

## CITY COUNCIL RESEARCH DIVISION LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY

**JEFFREY R. CLEMENTS**  
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**Bill Type and Number:** Ordinance 2018-283

**Introducer/Sponsor(s):** Introduced by Council Member Boyer

**Date of Introduction:** May 8, 2018

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

**Date of Analysis:** May 7, 2018

**Type of Action:** Appropriation and CIP amendment

**Bill Summary:** This bill is an appropriation of \$385,606 to purchase Jacksonville Sheriff's Office patrol vehicles and to provide additional funding to the authorized capital project subfund for countywide parks upgrades, maintenance and repairs. The 2018-2022 Five-Year Capital Improvement Program is amended to provide additional funding for the project entitled "Countywide Parks and Recreation Projects."

**Background Information:** The JSO Special Council Contingency is designated to supplement the Sheriff's Office budget for hiring as needed. Based on JSO testimony during Council deliberation of their recent reorganization, it was confirmed that such funds will not be required this year. A total of \$385,606.00 is being transferred (\$300,000 of which is for pay-go fleet vehicles for new police officers and \$85,606 of which will be added to the CIP project known as "Countywide Parks and Recreation Projects"). The Parks project will include fencing and playground replacement, field and restroom renovations, gym floor resurfacing, lighting, and trail repairs and drainage improvements. The funds appropriated this ordinance will not lapse but carryover into fiscal year 2018-2019.

**Policy Impact Area:** JSO fleet vehicles and park improvements

**Fiscal Impact:** Appropriation of \$385,606 from JSO Special Council Contingency

**Analyst:** Hampsey

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**Bill Type and Number:** Resolution 2018-286

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

**Date of Introduction:** May 8, 2018

**Committee(s) of Reference:** F

**Date of Analysis:** May 10, 2018

**Type of Action:** Authorizing execution of economic development agreement; commitment to QTI payment; designation of oversight agency; affirmation of compliance with Public Investment Policy; one cycle "fast track" approval requested.

NOTE: see companion bill 2018-309 for expansion of leased space at Cecil Commerce Center

**Bill Summary:** The bill authorizes execution of an economic development agreement between the City and Grace Aerospace, LLC for a second expansion of the company's manufacturing facility at Cecil Commerce Center. It commits the City to providing a Qualified Targeted Industry (QTI) match of up to \$20,000 (a 20% match to the State's \$80,000 grant) for the creation of 20 new, full-time jobs in a High Impact Bonus sector. The Office of Economic Development is designated as the City's oversight agency for the project. The bill affirms that the incentives conform to the City's Public Investment Policy. Approval on second reading is requested as authorized by Council Rule 3.305 for economic development incentive projects.

**Background Information:** Grace Electronics is a manufacturer of wiring harnesses and other electronic equipment for military aircraft and currently operates with a staff of 45 in 10,146 square feet of space leased from the City at Cecil Commerce Center. The company has been in Jacksonville for 4 years and started with a small manufacturing operation, then expanded its operations and moved its headquarters to Jacksonville with the assistance of economic development incentives approved by Ordinance 2016-727-E. The company now proposes to add an additional 20 jobs over the next 2 years at an average salary of \$50,675 and expand its leased space by 12,584 square feet of industrial space.

**Policy Impact Area:** Economic development

**Fiscal Impact:** The City commits to appropriating providing a QTI match of up to \$20,000, or \$1,000 per job.

**Analyst:** Clements

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**Bill Type and Number:** Ordinance 2018-291

**Introducer/Sponsor(s):** Introduced by the Council President at the request of the Downtown Investment Authority

**Date of Introduction:** May 8, 2018

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

**Date of Analysis:** May 7, 2018

**Type of Action:** Lease agreement authorization and designation of oversight agency

**Bill Summary:** This bill authorizes the Chief Executive Officer of the DIA, or his designee, to execute and deliver a Lease Agreement between the DIA and the North Florida Land Trust, Inc. The lease agreement is for an initial term of five (5) years, with two five (5) year renewal options, for the City owned property located at 843 West Monroe Street, known as the Brewster Hospital building. The monthly rental amount will be \$5,925, with rental abatement during the initial term of up to \$350,000 for improvements to the property, plus any applicable sales tax and all charges for any utilities furnished to the parking facility and used by Tenant. The Downtown Investment Authority will oversee the project.

**Background Information:** The North Florida Land Trust, Inc. approached the DIA with a request to lease the former Brewster Hospital Building located at 843 West Monroe Street as well as approximately 0.47 acres of land, and to make approximately \$350,000 in improvements to the Property to bring it into compliance with code requirements and make it suitable for use as office space. As approved via Resolution 2018-02-06, DIA will contribute up to \$50,000, in addition to the \$350,000 lease abatement maximum, towards the construction of on-site parking.

The lease agreement was approved by both the NFLT Board of Directors on January 16, 2018, and the DIA Board on January 17, 2018 via Resolution 2017-10-02. An area within the building's first floor will be designated to house an exhibit memorializing the history of Brewster Hospital, which will be available to the Brewster and Community Nurses Association for meetings and events at no charge.

**Policy Impact Area:** Lease agreement for property located at 843 West Monroe Street

**Fiscal Impact:** DIA will contribute up to \$50,000, in addition to the \$350,000 lease abatement maximum, towards the construction of on-site parking

**Analyst:** Hampsey

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**Bill Type and Number:** Ordinance 2018-292

**Introducer/Sponsor(s):** Introduced by Council Member K. Brown

**Date of Introduction:** May 8, 2018

**Committee(s) of Reference:** LUZ, R

**Date of Analysis:** May 7, 2018

**Type of Action:** *Ordinance Code* amendment

**Bill Summary:** This bill amends Section 30.203, Part 2 Chapter *Ordinance Code* which pertains to the methods by which the Planning Commission conducts business, specifically deferral requests. The Planning Commission is directed to amend its bylaws to be consistent with *Ordinance Code* change within thirty days of the effective date of this Ordinance.

**Background Information:** The purpose of this legislation is to allow deferral requests for any item on the Planning Commission agenda to be made by a Council Member to the Director of the Planning and Development Department and the Planning Commission Chairperson prior to noon on the Monday preceding a noticed, scheduled meeting. The deferral request will be automatically granted by the Chairperson for up to two cycles (four weeks). The Planning Department shall notify the applicant/agent of the deferral as soon as reasonably possible.

