

1 Introduced by Council Members White, Carlucci, Lahnen, Amaro, Carrico
2 and Peluso and Co-Sponsored by Council Members Boylan and Johnson and
3 substituted by the Neighborhoods, Community Services, Public Health
4 and Safety Committee:
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7 **ORDINANCE 2024-713-E**

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

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

28 **WHEREAS,** Council Member Boylan was appointed as Chair of the
29 CQLI Special Committee and he immediately convened several Working
30 Groups comprised of subject matter experts and community
31 stakeholders, each focused on access to healthcare, affordable

1 housing and homelessness - matters that are clearly interrelated; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 Mayor's Work Group to address homelessness; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

31 **WHEREAS**, to reach the currently-known 469 street homeless

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

27 (a) Appropriated from:

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

29 (b) Appropriated to:

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

31 (c) Explanation of Appropriation:

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

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

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

1 responsibilities as outlined in the Plan once approved by Council.

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

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

11
12 Form Approved:

13
14 /s/ Mary E. Staffopoulos

15 Office of General Counsel

16 Legislation Prepared By: Dylan Reingold

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