

**CITY COUNCIL RESEARCH DIVISION
LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY**



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Bill Type and Number: Ordinance 2020-0063

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

Date of Introduction: January 28, 2020

Committee(s) of Reference: NCSPHS, F

Date of Analysis: January 29, 2020

Type of Action: Appropriation

Bill Summary: This bill appropriates a \$521,855.00 Reimbursable Grant from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection for the development of Jacksonville Freedom Park, as initiated by B.T. 20-029; approves and authorizes the Mayor, or his designee, and the Corporation Secretary to execute and deliver, for and on behalf of the City, the Standard Grant Agreement between State of Florida Department of Environmental Protection and City of Jacksonville and other documents and take further action to effectuate the purposes of this ordinance; and provides for oversight by the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department.

Background Information: Freedom Park will be dedicated to two groups with strong ties to Jacksonville, which are veterans with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and the Gullah Geechee, direct descendants of Africans that were brought to the United States as slaves. Additionally, Freedom Park will create an entry feature into the National Heritage Corridor and Fort Caroline National Memorial. These locations are national assets and essential to the history and culture of the area. The park will be designed to depict the story of the Gullah Geechee and U.S. Veterans through landscape, walkways and storyboards. The park design has a continuous loop walkway, plantings to screen and buffer the roadways and provide shade and beauty. Also, a sculpture will be located at the corner of Monument and Ft. Caroline Road. The park will be one of the southerly locations of the Gullah Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor that extends from North Carolina to North Florida. The park will be a quiet, reflective place for veterans.

Policy Impact Area: Jacksonville Freedom Park

Fiscal Impact: The appropriation of \$521,855.00, as initiated by B.T. 20-029.

Analyst: Mitchell