**Policy Impact Area:** Planning Commission deferrals

**Fiscal Impact:** No direct costs to the City

**Analyst:** Hampsey

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**Bill Type and Number:** Ordinance 2018-293

**Introducer/Sponsor(s):** Introduced by Council Member R. Brown

**Date of Introduction:** May 8, 2018

**Committee(s) of Reference:** NCSPHS, TEU, F

**Date of Analysis:** May 7, 2018

**Type of Action:** Appropriation and designation of oversight agency

**Bill Summary:** This bill is an appropriation of \$84,951.07 to provide funding for the installation of a JEA water line in the right-of-way on Citra Avenue, in Council District 10. The Public Works Department will oversee the project and ensure compliance with all other appropriate laws.

**Background Information:** The purpose of this legislation is to provide funding for the installation of a water line in the right-of-way on Citra Avenue, in Council District 10. The funding is coming from Investment Pool Earnings from the 2014 Authorized Capital Projects Subfund.

**Policy Impact Area:** Installation of a JEA water line

**Fiscal Impact:** Appropriation of \$84,951.07 from Investment Pool Earnings-2014 Capital Projects Subfund

**Analyst:** Hampsey

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**Bill Type and Number:** Ordinance 2018-294

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

**Date of Introduction:** May 8, 2018

**Committee(s) of Reference:** NCSPHS, TEU, F

**Date of Analysis:** May 8, 2018

**Type of Action:** Appropriation and CIP amendment

**Bill Summary:** This bill is an appropriation of \$2,580,000 to provide funds for the nine new stormwater projects listed in Revised B.T. 18-040. The 2018-2022 Five-Year Capital Improvement Program for the City and certain of its independent agencies, is amended to include the nine newly established stormwater projects, funded with stormwater reserves from de-appropriated projects and unused funds from the discontinued Septic Tank Phase Out – Lateral Only Connection program, paid to JEA and now being returned.

**Background Information:** The purpose of this legislation is to cover the costs, through reappropriation of existing Pay-go funds, of necessary repairs to the city's drainage system infrastructure. The nine stormwater projects are:

Hare Avenue	\$150,000
Howalt Court	\$175,000
Lily Road E	\$250,000
Longview Drive S	\$300,000
Ponce De Leon Avenue	\$175,000
Spring Street	\$230,000
Thornwood Lane	\$300,000
Sunbeam Road	\$500,000
Via Valencia	\$500,000

**Policy Impact Area:** Drainage system infrastructure

**Fiscal Impact:** This is a reappropriation of \$2,580,000 existing Pay-go and the City will not incur any additional debt.

**Analyst:** Hampsey

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**Bill Type and Number:** Ordinance 2018-295

**Introducer/Sponsor(s):** Council Member Boyer

**Date of Introduction:** May 8, 2018

**Committee(s) of Reference:** NCSPHS, TEU

**Date of Analysis:** May 10, 2018

**Type of Action:** Ordinance Code amendment

**Bill Summary:** The bill amends Ordinance Code Chapter 799 – Local Option Gas Tax – to add a new Section 799.107, Use of the City’s 1 cent gas tax. The new section provides that of the 1 cent of the local option gas tax received by the City, 80% shall be dedicated to roadway maintenance and 20% shall be dedicated to bicycle and pedestrian improvements on or along roadways and City rights-of-way. Funds dedicated for bicycle and pedestrian improvements on City rights-of-way may be expended for new sidewalks, widening existing sidewalks, and new connections to existing sidewalks but no funds shall be used for sidewalk repair projects.

**Background Information:** The City Council, via Ordinance 2013-820-E, extended the life of the 6-cent local option gas tax for an additional 20 years through August 31, 2036. The revenue from 5 cents of the tax is transferred to the JTA for road construction purposes and the revenue from the remaining 1 cent comes to the City, with 80% of the City’s share dedicated to roadway maintenance and 20% dedicated to bicycle and pedestrian improvements. The sharing of the proceeds with the JTA and the 80/20 split in the use of the City’s proceeds, while spelled out in the authorizing ordinance in 2013, was not codified and so does not appear in the Ordinance Code. This bill codifies those provisions regarding the distribution and use of the gas tax proceeds, and clarifies that it was the City Council’s intent that the 20% of the City’s share of the revenues allocated to bicycle and pedestrian improvements was intended to allow use for construction of new sidewalks, new connections to existing sidewalks and widening of existing sidewalks, but may not be used to repair existing sidewalks.

**Policy Impact Area:** Local option gas tax uses

**Fiscal Impact:** The City’s 1 cent share of the 6 cent local option gas tax is budgeted at \$5,068,893 for FY17-18.

**Analyst:** Clements

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**Bill Type and Number:** Ordinance 2018-296

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

**Date of Introduction:** May 8, 2018

**Committee(s) of Reference:** NCSPHS, TEU, F

**Date of Analysis:** May 10, 2018

**Type of Action:** Appropriation; authorizing execution of grant agreement; increase in vehicle cap; designation of oversight agency; request for one-cycle emergency approval

**Bill Summary:** The bill appropriates a \$79,000 U.S. Department of Homeland Security grant to fund the purchase of an anti-vehicle barrier system. It authorizes the administration to execute a grant agreement with the State of Florida Division of Emergency Management for receipt and use of the grant. It increases the vehicle cap in the Sheriff's Office by 1 for the addition of a trailer to carry the apparatus. The Emergency Preparedness Division of the Fire and Rescue Department is designated as the oversight agency for the grant. One-cycle emergency approval is requested.

**Background Information:** The bill approves the acceptance of a grant from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security through the Florida Division of Emergency Management for purchase of a trailer-mounted vehicle barrier apparatus to be used to protect public gatherings and buildings from vehicle-borne threats. No City match is required. The emergency approval is requested because the grant must be expended and the apparatus procured no later than August 31, 2018; manufacturing of the device is estimated to be at least 60 days.

**Policy Impact Area:** Public safety

**Fiscal Impact:** The bill appropriates a \$79,000 U.S. Department of Homeland Security grant with no local match required.

**Analyst:** Clements



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**Bill Type and Number:** Ordinance 2018-297

**Introducer/Sponsor(s):** Council Member K. Brown

**Date of Introduction:** May 8, 2018

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

**Date of Analysis:** May 10, 2018

**Type of Action:** Appropriation

**Bill Summary:** The bill appropriates \$100,000 from the Special Council Reserve – Sheriff account for a Fight Blight public awareness and community education campaign to deter littering.

