**Bill Type and Number:** Ordinance 2014-0008

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

**Date of Introduction:** January 14, 2014

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

**Date of Analysis:** January 16, 2014

**Type of Action:** Appropriation

**Bill Summary:** The ordinance appropriates $55,568 from Jacksonville Journey to Duval County Teen Court Program to cover the salary of two part-time contracted employees in order to increase the number of first-time juvenile offenders serviced.

**Background Information:** In January of 2009, the Duval County Teen Court program was transferred from the State Attorney's Office, 4th Circuit to the Office of the Court Administrator, 4th Judicial Circuit. Teen Court is a diversion program designated for first-time, misdemeanor offenders between the ages of 10 – 17. It gives these juveniles a second chance yet holds them accountable for their actions. The program directs cases away from the juvenile courts and provides a forum for defendants (who have admitted guilt) to explain their involvement in a criminal offense. The program places a high priority on educating teens about citizenship and accepting responsibility for their actions. In some cases juvenile participants are given stern consequences for those actions.

**Policy Impact Area:** Neighborhoods Department

**Fiscal Impact:** The ordinance appropriates $55,568.00

**Analyst:** Mitchell