

**COPY**

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January 14, 2025

Via Certified Mail: #7009 0080 0001 3050 3347

Office of the General Counsel  
Attn. Michael T. Fackler, Esquire  
117 West Duval Street, Suite 117  
Jacksonville, FL. 32202

Re: Alvin Wellington Barlow, Sr. vs. The Consolidated City of Jacksonville – Declaratory, Injunctive, and Monetary Relief pursuant to F.S. § 125.0231 – Public camping & sleeping

Dear Mr. Fackler,

Please accept this correspondence as official notice of planned litigation against the so called Consolidated City of Jacksonville, Florida, (COJ) pursuant to “F.S. § 125.0231 – Public camping and public sleeping.” Section (4)(a) specifies

“[a]resident of the county, an owner of a business located in the county, or the Attorney General may bring a civil action in any court of competent jurisdiction against the county or applicable municipality to enjoin a violation of section (2). If the resident or business owner prevails in a civil action, the court may award reasonable expenses incurred in bringing the civil action, including court costs, reasonable attorney fees, investigative costs, witness fees, and deposition costs.”

The COJ has negligently failed, and continues to fail, to adhere to the minimum requirements of F.S. § 125.0231 as particularized below. In compliance with F.S. § 768.286(a)(b) along with COJ ordinances Sec. 112.203 and Sec. 112.205, the undersigned submits the following:

1. Claimant: Alvin Wellington Barlow, Sr., 625 W. Union Street, Suite 1, Jacksonville, FL 32202. Date & Place of Birth: [REDACTED], Jacksonville, Florida, SSN: [REDACTED]
2. Date/Time/Place of Injury: The issue and injuries have been ongoing in Duval County decades, however, in compliance with the aforesaid law, the basis for this claim started 12:01AM, October 1, 2024, and has continued through January 1, 2025, on up to and through the date of this statutory notice.
3. Description of Injury/Damage: The claimant is suffering emotional distress, mental anguish, and heartbreak having personally witnessed and/or been directly informed of

poor, needy, homeless (female and male) citizens urinating, defecating, sleeping, giving birth, suffering, dying of hypothermia, heatstroke and other ailments and/or being murdered near claimant's place of business. Claimant is further being damaged in that the aesthetics around claimant's law office are deteriorating while scores of millions of taxpayers' hard-earned monies are being given away in "economic incentives" in the form of grants and/or forgivable loans (effectively corporate welfare) to wealthy business owners and developers to fund new and/or renovate existing professional sports facilities, restaurants, condominiums, apartments and the like. As a current example, today, January 14, 2025, the city council will vote on the approval of no less than \$11,600,000.00 on such projects that are much less important than the health, safety, welfare and lives of homeless women and children. (Ordinances: #2024-949 for \$70,296, #2024-986 for \$14,259,541.75, #2024-991 for \$500,000, #2025-18 for \$892,698.32, #2025-22 for \$1,100,000, and #2025-27 for \$152,362).

Conversely, rather than providing help and housing for the homeless with such funds as F.S. § 125.0231 directs, the COJ expends a pauper's sum of tax dollars for a few additional, albeit insufficient, shelter spaces and one-way bus tickets to incentivize homeless citizens to leave the city or face incarceration (for being homeless). The foregoing activity continues to pose risks to the health, safety, and welfare of business owners, patrons, and homeless persons who are still camping in public, despite current winter temperatures ranging from the low 30's at night to highs of between 56 and 64 degrees during the day.

To the undersigned's best knowledge and belief, the COJ has failed to meet the statutory requirement to designate city owned property within the boundaries of the COJ for the purposes of public camping or sleeping pursuant to sub-paragraph (3) of F.S. § 125.0231. Even though it is public knowledge that there are insufficient available beds in existing homeless shelters to house the city's homeless population, (<https://jaxtoday.org/2024/11/12/jacksonville-beds-homeless/>) the COJ has negligently and/or intentionally failed to provide temporary shelter for the homeless. Furthermore, the COJ has failed to meet the F.S. § 125.0231 requirement to seek certification from the Department of Children and Families (DCF) that there are insufficient open beds in homeless shelters in the county to accommodate the homeless population of the county.

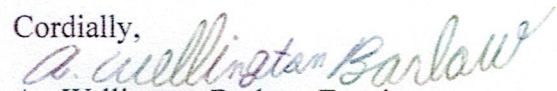
Although the COJ has developed what it calls the "*Jacksonville Homeless Plan to Address the Passage of State Law HB #1366*," now known as F.S. § 125.0231, the same woefully fails to meet the statutory intent, nor is it even a good faith effort to temporarily house scores of children, women, and men who continue to suffer homelessness and perish on the streets of Jacksonville. (Composite Exhibit "A") One-hundred twenty-one (121) persons died "*while experiencing homelessness*" on the (mean, selfish, unforgiving, and monetarily merciless) streets of the "Consolidated City of Jacksonville" (a misnomer) in 2024, 2023, and 2022. This count consists of 42 human souls in 2024, 48 human souls in 2023, and 31 human souls in 2022, all of whom are precious and priceless in the omniscient eyes of Almighty God. Composite Exhibit "B" reflects the names of those we lost to homelessness in our "fair city" over the last three years. The so called "*Homeless Plan*" fails to meet the bare minimum state mandated requirements of F.S. §

125.0231 and thereby authorizes litigation to enforce the state mandated requirement to secure accommodations that will prevent life-threatening public camping and thereby protect homeless citizens, the public at large as well as public and private businesses.