**Background Information:** In 2002 Jacksonville Community Council Inc. (JCCI) conducted a study of litter in Jacksonville and in 2004 the City Council adopted a Zero Tolerance on Litter Law which mandates that litter be collected from major roadways on a weekly basis, requires placement of trash receptacles at bus and other transit stops and public boat ramps and requires a written and oral annual report by the Mayor to the City Council every April. The code requires the Mayor to submit in the annual budget the amount of funding that would be required to fully fund the program in that year and the amount of millage required to produce that amount of funds.

This bill would appropriate \$100,000 for a public awareness and community education anti-litter campaign. The funding source is the contingency account established in the FY17-18 budget for potential allocation to the Sheriff's salary budget in the event that certain numbers of new officers were hired during the year, which will not happen.

**Policy Impact Area:** Litter prevention

**Fiscal Impact:** The bill appropriates \$100,000 from the Special Council Reserve – Sheriff account.

**Analyst:** Clements

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**Bill Type and Number:** Ordinance 2018-298

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

**Date of Introduction:** May 8, 2018

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

**Date of Analysis:** May 8, 2018

**Type of Action:** Appropriation

**Bill Summary:** The bill appropriates \$300,000.00 from the Downtown Economic Development Fund to fund the University of North Florida (UNF) Downtown Campus, as initiated by B.T. 18-070; approves and authorizes the Chief Executive Officer of the Downtown Investment Authority (DIA) to execute and deliver the Loan Agreement between UNF and the DIA; and provides City oversight by the DIA.

**Background Information:** UNF submitted a proposal to the DIA to establish a Downtown Jacksonville campus in the Barnett Bank Building. The proposal seeks to utilize the 4th and 5th floors for a series of graduate and entrepreneurship educational programs. The classes will be held during evening hours. The programs will have 25 faculty and staff and about 150 students using the satellite location.

The Barnett Bank Building is currently being redeveloped, as part of a larger \$90 million project that includes the Laura Street Trio- bringing a signature hotel, parking, dining, office and residential space, and more. The funds requested from DIA will be an incentive forgivable loan to assist UNF in defraying tenant improvements, capital expenditure, and Tangible Personal Property expenditures. Also, UNF will be provided the ability to purchase parking vouchers at a reduced rate. The funds are in conjunction with \$80,000 held in JEJE75BDED ·08304 (Downtown Economic Development Fund • Forgivable loans) via DIA Board Resolution 2018-02-05.

**Policy Impact Area:** Downtown Economic Fund, University of North Florida

**Fiscal Impact:** The appropriation of \$300,000.00 from the Downtown Economic Development Fund, as initiated by B.T. 18-070.

**Analyst:** Mitchell

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**Bill Type and Number:** Ordinance 2018-301

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

**Date of Introduction:** May 8, 2018

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

**Date of Analysis:** May 8, 2018

**Type of Action:** Ordinance amendment

**Bill Summary:** The bill amends Exhibit 2 to correct the language of Exhibit 2 and lists additional Jacksonville Area Legal Aid (JALA) mission-related activities for which the funds awarded in Ordinance 2017-504-E may be used.

**Background Information:** The City provided a one-time supplement of \$266,000.00 for FY 2017-2018 to cover a shortfall created by reduced collections from Interest on Lawyers Trusts Accounts (IOLTA) sources. The amendment aligns the previous appropriation with JALA's current programming. The payment will be divided into two payments. The additional mission-related activities include 1) community education & outreach; 2) intake; 3) advice and consulting; 4) full representation, limited service, or self-help; and 5) referrals.

**Policy Impact Area:** Jacksonville Area Legal Aid

**Fiscal Impact:** There is no fiscal impact. The amendment adds activities for which the funds may be used.

**Analyst:** Mitchell

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**Bill Type and Number:** Ordinance 2018-302

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

**Date of Introduction:** May 8, 2018

**Committee(s) of Reference:** NCSPHS, LUZ

**Date of Analysis:** May 10, 2018

**Type of Action:** Declaration of surplus property; conveyance of surplus property; authorization to execute documents; Ordinance Code waivers

**Bill Summary:** The bill declares surplus a parcel of property on Basswood Street in Council District 7 and authorizes its conveyance to 2<sup>nd</sup> Mile Ministries, Inc. at no cost for expansion of a community garden. The bill waives two portions of Ordinance Code Chapter 122 – Public Property – to exclude the subject parcel from placement on the Affordable Housing Inventory List and to waive the requirement that surplus parcels valued at or below \$25,000 be sold at public auction.

**Background Information:** The subject parcel in the Brentwood area was conveyed to the City in 2009 by Northeast Florida Builders Care and was conveyed by the City to Metro North Community Development Corporation in 2009. Metro North developed a community garden on the parcel and hired 2<sup>nd</sup> Mile Ministries to manage the garden. In 2016 Metro North CDC re-conveyed the parcel back to the City. 2<sup>nd</sup> Mile Ministries would like to apply for a Neighborhood Matching Grant from the City to expand and improve the garden, but needs to be the owner of the property to apply for a grant. This bill conveys the parcel, valued at \$6,008, to 2<sup>nd</sup> Mile Ministries at no cost.

**Policy Impact Area:** Surplus property disposition

**Fiscal Impact:** The appraised value of the lot being conveyed at no cost is \$6,008.

**Analyst:** Clements

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**Bill Type and Number:** Ordinance 2018-304

**Introducer/Sponsor(s):** Council Member Reggie Brown

**Date of Introduction:** May 8, 2018

**Committee(s) of Reference:** TEU, R

**Date of Analysis:** May 10, 2018

**Type of Action:** Establishing honorary street designation; providing for installation of signs; direction to Legislative Services Division

**Bill Summary:** The bill designates the portion of Vernon Road from 45<sup>th</sup> Street West to Hamilton Circle in Council District 10 as the "Coach Nathaniel Williams Memorial Road". It authorizes the erection of 2 signs at appropriate locations on the road to reflect the honorary naming and directs the City Council's Legislative Services Division to provide a copy of this ordinance upon enactment to the Planning and Development Department, Public Works Department, and any other relevant agency or organization.

**Background Information:** Coach Nathaniel "Boots" Williams was a graduate of Old Stanton High School and Edward Waters College and was the first African-American coach of Pop Warner football in Jacksonville. He coached championship youth teams for many years and was a long-time employee of the U.S. Postal Service. A group of citizens petitioned the City to make the honorary designation and have provided the private funding to erect the signs.

