

**CITY COUNCIL RESEARCH DIVISION
LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY**



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Bill Type and Number: Ordinance 2019-854

Introducer/Sponsor(s): Council President at the request of the Tourist Development Council

Date of Introduction: November 26, 2019

Committee(s) of Reference: NCSPHS, F

Date of Analysis: November 27, 2019

Type of Action: Appropriation

Bill Summary: The bill appropriates \$785,000 from a Tourist Development Council capital projects account to a reserve account to temporarily remove spending authorization for the construction of a downtown visitor information center in the Times-Union Center for the Performing Arts while alternate locations for the center are explored.

Background Information: Via Ordinance 2018-837-E the Council appropriated \$850,000 from the Tourist Development Council's Development Account to a capital expenditure account for construction of the new visitor information center in the southeast corner of the T-U Center in conjunction with other capital improvements being made to the building. A portion of that funding has been expended on architectural design work for the new facility. At a recent meeting, the TDC board and Visit Jacksonville discussed whether the T-U Center location currently makes sense due to the demolition of the Jacksonville Landing and the impending reconstruction of the Northbank bulkheads and floating docks. The TDC has asked Visit Jacksonville to explore other location options for a visitor center in the downtown area and that research is underway. This appropriation will place the funding in a designated reserve account for this purpose until a final location decision is made, at which time the funds will need to be re-appropriated for use on the chosen site.

Policy Impact Area: Downtown visitor information center

Fiscal Impact: The bill places the \$785,000 construction funding in a designated reserve account pending future re-appropriation.

Analyst: Clements