion of the CQLI Special Committee,  
14 Mayor Deegan convened a Homelessness Work Group to continue the  
15 important and difficult work of identifying the most significant  
16 factors affecting the Jacksonville community and solutions to these  
17 issues; and

18 **WHEREAS,** this Work Group focused on homelessness, including  
19 identifying factors that lead to homelessness, how to prevent  
20 homelessness, and addressing the specific needs of the City's  
21 homelessness and chronic unhoused populations; all with a goal of  
22 identifying mechanisms and solutions to lead these individuals and  
23 families towards safe, affordable and secure housing; and

24 **WHEREAS,** the important work initiated by both the CQLI Special  
25 Committee and the Mayor's Homelessness Work Group is ongoing, and the  
26 City of Jacksonville continues to convene community stakeholders and  
27 experts to further identify and formulate strategies for addressing  
28 homelessness; and

29 **WHEREAS,** the appropriation outlined in this Ordinance is  
30 intended to build upon and implement strategies arising from the  
31 recommendations of the CQLI Special Committee in its Final Report and

1 to promulgate the ideas and strategic planning that occurred in the  
2 Mayor's Work Group to address homelessness; and

3       **WHEREAS**, more specifically, this Ordinance is intended to fund  
4 opportunities that will help the City to assist with and address the  
5 needs of the number of homeless individuals identified during the  
6 most recent point-in-time count - approximately 469 street homeless;  
7 and

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

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

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

24       **WHEREAS**, the HMIS is maintained and operated by Changing  
25 Homelessness, Inc. who, in accordance with federal regulations, is  
26 responsible for selecting the HMIS lead agency; and

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

1           **WHEREAS**, to reach the currently-known 469 street homeless  
2 individuals living in Duval County, there is a need to increase  
3 outreach teams to ensure all parts of the County receive consistent  
4 and comprehensive support, both day and night, and that increased  
5 shelter space and/or beds are made available; and

6           **WHEREAS**, to move individuals and families from the street into  
7 shelters and stable housing, there is a need for coordinated intake  
8 to perform assessments, enter data, and gather all necessary documents  
9 for available programs, and to refer eligible clients to appropriate  
10 services and programs; and

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

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

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

22           **Section 1. Appropriation.** For the 2024-2025 fiscal year,  
23 within the City's budget, there are hereby appropriated the indicated  
24 sum(s) from the account(s) listed in subsection (a) to the account(s)  
25 listed in subsection (b):

26 (The account information is attached hereto as **Revised Exhibit 1** and  
27 incorporated herein by this reference)

28           (a) Appropriated from:

29                 See **Revised Exhibit 1**                                 \$1,003,303

30           (b) Appropriated to:

31                 See **Revised Exhibit 1**                                 \$1,003,303

1 (c) Explanation of Appropriation:

2 The funding above is an appropriation of \$1,003,303 from a  
3 Homelessness Initiatives Special Revenue Fund Designated  
4 Contingency account to the Jacksonville Fire and Rescue  
5 Department (JFRD) to pay the salaries and benefits of  
6 personnel retained to implement and administer a  
7 Homelessness Strategic Plan for Duval County, which will  
8 include a 24/7 JFRD EMS response team, and the costs for  
9 equipment, uniforms, and other gear necessary to properly  
10 outfit said personnel.

11 **Section 2. Purpose.** The purpose of the appropriation in  
12 Section 1 is to provide funds to JFRD to hire or retain appropriate  
13 personnel as necessary for implementation of a comprehensive  
14 strategic plan to address matters affecting Duval County's homeless  
15 population. These funds will also allow JFRD the ability to outfit  
16 said personnel with the uniforms, gear and equipment necessary to  
17 establish an appropriate framework for multi-phased implementation  
18 of said Plan.

19 The Plan will follow initial recommendations from the CQLI  
20 Special Committee and the Mayor's Homelessness Work Group, with the  
21 intent that the 5-year strategic plan (supplemented with an annual  
22 action plan) to be developed by the newly created Homelessness  
23 Initiatives Commission (the "Commission") will act as a guide for  
24 future phases of the overall Plan. The recommendations from the  
25 Commission will be integral in providing direction to the City  
26 regarding how City funds set aside for the Plan should be utilized.  
27 The appropriation herein is intended to cover initial costs and  
28 expenses to establish a 24/7 EMS Response Team (Outreach Team) within  
29 JFRD for implementation of the Plan to be supplemented by future  
30 appropriation requests to fund additional phases. This newly created  
31 Outreach Team is expected to have regular, direct interaction with

1 Duval County's homeless population and may later carry out additional  
2 responsibilities as outlined in the Plan once approved by Council.

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

9       **Section 4.       Effective Date.**       This Ordinance shall become  
10 effective upon signature by the Mayor or upon becoming effective  
11 without the Mayor's signature.

12  
13 Form Approved:

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15           /s/ Mary E. Staffopoulos          

16 Office of General Counsel

17 Legislation Prepared By: Dylan Reingold

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