**Policy Impact Area:** Honorary street designation

**Fiscal Impact:** None to City; private donations will pay for erection of the designation signage.

**Analyst:** Clements

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**Bill Type and Number:** Ordinance 2018-305

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

**Date of Introduction:** May 8, 2018

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

**Date of Analysis:** May 8, 2018

**Type of Action:** Appropriation

**Bill Summary:** The bill

- 1) appropriates \$2,746,075.00 from the Contingency Reserve established in Budget Ordinance 2017-504-E for the Kids Hope Alliance to:
  - a) provide the initial twenty-five percent (25%) of funds for the extension or renewal of afterschool, special needs afterschool, and full-service schools programs for the 2018-2019 school year (contract period July 1, 2018, through June 30, 2019);
  - b) provide matching funds for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning Community Grant to operate two afterschool and summer programs for the 2018-2019 school year;
  - c) provide funds to allow the Kids Hope Alliance to continue participation in the vital state-wide Florida Children's Council and the Florida Afterschool Network; and
  - d) restore salaries and benefits transferred to professional services in Ordinance 2018-78-E, as initiated by B.T. 18-072;
- 2) authorizes the Mayor, or his designee, and Corporation Secretary to execute and deliver certain afterschool, special needs afterschool, and full-service schools programs contracts;
- 3) authorizes Kids Hope Alliance appropriation transfer authority between children's programs; invoking the exemption of Section 126.107(g) (Exemptions), Part 1 (General Regulations), Chapter 126 (Procurement Code), *Ordinance Code*, regarding the afterschool, special needs afterschool, and full-service schools programming contracts;
- 4) waives the requirements of Section 77.111(a) (Provider Contracts), Chapter 77 (Kids Hope Alliance), *Ordinance Code*, to exempt the afterschool, special needs afterschool, and full-service schools programming contracts from competitive solicitation.

**Background Information:** The Council approved the Jacksonville Children's Commission/Jax Journey budget with Ordinance 2017-504-E. Funds were 1) designated for school-based mental health through May 31, 2018; and 2) placed in a contingency reserve account pending the establishment of Kids Hope Alliance. The Kids Hope Alliance Board of Directors meeting on April 4, 2018, and authorized the introduction of legislation to have funds appropriated accordingly for the extension or renewal of afterschool, special needs afterschool, and full-service schools programs for the 2018-2019 school year.

**Policy Impact Area:** Kids Hope Alliance

**Fiscal Impact:** The appropriation of \$2,746,075.00 from the contingency reserve, as initiated by B.T. 18-072

**Analyst:** Mitchell

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**Bill Type and Number:** Ordinance 2018-306

**Introducer/Sponsor(s):** Council Member K. Brown

**Date of Introduction:** May 8, 2018

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

**Date of Analysis:** May 10, 2018

**Type of Action:** Ordinance Code amendment

**Bill Summary:** The bill amends Ordinance Code Chapter 11 – Office of Council Secretary – and Chapter 656 – Zoning Code – to make changes with regard to notification of property owners about development requests involving the sale or service of alcoholic beverages. It expands the radius of notification for these requests to be equivalent with the distance provided to churches and schools, and allows those so notified to have “standing” in order to appeal a decision regarding these uses. It also amends Zoning Code Part 8 – Alcoholic Beverages – to clarify what distance requirements apply to which types of alcoholic beverage establishments.

**Background Information:** Currently, in Chapter 11, the Council Secretary is charged with notifying all property owners within a 350’ radius of a rezoning that has been appealed to the court system, and to provide a copy of the complaint. This bill will require the Council Secretary to provide this notice of an appeal to court, and copies of the complaint, to the radius that is equivalent to the notices required for the use request, which in the case of uses containing a component for the sale or service of alcohol will be equivalent to the distance provided to churches and schools pursuant to Part 8 of the Zoning Code.

Currently in Chapter 656, Part 1, the distance for purposes of notification of affected property owners is 350’ from the property of a zoning request – whether it be for a zoning exception, waiver, variance, or a rezoning. This bill will require the Planning Department to provide notice of a request for a use containing a component for the sale or service of alcohol to be equivalent to the distance provided to churches and schools, which, pursuant to Part 8 of the Zoning Code, is 500’ or 1,500’ depending on the type of establishment. This will also expand the number of persons that may appeal a decision (standing) of the Planning Commission or Downtown Development Review Board regarding a request for a use containing a component for the sale or service of alcohol.

Part 8 of the Zoning Code is being amended to more clearly describe the distance separation required between certain types of alcoholic beverages establishments and churches and schools. Because the increased notification for property owners is based upon these distance requirements, it would be advantageous to state these limitations more clearly. The clarification of distance limits from churches and schools for various types of businesses selling and serving alcoholic beverages (beer and wine versus liquor, on-site versus off-site consumption, restaurant versus bar) is as follows:

- Beer and wine for off-premises consumption – no distance limit
- Liquor for off-premises consumption (package store) – 500’ from a church, school or adult entertainment or service facility
- Restaurant (51% food sales) serving beer, wine and liquor - 500 feet from a church or school
- On-premises consumption of liquor in a bar (less than 51% food sales) – 1,500 feet from a church, school or adult entertainment or service facility

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**Bill Type and Number:** Ordinance 2018-307

**Introducer/Sponsor(s):** Council Member Dennis

**Date of Introduction:** May 8, 2018

**Committee(s) of Reference:** TEU, F

**Date of Analysis:** May 10, 2018

**Type of Action:** Appropriation; procurement directive; designation of oversight agency

**Bill Summary:** The bill appropriates \$26,435.84 from the Tree Protection and Related Expenditures Trust Fund (Ordinance Fund) for the planting of 35 trees in the right-of-way of Lenox Avenue between Verna Boulevard and Cassat Avenue in Council District 9. It directs that the trees be planted using the City's continuing contract with Davey Tree Company and designates the Public Works Department as the City's oversight agency for the planting.

**Background Information:** The bill provides funding for site preparation and planting of 35 Chinese Elms and 33 Waxleaf Ligustrum trees. The source of funding is the portion of the Tree Protection and Related Expenditures Trust Fund generated from mitigation payments from the landscape and tree protection ordinance (not the City Charter tree protection provisions).

**Policy Impact Area:** Roadway beautification

**Fiscal Impact:** The bill appropriates \$26,435.84 from the Tree Protection and Related Expenditures Trust Fund (Ordinance Fund).