4. Names of agents/employees involved (and/or who may be witnesses): The City of Jacksonville, c/o Mayor Donna Deegan, Sheriff T.K. Waters, current city council members Ken Amaro, Michael Boylan, Joe Carlucci, Matt. Carlucci, Kevin Carrico, Rory Diamond, Nick Howland, Terrance Freeman, Ju'Coby Pittman, Ron Salem, Randy White, (President), along with former council members Al Ferraro, Randy DeFoor, and former Jacksonville Mayors Lenny Curry and Alvin Brown. Additional agents and/or witnesses are all current and/or former members of the "*Mayor's Homeless Work Group*" and all who participated in the "Mayor's Homelessness Sub-committee" of the "Critical Quality of Life Issues Homelessness Working Group" in 2022.
5. Relief Sought: (1) Declaratory judgment particularizing how the COJ is actively and unlawfully failing to comply with F.S. § 125.0231. (2) Injunctive relief directing the COJ to comply with section three of F.S. § 125.0231, all sub-parts of the same along with ancillary tort law relief including, but by absolutely no means limited to, monetary damages to provide substantive help and permanent supportive housing for homeless persons who would be availed of assistance including, but not limited to, voluntary options for Christian or secular counseling addressing substance abuse, budgeting, and financial assistance. (3) Recovery of reasonable attorney fees and reasonable costs. (4) There are no prior adjudicated unpaid claims over \$200.

The failure of the COJ to adhere to the state mandated requirements of F.S. § 125.0231 has caused and continues to cause pain, suffering, and death to homeless persons sleeping in third-world conditions while the COJ continues to lavish tax-dollars on millionaires and billionaires to fund private industries at the expense of the poor, the middle-class, taxpayers and small and medium sized business owners. No so called "world class city" neglects and/or abuses the poor like the COJ has done in the past, is doing in the present, but will hopefully be enjoined from continuing to do so in the future. The undersigned hereby formally notifies the COJ that it has woefully failed to meet the bare minimum requirements of the aforesaid statutory law and hereby demands immediate compliance. In accordance with the foregoing allegations, the appropriate causes of action will be instituted in the appropriate federal or state tribunal against the COJ within the time frame specified by applicable case and statutory law. The prospective style of any cause of action to be brought will be Alvin Wellington Barlow, Sr., and/or A. Wellington Barlow, Esquire, Attorney and Counselor at Law vs. The City of Jacksonville, c/o Donna Deegan, Mayor.

Cordially,

  
A. Wellington Barlow, Esquire

cc: Florida Department of Insurance  
Post Office Box 6200  
Tallahassee, FL 32314-6200

# Exhibit "A"



**A New Day.**

## **Homelessness Plan to Address the Passage of State Law #1365**

**"HB #1365: Unauthorized Public Camping and Public Sleeping"**

**2024 - 2025**

## Members of the Mayor's Homelessness Work Group

### Co-Leads

Joshua Hicks, City of Jacksonville  
Tracye Polson, Mayor's Office, City of Jacksonville

### Participants

David Clark, D.E.S.C.  
Nicholas Damone, Jr., Jacksonville Sheriff's Office  
Vanessa Dunn, Jacksonville Housing Authority  
Will Evans, Changing Homelessness  
Cindy Funkhouser, Sulzbacher  
Dawn Gilman, Changing Homelessness, Inc.  
Coretta Hill, United Way  
Travis Jeffrey, City of Jacksonville  
Gary Judd, Trinity Rescue Mission  
Jim Kowalski, Jacksonville Legal Aid Society  
Johnetta Moore, City of Jacksonville  
Shannon Nazworth, Ability Housing, Inc.  
Gail Patin, Hubbard House  
James Ricks, Jacksonville Sheriff's Office  
Colleen Rodriguez, Jewish Family & Community Services  
Alex Sifakis, JWB  
Paul Stasi, City Rescue Mission  
Thomas Waters, City of Jacksonville  
Jeff Winkler, B.E.A.M.

