

1 Introduced by Council Member Carlucci and Co-Sponsored by Council
2 Members Ferraro, Freeman, Priestly Jackson, Newby, DeFoor, Morgan,
3 Hazouri and Dennis:

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5 **RESOLUTION 2019-864**

6 A RESOLUTION STRONGLY OPPOSING THE PASSAGE OF
7 HOUSE BILL 653 WHICH WOULD PROHIBIT MUNICIPAL
8 ELECTRIC UTILITIES FROM USING SPECIFIED
9 REVENUES TO FINANCE GENERAL GOVERNMENTAL
10 FUNCTIONS; DIRECTING LEGISLATIVE SERVICES TO
11 CIRCULATE THE RESOLUTION TO THE FLORIDA
12 LEGISLATURE; REQUESTING EMERGENCY PASSAGE UPON
13 INTRODUCTION; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

14
15 **WHEREAS**, JEA is an independent authority within the
16 consolidated City of Jacksonville, which is authorized to own,
17 manage and operate a utilities system; and

18 **WHEREAS**, as consideration for the unique relationship between
19 the City of Jacksonville and JEA, as a tax-exempt entity within the
20 consolidated government, and in recognition of the shared
21 attributes with the consolidated City of Jacksonville in connection
22 with its electric, water, and sewer distribution systems, there is
23 an annual assessment upon JEA in each fiscal year; and

24 **WHEREAS**, the JEA assessments for the last several years are
25 reflected as follows: for fiscal year 2016-2017 - \$115,329,413; for
26 fiscal year 2017-2018 - \$116,482,708; for fiscal year 2018-2019 -
27 \$117,647,535; for fiscal year 2019-2020 - \$118,824,010; for fiscal
28 year 2020-2021 - \$120,012,250; for fiscal year 2021-2022 -
29 \$121,212,373; and for fiscal year 2022-2023 - \$122,424,496; and

30 **WHEREAS**, JEA has also contributed additional funding in recent
31 years to the City to be used in conjunction with the City's program

1 for septic tank removal and remediation, which benefits the public
2 health and safety of the community to which it serves;

3 **WHEREAS**, a bill has been introduced at the state level (House
4 Bill 653), which would eliminate contributions to a city by a
5 municipally owned utility for any funds except for any funds to be
6 used on direct utility expenses; and

7 **WHEREAS**, passage and implementation of House Bill 653, if
8 applicable to JEA, could have detrimental impact to the City and
9 could hamstring or possibly extinguish the symbiotic relationship
10 that the City and JEA have established over the last two decades;
11 and

12 **WHEREAS**, the Council finds that the potential harm to the City
13 of Jacksonville and JEA is sufficient that the Council should
14 inform the Florida Legislature that it is opposed to House Bill 653
15 in its current form and urges that the Florida Legislature withdraw
16 or defeat the bill; now therefore

17 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the Council of the City of Jacksonville:

18 **Section 1. Council's Strong Opposition for House Bill**
19 **653.** The City Council strongly opposes and urges the Florida
20 Legislature to defeat passage of House Bill 653, which would
21 prohibit municipal electric utilities from using specified revenues
22 to finance general governmental functions.

23 **Section 2. Direction to Chief of Legislative Services**
24 **Division.** The Chief of Legislative Services for the City Council is
25 hereby directed to provide a copy of this resolution to the Florida
26 Legislature, the Duval County Legislative Delegation, and the
27 Speaker of the House.

28 **Section 3. Requesting Emergency Passage Upon Introduction**
29 **Pursuant to Council Rule 4.901 Emergency.** Emergency passage upon
30 introduction of this legislation is requested. The nature of the
31 emergency is that the Florida Legislature is scheduled to take up

1 the legislation in early January and the Council would like to
2 provide comments before they take action.

3 **Section 4. Effective Date.** This Resolution shall become
4 effective upon signature by the Mayor or upon becoming effective
5 without the Mayor's signature.

6 Form Approved:

7
8 /s/ Paige H. Johnston

9 Office of General Counsel

10 Legislation Prepared By: Paige H. Johnston

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