**Analyst:** Clements



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**Bill Type and Number:** Ordinance 2018-308

**Introducer/Sponsor(s):** Council Member K. Brown

**Date of Introduction:** May 8, 2018

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

**Date of Analysis:** May 8, 2018

**Type of Action:** Establishment of a Homeless Bill of Rights

**Bill Summary:** The bill establishes a Homeless Bill of Rights; declares that a City policy is implemented that incorporates the provisions of the Homeless Bill of Rights as part of regular business in City government; and requests the Mayor's office to take immediate steps to ensure circulation, publishing, and implementation of the Homeless Bill of Rights by all City employees and officials.

**Background Information:** The Homeless Bill of Rights laws affirm that people living on the street have a reasonable expectation of privacy in their property and protection of their civil and human rights. These rights uphold that homeless people have equal rights to medical care, free speech, free movement, voting, opportunities for employment, and privacy.

**Policy Impact Area:** Homelessness

**Fiscal Impact:** None

**Analyst:** Mitchell

**CITY COUNCIL RESEARCH DIVISION**  
**LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY**



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**Bill Type and Number:** Ordinance 2018-309

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

**Date of Introduction:** May 8, 2018

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

**Date of Analysis:** May 10, 2018

**Type of Action:** Authorizing lease amendment; designating oversight agency

**Bill Summary:** The bill authorizes amendment of the lease agreement between the City and Grace Aerospace for industrial and storage space at Cecil Commerce Center in order to increase the space leased by 12,584 square feet. The Office of Economic Development is designated as the City's oversight agency for the lease.

NOTE: see companion bill 2018-286 for economic incentives

**Background Information:** Grace Electronics is a manufacturer of wiring harnesses and other electronic equipment for military aircraft and currently operates with a staff of 45 in 10,146 square feet of space leased from the City at Cecil Commerce Center. The company has been in Jacksonville for 4 years and started with a small manufacturing operation, then expanded its operations and moved its headquarters to Jacksonville with the assistance of economic development incentives approved by Ordinance 2016-727-E. The company now proposes to add an additional 20 jobs over the next 2 years and expand its leased space by 12,584 square feet of industrial space at a monthly base rental rate of \$6,480.76, and 3,276 of storage space at a monthly base rental rate of \$682.50, with all other terms and conditions of the Lease remaining unchanged.

**Policy Impact Area:** Economic development

**Fiscal Impact:** The additional leased space will produce monthly revenue of \$7,163.26.

**Analyst:** Clements

# CITY COUNCIL RESEARCH DIVISION

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**Bill Type and Number:** Ordinance 2018-310

**Introducer/Sponsor(s):** Council Member Morgan

**Date of Introduction:** May 8, 2018

**Committee(s) of Reference:** NCSPHS, R, LUZ

**Date of Analysis:** May 10, 2018

**Type of Action:** Ordinance Code amendment

**Bill Summary:** The bill amends Ordinance Code Chapter – Construction Regulations and Building Codes – to create a new Sec. 320.202 - Commercially Leased Parcels; Approval of Proposed Use Prior to Lease. The new section provides that no owner shall lease or rent commercial property to a tenant or lessee without first obtaining from the Building Inspection Division a Building Confirmation Letter which will confirm the present or last known use of the commercial property, if documented in the Building Inspection Division records, and will provide information as to whether any additions or upgrades may be required for the proposed or intended use according to the Building Code or Fire Code. In lieu of a Building Confirmation Letter, the owner may provide a certification of the present or last known use of the commercial property from the owner's Florida-licensed architect, who is required to inspect the property before issuing such certification letter. The bill also amends Zoning Code Section 656.152 - Certificates of use application and fee – to include a Building Certification Letter or architect's certification as part of the certificate of use application process.

**Background Information:** The new provision is intended to require commercial property owners to inform potential tenants about whether the property under consideration would require any physical or mechanical additions or upgrades to accommodate the tenant's proposed use of the building. The sponsor is attempting to address several instances where tenants have leased commercial spaces with a particular use in mind, only to find that the building does not meet Building Code or Fire Code requirements and needs upgrades to accommodate that use, which the owner will not provide, but also will not release the tenant from the lease agreement.

**Policy Impact Area:** Disclosure of commercial property suitability for intended use

**Fiscal Impact:** Undetermined

**Analyst:** Clements

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**Bill Type and Number:** Ordinance 2018-311

**Introducer/Sponsor(s):** Introduced by Council Member Gulliford

**Date of Introduction:** May 8, 2018

**Committee(s) of Reference:** TEU, F

**Date of Analysis:** May 8, 2018

**Type of Action:** Authorization of a Memorandum of Understanding and a property transfer, designation of oversight agency

**Bill Summary:** This bill authorizes the conveyance of 6.72 acres on Ocean Street in Mayport, Florida from Jacksonville Port Authority (Jaxport) to the City of Jacksonville, according to the terms provided in the Memorandum of Understanding and Property Transfer and Revenue Sharing Agreement. The Real Estate Division of the Department of Public Works shall oversee and manage the conveyance and agreements

**Background Information:** Jaxport owns property in the Village of Mayport, Duval County, Florida originally acquired for development of a cruise terminal. However, Jaxport has a multiyear commitment for continued cruise operations at its existing cruise terminal location and, due to its proximity to Mayport Naval Air Station, use restrictions on the Mayport Property have made it unsuitable for development as a cruise terminal. Jaxport and the City of Jacksonville have worked cooperatively to identify an alternate use for the Mayport Property, but no party has been identified for commercial development. An agreement was reached, and approved by the Jaxport Board, for Jaxport to convey the Mayport Property to the City for \$1.00 and for other good and valuable considerations. This Property Transfer and Revenue Sharing Agreement is for a twenty year period from the conveyance date, and any future net revenue received by the City and derived from the Mayport Property will be shared between the City and Jaxport equally on a 50/50 basis regardless of the source and whether generated from lease payments or sale proceeds.

**Policy Impact Area:** Village of Mayport development

**Fiscal Impact:** Conveyance fee from the City to Jaxport of \$1.00 and 20 year revenue sharing agreement

**Analyst:** Hampsey

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**Bill Type and Number:** Ordinance 2018-312

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

**Date of Introduction:** May 8, 2018

**Committee(s) of Reference:** NCSPHS, TEU, F

**Date of Analysis:** May 8, 2018

**Type of Action:** Appropriation

**Bill Summary:** The bill appropriates \$98,419.00 from Handicapped Parking Fines to provide funds for the required ADA renovations to the Sexual Assault Forensic Exam (S.A.F.E.) Center, as initiated by B.T. 18-071.

