

1 Introduced by the Council Member Cumber and Co-Sponsored by Council  
2 Members Bowman, Hazouri, Ferraro, Gaffney, Morgan, White, Diamond  
3 Newby, Pittman, Freeman and Becton:

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6 **ORDINANCE 2020-247**

7 AN ORDINANCE MAKING CERTAIN FINDINGS AND  
8 APPROPRIATING \$9,000,000 FROM GENERAL FUND/GSD  
9 FUND BALANCE TO ESTABLISH A COVID-19 SMALL  
10 BUSINESS RELIEF GRANT PROGRAM ("PROGRAM") FOR  
11 ELIGIBLE SMALL BUSINESSES LOCATED IN DUVAL  
12 COUNTY; AUTHORIZING THE CITY TO ENTER INTO AN  
13 AGREEMENT WITH A FINANCIAL INSTITUTE;  
14 PROVIDING FOR ANNUAL REPORTS TO CITY COUNCIL;  
15 REQUESTING THAT THE FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION  
16 DEPARTMENT AND OFFICE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
17 OVERSEE THE GRANT PROCESS AND PROGRAM;  
18 REQUESTING ONE CYCLE EMERGENCY PASSAGE;  
19 PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

20  
21 **Section 1. Findings.** It is hereby ascertained, determined,  
22 found and declared as follows:

23 (a) The recitals set forth herein are true and correct.

24 (b) By incentivizing the retention of employees and providing  
25 grant funds to small businesses within the City, the Program is  
26 designed to benefit both individuals and small businesses and will  
27 promote and further the public and municipal purposes of the City  
28 and serve to limit the severe economic impacts of COVID-19.

29 (c) The Program is designed to provide rapid economic relief  
30 to small businesses in order to maintain the viability of such  
31 businesses and the employment of individuals thereof, thus

1 maintaining the City's tax base and revenues.

2 (d) Enhancement of the City's tax base and revenues, are  
3 matters of State and City policy and State and City concern in order  
4 that the State and its counties and municipalities, including the  
5 City, shall not continue to be endangered by unemployment,  
6 underemployment, economic recession, poverty, crime and disease, and  
7 consume an excessive proportion of the State and City revenues  
8 because of the extra services required for police, fire, accident,  
9 health care, elderly care, charity care, hospitalization, public  
10 housing and housing assistance, and other forms of public  
11 protection, services and facilities.

12 (e) The Program will provide economic relief to small  
13 businesses in Duval County, thus encouraging ongoing compliance with  
14 the Emergency Measures and benefitting the health, safety and  
15 welfare of the citizens of Duval County.

16 (f) The provision of the City's assistance is necessary and  
17 appropriate to make the Program feasible; and the City's assistance  
18 is reasonable and not excessive, taking into account the extent of  
19 the public benefits expected to be derived from the Program, and  
20 taking into account all other forms of assistance available.

21 (g) The authorizations provided by this Ordinance are for  
22 public uses and purposes for which the City may use its powers as a  
23 county, municipality and as a political subdivision of the State of  
24 Florida and may expend public funds, and the necessity in the public  
25 interest for the provisions herein enacted is hereby declared as a  
26 matter of legislative determination.

27 (h) This Ordinance is adopted pursuant to the provisions of  
28 Chapters 163, 166 and 125, Florida Statutes, as amended, the City's  
29 Charter, and other applicable provisions of law.

30 **Section 2. Appropriation.** For the 2019-2020 fiscal year,  
31 within the City's budget, there are hereby appropriated the

1 indicated sum(s) from the account(s) listed in subsection (a) to  
2 the account(s) listed in subsection (b):

3 (Account information is attached hereto as **Exhibit 1** and  
4 incorporated herein by this reference)

5 (a) Appropriated from:

6 See attached **Exhibit 1** \$9,000,000

7 (b) Appropriated to:

8 See attached **Exhibit 1** \$9,000,000

9 (c) **Explanation of Appropriation:**

10 The funding above is from the General Fund/GSD Fund  
11 Balance. The funds will be used to provide economic  
12 incentive grants to small businesses located within Duval  
13 County.

14 **Section 3. Purpose.** The purpose of the appropriation in  
15 Section 2 is to provide grants via pay cards to eligible small  
16 businesses located in Duval County to partially combat the economic  
17 impacts of the COVID-19 virus and encourage approved businesses to  
18 retain their employees for the duration of the declared  
19 emergencies.

20 **Section 4. Carryover.** The funds appropriated herein  
21 shall not lapse but shall carryover as appropriated from year to  
22 year until such funds are expended or lapse according to the terms  
23 of the Agreement and City Grant Agreements.

24 **Section 5. COVID-19 Small Business Relief Grant Program**  
25 **approved.** For a period of six months from the effective date of  
26 this Ordinance, the City is authorized to award COVID-19 Small  
27 Business Relief Grants to eligible small businesses in Duval County  
28 in the amount of \$2,000 to approved applicants in accordance with  
29 the criteria attached hereto as **Exhibit 2** and incorporated herein  
30 reference. The criteria include the requirements that the small  
31 business: (i) is located in Duval County; (ii) had no more than 100

1 employees on February 29th 2020; iii) has been in business for at  
2 least one (1) year from February 29, 2020; iv) must document number  
3 of employees as of February 29, 2020; (iv) shall demonstrate that  
4 since February 29, 2020 the small business has experienced a  
5 reduction in revenue of 25% or more as a direct result of the  
6 COVID-19 crisis; and (v) an officer of the small business must sign  
7 an affidavit certifying the foregoing eligibility criteria.

8 **Section 6. Authorizing the City to enter into an**  
9 **agreement with a financial institution.** The City is hereby  
10 authorized to enter into the Agreement with a financial institution  
11 for the purposes described in Section 3.

12 **Section 7. Oversight Department.** The Finance and  
13 Administration Department and Office of Economic Development shall  
14 provide oversight for the Program herein.

15 **Section 8. Annual Report.** The Finance and Administration  
16 Department is required to make a report annually to the City  
17 Council concerning the use of the funds authorized hereby for the  
18 Program, including the number of recipients and dollar amounts of  
19 the Grants.

20 **Section 9. Requesting One Cycle Emergency Passage**  
21 **pursuant to Council Rule 4.901.** One cycle emergency passage of this  
22 legislation is requested. The nature of the emergency is that the  
23 negative health and economic impacts of COVID-19 are ongoing and  
24 immediate economic assistance will assist in maintaining the  
25 viability of such businesses and associated employment.

26 **Section 10. Effective Date.** This ordinance shall become  
27 effective upon signature by the Mayor or upon becoming effective  
28 without the Mayor's signature.

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30 Form Approved:  
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1 /s/ Paige H. Johnston

2 Office of General Counsel

3 Legislation prepared by: Margaret M. Sidman

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