

1 Introduced by Council President Newby at the request of the Mayor:

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4 **ORDINANCE 2021-570**

5 AN ORDINANCE MAKING CERTAIN FINDINGS AND
6 APPROPRIATING \$4,000,000 IN CORONAVIRUS
7 RELIEF, FISCAL RECOVERY, AND CRITICAL CAPITAL
8 PROJECTS FUNDS FROM THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
9 TREASURY IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE AMERICAN
10 RESCUE PLAN ACT OF 2021 (THE "ARP ACT") TO
11 FUND CONTINUED COVID-19 RESPONSE EFFORTS,
12 INCLUDING COVID-19 TESTING, VACCINATIONS, AND
13 OTHER HEALTH-RELATED NEEDS AND SERVICES, AS
14 INITIATED BY B.T. 21-112; PROVIDING FOR
15 OVERSIGHT BY THE FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION
16 DEPARTMENT; PROVIDING FOR CARRYOVER OF FUNDS
17 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2022; REQUESTING
18 EMERGENCY PASSAGE UPON INTRODUCTION; PROVIDING
19 AN EFFECTIVE DATE.
20

21 **WHEREAS,** the Novel Coronavirus Disease 2019 ("COVID-19") was
22 first discovered in the United States in January 2020 and since
23 that time this severe, acute respiratory illness has infected over
24 32 million and killed over 610,000 Americans; and

25 **WHEREAS,** communities throughout the United States have
26 recently experienced a rise in the number of COVID-19 cases due to
27 various factors, including the introduction of a new, highly-
28 contagious variant of the Coronavirus; and

29 **WHEREAS,** the number of positive COVID-19 cases in Florida has
30 surged significantly in the past several weeks, with the highest
31 one-day totals occurring in Duval County over the last few days;

1 and

2 **WHEREAS**, the City of Jacksonville recognizes that one of the
3 most effective means of preventing the spread of COVID-19 is to
4 make safe, readily-available testing opportunities and other
5 health-related services available to its citizens so that
6 individuals who test positive for COVID-19 can be identified and
7 educated on appropriate precautions they can take to prevent
8 further spread of the virus; and

9 **WHEREAS**, the United States federal government recognizes that
10 state, territorial, tribal and local governments have been called
11 on to respond to COVID-19 at an immense scale, including efforts to
12 prevent and address spread of the disease in a manner that is
13 tailored to meet the specific needs of each community; and

14 **WHEREAS**, on March 11, 2021, the American Rescue Plan Act (the
15 "ARP Act") was signed into law and provided for the distribution of
16 Coronavirus relief, fiscal recovery, and critical capital-project
17 funds to state, territorial, tribal and local governments of the
18 United States to be used for various purposes, including efforts to
19 respond to the COVID-19 public health emergency; and

20 **WHEREAS**, the City desires to appropriate and authorize
21 disbursement of \$4,000,000 in local Coronavirus relief funds in
22 accordance with the ARP Act for the provision of COVID-19 testing,
23 vaccinations, and other health-related needs and services as more
24 specifically provided herein; now, therefore

25 **BE IT ORDAINED** by the Council of the City of Jacksonville:

26 **Section 1. Findings.** It is hereby ascertained,
27 determined, found and declared as follows:

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

29 (b) The disbursements and actions authorized hereby to fund
30 relief efforts to address the spread of COVID-19 will benefit the
31 health, safety and welfare of the citizens of Duval County.

1 (c) The distribution of ARP Act funds as set forth herein is
2 necessary and appropriate, and is reasonable and not excessive,
3 taking into account the extent of the public benefits expected to
4 be derived from the expenditures authorized hereby, and taking into
5 account all other forms of assistance available.

6 (d) The authorizations provided by this Ordinance are for
7 public uses and purposes for which the City may use its powers as a
8 county, municipality and as a political subdivision of the State of
9 Florida to expend public funds, and the necessity in the public
10 interest for the provisions herein enacted is hereby declared as a
11 matter of legislative determination.

12 (e) This Ordinance is adopted pursuant to the provisions of
13 Chapters 163, 166 and 125, Florida Statutes, as amended, the City's
14 Charter, and other applicable provisions of law.

15 **Section 2. Appropriation.** For the 2020-2021 fiscal year,
16 within the City's budget, there are hereby appropriated the
17 indicated sum(s) from the account(s) listed in subsection (a) to
18 the account(s) listed in subsection (b):

19 (B.T. 21-112 is attached hereto as **Exhibit 1** and incorporated
20 herein by this reference)

21 (a) Appropriated from:

22 See attached **Exhibit 1** \$4,000,000

23 (b) Appropriated to:

24 See attached **Exhibit 1** \$4,000,000

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

26 The funding appropriated above represents \$4,000,000 in
27 Coronavirus relief, fiscal recovery, and critical capital
28 projects funds received by the City from the federal
29 government pursuant to the ARP Act.

30 **Section 3. Purpose.** The purpose of the appropriation in
31 Section 2 is to support continued COVID-19 response efforts by

1 providing funds for COVID-19 testing, vaccinations, and other
2 health-related needs and services in accordance with the ARP Act.

3 **Section 4. Oversight Department.** The Finance and
4 Administration Department shall provide oversight for all ARP Act
5 expenditures authorized hereunder.

6 **Section 5. Carryover.** The funds appropriated in Section
7 2 of this Ordinance shall not lapse but shall carryover into fiscal
8 year 2021-2022.

9 **Section 6. Requesting Emergency Passage Upon Introduction**
10 **Pursuant to Council Rule 4.901 Emergency.** Emergency passage upon
11 introduction of this legislation is requested. The nature of the
12 emergency is that access to safe, readily available COVID-19
13 testing opportunities, vaccinations, and other vital health-related
14 services is necessary to protect the health, safety and welfare of
15 the City's residents. Since the federal and state COVID-19 testing
16 sites closed in June, there has been a significant increase in the
17 number of COVID-19 positive cases. Many residents are required to
18 wait in long lines, often in inclement weather, or are waiting 3 to
19 4 days for an appointment to be tested for COVID-19, which is
20 contributing to the continued spread of the virus. Emergency
21 passage of this legislation is necessary to expedite opening
22 additional COVID-19 testing locations in Duval County in an effort
23 to prevent further spread of the Coronavirus throughout the
24 community.

25 **Section 7. Effective Date.** This Ordinance shall become
26 effective upon signature by the Mayor or upon becoming effective
27 without the Mayor's signature.

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29 Form Approved:

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31 /s/ Mary E. Staffopoulos

1 Office of General Counsel

2 Legislation prepared by: Mary E. Staffopoulos

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