**Background Information:** Section 804.1012 (f) of the *Ordinance Code*, permits fees collected for the dismissal of a violation of subsections (a) and (b) of this section may be expended to improve accessibility and equal opportunity to persons with disabilities, to facilitate public awareness, and to defray expenses for the administration of this section. Thus, the funds will cover the renovations at S.A.F.E. Center to improve the accessibility for citizens with disabilities.

**Policy Impact Area:** ADA renovations, S.A.F.E Center

**Fiscal Impact:** The appropriation of \$98,419.00 from Handicapped Parking Fines as initiated by B.T. 18-071.

**Analyst:** Mitchell

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**Bill Type and Number:** Ordinance 2018-313

**Introducer/Sponsor(s):** Council Member Boyer

**Date of Introduction:** May 8, 2018

**Committee(s) of Reference:** NCHPHS, F

**Date of Analysis:** May 10, 2018

**Type of Action:** Authorizing execution of redevelopment agreement; authorizing creation of Community Development District; authorizing execution of interlocal agreement; authorizing execution of infrastructure improvements cost disbursement agreement; authorizing REV grant; authorizing borrowing and appropriation of funds for infrastructure improvements; designation of oversight agency; Public Investment Policy waiver

**Bill Summary:** The bill authorizes execution of a redevelopment agreement, interlocal agreement, infrastructure improvement cost disbursement agreement, and other documents among the City, the Downtown Investment Authority (DIA), Elements Development of Jacksonville, LLC and a to-be-created community development district (CDD) for construction of infrastructure and public improvements associated with construction of The District – A Life Well Lived mixed use development on the site of the former JEA Southside Generating Station. The bill authorizes a Recapture Enhanced Value (REV) grant in the maximum amount of \$56,025,000 payable over 20 years, to be calculated as the lesser of 75% of 95% of all city and county ad valorem taxes on the property paid by any taxpayer on the increased value of the parcel above the base tax year of 2018 OR of the total amount of principal and interest on bonds issued to fund the CDD infrastructure budget, plus fees associated with ongoing administration and payment of those bonds, plus cost of any credit enhancements on the bonds, to the extent that the CDD board elects to utilize credit enhancements. The bill authorizes borrowing and appropriation of up to \$23 million to be loaned to the Downtown Investment Authority to pay for a portion of Southside Community Redevelopment Area public space and related infrastructure improvements.

The bill waives provisions of the Procurement Code (except that no portion of the Jacksonville Small and Emerging Business Program requirements shall be waived) and authorizes the City to directly purchase certain construction materials and other items for the CRA infrastructure improvements project. The bill invokes the directed procurement exception to competitive bidding requirements as authorized in the Procurement Code because the acquisition of goods and supplies is directed by the ordinance appropriating the funds for that purpose. A set of requirements for the acquisition of construction materials by the City for use by other parties is established.

The Mayor is designated as the authorized official of the City for purposes of executing and delivering contracts and documents (an authority which he may subsequently delegate) and the DIA is required to administer and monitor the redevelopment agreement. The Department of Public Works and the CEO of the DIA are designated to oversee the construction of the contemplated projects.

A 90 day deadline is placed on the execution of the redevelopment agreement by the developer and other parties (aside the City and DIA) after the City has delivered the agreement to those parties for execution, after which the City's approval becomes null and void. The CEO of the DIA may extend the deadline, at his discretion, for up to an additional 90 days. The bill waives the requirement of the Public Investment Policy that REV grants must be

made to projects in a Targeted Industry Category and must create at least 10 full-time jobs at greater than or equal to 100% of the state average wage.

**Background Information:** After considerable negotiations and several iterations of a deal structure, the JEA, DIA and Elements Development of Jacksonville, LLC have agreed on a financial framework for accomplishing the construction of The District – A Life Well Lived on the Southbank of downtown adjacent to the School Board headquarters. The construction of public infrastructure for the project will be accomplished through two mechanisms: 1) creation of a Community Development District (CDD) with bond issuance and special assessment authority to construct infrastructure aiding in the development of the site and benefitting private properties, and 2) construction of public spaces and related infrastructure with financing provided by the Southbank Community Redevelopment Area tax increment district via the DIA.

The CDD will be created by the developer and will be responsible for constructing roads and utilities to serve the private development and several pocket parks. The estimated cost of the CDD-provided infrastructure is \$30 million, plus the costs related to bond issuance and principal and interest payments, and the estimated total assessed value of the property at build-out will be \$215.9 million. The bill authorizes a REV grant to the CDD of 75% of 95% of incremental taxes collected above the base year from the issuance of the first Certificate of Occupancy to the expiration of the Southbank CRA, in the amount of the lesser of either: a) \$56,025,000 or b) \$30,000,000 plus costs related to the CDD bond issuance and principal and interest payments. The public spaces (Riverwalk extension, bulkhead, public parks and trails) will be paid initially by the DIA after the execution of a cost reimbursement agreement with the developer which will provide for reimbursement to the DIA from the tax increment generated by new development in the CRA.

**Policy Impact Area:** Downtown Development; public amenities development

**Fiscal Impact:** The City commits to payment of a REV grant of the lesser of \$56,025,000 or b) \$30,000,000 plus costs related to the CDD bond issuance and principal and interest payments on the infrastructure serving private development. The DIA commits to up to \$25 million from the Southbank CRA for public improvements.

**Analyst:** Clements

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**Bill Type and Number:** Resolution 2018-322

**Sponsor:** Council President at the request of the Mayor

**Date of Introduction:** May 8, 2018

**Committee(s) of Reference:** R

**Date of Analysis:** May 8, 2018

**Type of Action:** Appointment Confirmation

**Bill Summary:** This bill confirms the appointment of Diana Donovan, to the Cultural Council of Greater Jacksonville, replacing Penny Thompson, for a partial term ending September 30, 2018, followed by a first full term ending September 30, 2021.

**Background Information:** The Cultural Council of Greater Jacksonville is designated pursuant to Chapter 118, Part 6, *Ordinance Code*, as the agent of the City for the purposes of determining and authorizing the allocation of a lump sum Cultural Service Grant and Capital Grant appropriation designated in the annual budget ordinance or in supplemental appropriation ordinances as being appropriated for eligible recipients. Section 118.602, *Ordinance Code*, provides that the membership of the council shall include six members appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by the City Council.

