

CITY COUNCIL RESEARCH DIVISION

LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY



COLLEEN HAMPSEY,
RESEARCH ASSISTANT
(904) 255-5151

117 West Duval Street
City Hall, Suite 425
Jacksonville, FL 32202
FAX (904) 630-3403

Bill Type and Number: 2020-733

Introducer/Sponsor(s): Council Member Salem

Date of Introduction: November 24, 2020

Committee(s) of Reference: NCSPHS, F, R

Date of Analysis: November 24, 2020

Type of Action: Appropriation, agreement authorization, *Ordinance Code* Exception, designation of oversight agency and one cycle emergency passage

Bill Summary: This bill is an appropriation of \$400,000 (\$200,000 from the Social Justice and Community Investment Special Committee Contingency and \$200,000 from the Office of the Sheriff Pre-Trial Services– Health Services) to provide funding for a jail diversion program for mentally ill misdemeanor offenders. The appropriation will be allocated the Sulzbacher Center (\$350,000) to manage the program services, and to the Fourth Judicial Circuit Courts of Florida for a Mental Health Initiative Jail Coordinator (\$50,000). This bill authorizes the agreements between the City and the Sulzbacher Center, to manage the jail diversion program; and between the City and the Fourth Judicial Circuit Courts of Florida to provide for a Mental Health Initiative Coordinator. Pursuant to Section 126.107(g) (Exemptions), Part 1 (General Regulations), Chapter 126 (Procurement Code), *Ordinance Code*, such procurements are exempted from competitive solicitation because the supplies or services are to be provided by those specifically prescribed within authorizing legislation that appropriates the same. The Office of Grants and Contract Compliance will oversee the project. One cycle emergency passage is requested due to the immediate need for mental health services.

Background Information: The purpose of this legislation is to provide funding for the Mental Health Offender Program (MHOP), a nine month pilot program designed in response to the burden that mentally ill offenders place on the criminal justice system. MHOP is a jail diversion program for mentally ill misdemeanor offenders, intended to break the cycle of repeated misdemeanor arrests for mentally ill individuals and provide them the wrap-around support they need to successfully treat their mental illness and reintegrate back into the community. Wrap around services include: medical, dental, behavioral health, substance abuse, housing and intensive case management that connects them to stable income through either job counseling and training or SSI, SSDI, Medicare/Medicaid and other community services. This legislation also provides funds for a Mental Health Jail Initiative Coordinator, responsible for: coordinating efforts of the Sulzbacher Center, judicial partners, and other community service providers; obtaining additional funding and resources for continuing these vital services; engaging the community in the efforts of this program; and working with Duval County Judges who handle misdemeanor cases.

Policy Impact Area: Mental Health Offender Program

Fiscal Impact: Appropriation of \$400,000 (\$200,000 from the Social Justice and Community Investment Special Committee Contingency and \$200,000 from the Office of the Sheriff Pre-Trial Services– Health Services)

Analyst: Hampsey

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