Ms. Donovan received a master's degree in organizational leadership from Jacksonville University and is the Director of the Office of the President at *Jacksonville University*. She serves on a number of community organizations including the Women's Giving Alliance and the Women's Center Board of Directors. Ms. Donovan resides within Council District #1.

**Policy Impact Area:** Cultural Council of Greater Jacksonville

**Fiscal Impact:** Anticipated to be minimal.

**Analyst:** Shoup



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**Bill Type and Number:** Resolution 2018-323

**Sponsor:** Council President at the request of the Mayor

**Date of Introduction:** May 8, 2018

**Committee(s) of Reference:** R

**Date of Analysis:** May 8, 2018

**Type of Action:** Appointment Confirmation

**Bill Summary:** This bill confirms the Mayor's appointment of Kyle Meenan as a member of the Jacksonville Human Rights Commission, replacing Andrew Messer, for a partial term ending December 31, 2018.

**Background Information:** The Jacksonville Human Rights Commission is established pursuant to Chapter 60, *Ordinance Code*, and charged to promote and encourage fair treatment and equal opportunity for all persons regardless of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, marital or familial status; and promote mutual understanding and respect among all economic, social, racial, religious and ethnic groups; and endeavor to eliminate discrimination against, and antagonism between, religious, racial and ethnic groups and their members. Section 60.101, *Ordinance Code*, provides that the 11 members of the commission shall be appointed by the Mayor, subject to confirmation by the Council, and shall reside or be employed in the City for their entire term.

Mr. Meenan received a bachelor's degree in broadcast journalism and marketing from the Boston University College of Communications and is a Realtor with *Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty*. He has served on a number of community organizations including Habijax and the Justice Coalition. He resides within District #3.

**Policy Impact Area:** Jacksonville Human Rights Commission operations

**Fiscal Impact:** Anticipated to be minimal.

**Analyst:** Shoup

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**Bill Type and Number:** Resolution 2018-324

**Sponsor:** Council President at the request of the Mayor

**Date of Introduction:** May 8, 2018

**Committee(s) of Reference:** R

**Date of Analysis:** May 8, 2018

**Type of Action:** Appointment Confirmation

**Bill Summary:** This bill confirms the Mayor's appointment of Joel Powell as a member of the Civil Service Board, replacing James Register, for a first full term ending June 30, 2019.

**Background Information:** The Civil Service Board is established pursuant to Article 17, *Jacksonville Charter*, and charged to periodically review the operation and effect of the personnel provisions of the charter, the classification plan, and the pay plan, and report their findings to the council and the mayor; hear and determine appeals initiated by employees who are charged with personnel violations; hear and determine complaints by employees and prospective employees concerning alleged violations of civil service rules or regulations with respect to hiring and promotion; hear and determine the grievance of persons covered by the civil service rules or the grievance of persons who may be entitled to be covered concerning any action taken which pertains to employment rights.

Section 17.02, *Jacksonville Charter*, provides that five of the members of the Civil Service Board shall be appointed by the Mayor, subject to the confirmation by the City Council.

Mr. Powell received a law degree from the University of Florida Levin College of Law and is a Certified Fraud Examiner. He is employed as Fraud Review Counsel with *Fidelity National Financial*. Mr. Powell resides within Council District #4.

**Policy Impact Area:** Civil Service Board operations

**Fiscal Impact:** Anticipated to be minimal

**Analyst:** Shoup

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**Bill Type and Number:** Resolution 2018-325

**Sponsor:** Council President at the request of the Mayor

**Date of Introduction:** May 8, 2018

**Committee(s) of Reference:** R

**Date of Analysis:** May 8, 2018

**Type of Action:** Reappointment Confirmation

**Bill Summary:** This bill confirms the Mayor's reappointment of Craig A. Gibbs to the Downtown Investment Authority, as a Southbank CRA substantial business interest representative, for a second full term ending June 30, 2020.

**Background Information:** The Downtown Investment Authority is established pursuant to Chapter 55, Part 3, *Ordinance Code*, and charged as the sole development and community redevelopment agency for Downtown for the City of Jacksonville pursuant to Chapter 163, Part III, *Florida Statutes*. Section 55.307(b)(1), *Ordinance Code*, provides that five of the nine members of the board be appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by Council, in various categories, including an individual with a substantial business interest in the Southbank CRA.

Mr. Gibbs received a law degree from Case Western Reserve University and is a managing partner with the *Law Office of Craig Gibbs, P.A.* He currently serves on a number of community organizations including the Clara White Mission and AME Housing Agency of Florida. Mr. Gibbs resides within Council District #4.

**Attendance:** According to information provided by the staff for the committee, Mr. Gibbs has attended 94% (46 of 49) of the meetings during his current term.

**Policy Impact Area:** Downtown Investment Authority Board operations

**Fiscal Impact:** Anticipated to be minimal

**Analyst:** Shoup

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**Bill Type and Number:** Resolution 2018-327

**Introducer/Sponsor(s):** Council Member Dennis

**Date of Introduction:** May 8, 2018

**Committee(s) of Reference:** R

**Date of Analysis:** May 10, 2018

**Type of Action:** Expression of Council sentiment

**Bill Summary:** The bill urges Aaron Zahn, Interim CEO of JEA, to abstain from applying for the permanent CEO position and urges the JEA board of directors not to consider Mr. Zahn as a viable candidate for the position should he apply for the permanent job.

**Background Information:** Mr. Zahn was appointed to the JEA board in February 2018 and resigned from the board recently when he was appointed Interim CEO. At the time of his appointment to the JEA board, Mr. Zahn was Managing Partner and CEO of Pascal Partners, a distributed infrastructure and development company. For 8 years prior he was Chairman and CEO of BCR Environmental Corporation, a water and wastewater technology firm, and its subsidiary, NuTerra, a project development and services company deploying innovative technologies for organics waste recycling facilities. Prior to that Mr. Zahn worked in investment management. He does not have prior experience managing a utility company.

**Policy Impact Area:** JEA management

**Fiscal Impact:** None

**Analyst:** Clements

## CITY COUNCIL RESEARCH DIVISION LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY

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**Bill Type and Number:** Ordinance 2018-328

**Introducer/Sponsor(s):** Council President at the request of the Supervisor of Elections

**Date of Introduction:** May 8, 2018

**Committee(s) of Reference:** R

**Date of Analysis:** May 10, 2018

**Type of Action:** Declaration of vacancy of office; providing for special election; emergency approval requested

**Bill Summary:** The bill declares the office of Duval County Tax Collector to be vacant and directs the Supervisor of Elections to hold a special election on August 28, 2018 to fill the vacancy. One-cycle emergency approval is requested.

**Background Information:** Tax Collector Michael Corrigan has tendered a letter of resignation effective June 1, 2018 in order to accept appointment as President and CEO of Visit Jacksonville, Inc. The City Charter provides that a vacancy in the office of Tax Collector shall be filled for the remainder of the unexpired term by election of a tax collector at a special election to be called pursuant to resolution of the city council and held on a date no sooner than 1 month and no later than 6 months after the vacancy occurs. If a tax collector submits a resignation which is effective at a date later than that on which it is submitted, the city council may, by resolution, call a special election for the election of a successor, this special election to be held on a date not less than 1 month after the date the resignation is submitted nor more than 6 months prior to the date the resignation is effective; and such special election shall, if possible, be held in conjunction with any other election scheduled to be held within the county.

Emergency approval on one cycle is requested in order to provide the Supervisor of Elections with the maximum notice to plan for the layout of the August ballot and to provide for a sufficient qualifying period for potential candidates.

**Policy Impact Area:** Filling vacant elective office

**Fiscal Impact:** Minimal, unless the special election should create a need for an additional ballot page.

**Analyst:** Clements

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**Bill Type and Number:** Resolution 2018-329

**Sponsor:** Council President Brosche

**Date of Introduction:** May 8, 2018

**Committee(s) of Reference:** R

**Date of Analysis:** May 8, 2018

**Type of Action:** Reappointment Confirmation

**Bill Summary:** This bill confirms the reappointment of Stephen E. Tocknell to the Context Sensitive Streets Standards Committee, as a representative of the urban priority area / urban area, for a first full term ending July 31, 2020.

**Background Information:** The Context Sensitive Streets Standards Committee is established pursuant to Chapter 32, Part 7, *Ordinance Code*, and charged to review and revise the City standard specifications, City standard details and rules, standards and policies set forth in the Land Development Procedures Manual and any other regulations, relating to transportation, traffic engineering and roadway design, and make recommendations concerning amendments to the Ordinance Code and 2030 Comprehensive Plan pertaining to such issues on or before March 1, 2014. Section 32.702(b)(2), *Ordinance Code*, provides for six of the thirteen members of the committee to be appointed by the Council President and confirmed by Council, in various categories, including a representative of the urban priority area / urban area as defined by the 2030 Comprehensive Plan.

Mr. Tocknell received a master's degree in transportation from Northwestern University and is the Vice President and Project Manager of *Tocknell Planning Services, LLC* and Program Delivery Manager for the *Federal Emergency Management Agency*. He resides within Council District #14 and the 2030 Comprehensive Plan Urban Area designation.

**Attendance:** According to information provided by the staff for the committee, Mr. Tocknell has attended 87% (41 of 47) of the meetings during his current term.

**Policy Impact Area:** Context Sensitive Streets Standards Committee operations

**Fiscal Impact:** Anticipated to be minimal

**Analyst:** Shoup

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**Bill Type and Number:** Ordinance 2018-331

**Introducer/Sponsor(s):** Council Member Carter

**Date of Introduction:** May 8, 2018

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

**Date of Analysis:** May 10, 2018

**Type of Action:** Appropriation transfer; CIP amendment; designation of oversight agency

**Bill Summary:** The bill transfers \$750,000 within Subfund 32E from the Maxville Park – Football Field and Concessions Building project to the Cecil Field – Phase II project to fund the design and engineering of Phase II of the Cecil Field Master Plan. The 2018-22 Capital Improvement Program is amended to reflect the decrease in funding for Maxville Park project and the increase in the Cecil Field Phase II project. The Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department is designated as the oversight agency for the project.

**Background Information:** Subfund 32E is a capital projects Subfund. This bill transfers funding from a project to build a concessions building and make other improvements around the football field at Maxville Park to a Cecil Field project to provide design and engineering services for the layout of primary and secondary roads servicing ballfields, parking and restroom and concession buildings at the Cecil Field recreation center.

**Policy Impact Area:** Recreation improvements

**Fiscal Impact:** The bill transfers \$750,000 within Subfund 32E from a Maxville Park project to a Cecil Field project.

**Analyst:** Clements

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**Bill Type and Number:** Resolution 2018-332

**Introducer/Sponsor(s):** Council Members R. Brown, Anderson, Becton, Bowman, Boyer, Brosche, K. Brown, Carter, Crescimbeni, Dennis, Ferraro, Gaffney, Gulliford, Hazouri, Love, Morgan, Newby and Wilson

**Date of Introduction:** May 8, 2018

**Committee(s) of Reference:** None

**Date of Analysis:** May 10, 2018

**Type of Action:** Expression of Council sentiment; direction to Chief of Legislative Services

**Bill Summary:** The bill expresses the City Council's support for Duval County School Board Resolution 2017-04 that opposes the changes in the state's graduation requirements, including increasing concordant scores for attainment on the Florida Standards Assessment or alternative assessments. The Chief of Legislative Services is directed to provide copies of the adopted resolution to the Duval County School Board, the Duval Legislative Delegation, the Florida Board of Education and the Florida Department of Education.

**Background Information:** The Florida Department of Education is considering making changes to the state's graduation requirements that would have the effect of reducing the county's high school graduation rate by making alternatives to the FCAT more difficult. The state proposes to increase concordant scores (the scores determined to be equivalent to passing scores on the FCAT) on the SAT and ACT tests and to eliminate the Postsecondary Education Readiness Test (PERT) as a concordant assessment or alternative to demonstrating FCAT equivalency. The School Board estimates that increasing the FCAT equivalency scores on the SAT and ACT and eliminating the PERT as an alternative to FCAT will reduce the district's graduation rate by 7-11% overall, and by 12-30% in Title1 schools with a disproportionate number of students living in poverty. The School Board resolution cites the district's substantially improving academic performance in recent years and states that multiple pathways to earning a high school diploma are essential to delivering a customized, student-centered education in the county.

**Policy Impact Area:** high school graduation rates

**Fiscal Impact:** None to City

**Analyst:** Clements