# **Jacksonville Homelessness Plan to Address the Passage of State Law HB #1365**

## **Introduction:**

With the Florida State Legislature passing the anti-camping bill, HB #1365, Mayor Donna Deegan directed her administration to bring together stakeholders working with the homeless population to devise a strategic plan to significantly address this issue. This plan mitigates homelessness and if followed, has the potential to achieve **functional zero** in Jacksonville. Functional zero is the term used to describe when the number of individuals who become homeless is the same number as those who find permanent housing during the same year. The recommendations below in this document were taken from that five-year strategic plan, as they deal with enforcing and responding to the passage of the state law, HB #1365, which must be implemented and enforced locally by October 1, 2024.

## **Recommendation #1**

### **Identify a point person within the Mayor's Office to oversee this plan**

Identifying a point person to lead this effort was the top recommendation from the work group. Dr. Tracye Polson, the Director of Strategic Partnerships in the Mayor's Office, will oversee the execution of this homelessness plan. A single person dedicated to understanding and coordinating all homeless initiatives within the City of Jacksonville will ensure resources are optimized and opportunities are not missed.

## **Recommendation #2**

### **Expand and improve the homelessness management data collection system (HMIS)**

Reliable and transparent data must drive and document this initiative. The homeless data collection system is known as the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS). This web-based software application is available to all members of the Northeast Florida Continuum of Care and is used to coordinate services, manage operations, and better serve clients.

### **Recommendation #3**

#### **Increase homeless outreach teams to ensure that all parts of Duval County are covered daily and nightly**

Increasing homeless outreach teams will ensure all parts of Duval County receive consistent and comprehensive support, both day and night. This expanded coverage will help address immediate needs of those who are unsheltered, connect individuals to shelters and resources, and ultimately reduce homelessness throughout Jacksonville.

### **Recommendation #4**

#### **Increase shelter bed capacity by working with existing shelter facilities**

Utilize current bed capacity to 100% and add 136 more bed capacity as needed in the existing four (4) shelter facilities in year one by responding to the changing need in number of beds (capacity) based on new demographic trends (large uptick in homeless women and persons aged 55+, and the need for low barrier shelter).

### **Recommendation #5**

#### **Every shelter enters bed availability daily into Client Track (HMIS)**

There are five (5) shelters currently operating in Duval County. Additional staff will ensure that bed availability is entered daily into Client Track (HMIS) and all partner agencies and law enforcement have access in real time to the beds available and will have a hotline number to call to access them. Coverage at the shelters will include nights and weekends (currently no access to this information). This will allow real-time updates to the HMIS system and help promote and expand the "No Wrong Door" policy, **while creating a 24/7 system of homelessness support.**

### **Recommendation #6**

#### **Develop "No Wrong Door" (all doors are open) strategy for coordinated intake**

Develop 'No Wrong Door' (all doors are open) strategy for Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Coordinated Intake – intakes will happen all over the city with different agencies. The goal will be to ensure that available beds are always known and up to date. Staff will be trained to do

outreach, intakes, assessments, and enter data into HMIS (HUD Homeless Management Information System), work with clients to gather all necessary documentation for programs, staff the By Name List and case conferencing meetings, and refer clients to eligible programs. They intersect between outreach staff and moving into a housing program with case managers. Coordinated Intake handles finding locations of shelters, working on the initial assessment of the individual, identifying if it's a critical situation, and collecting all documents that are needed.

### **Recommendation #7**

**COJ will contract with provider(s) for housing focused case management support for low barrier shelter and non-congregate shelter.**

Outreach and engagement of the city's street homeless must ensure wraparound services are provided to help individuals get on their feet. The need for more case management support is paramount to reaching "functional zero" of homeless individuals in Jacksonville. These case managers would be housed at the "homeless village," the hotels, and shelters to provide education, services, and to help move people to permanent housing, thereby getting us to "functional zero" homeless. This means the number of individuals becoming homeless will equal the number of individuals moving into permanent housing. Case managers work with individuals directly to move them into housing and work with them to get their lives in order.

### **Recommendation #8**

**COJ to contract with hotels to secure up to 200 non-congregate shelter beds**

To provide more shelter opportunities, and to respond to the need for new available shelter space, the City of Jacksonville will contract with hotels for up to 200 rooms as non-congregate shelters. 100 rooms have been identified as being able to shelter two (2) people at once.

### **Recommendation #9**

**COJ will contract with a developer to create a non-congregate, low barrier bridge shelter village (container/"ModPod") for a pilot of 100 beds located adjacent to the Urban Rest Stop or another location as determined by HB #1365**

The state's anti-camping legislation (HB #1365,) requires municipalities and local governments to implement the state law prohibiting individuals from camping on public city streets, sidewalks, and parks. Instead, local governments are authorized to build temporary encampments or



shelters to place homeless individuals, for local governments to enforce the law and the unfunded mandate.

## **Recommendation #10**

### **All shelters, in partnership, develop a 24/7 intake plan for staff and policies**

This recommendation is a policy recommendation. Jacksonville currently does not have a 24/7 shelter system or intake plan. To mitigate homelessness, and to enforce the state law (HB #1365) passed in 2024, the City of Jacksonville must create policies and procedures to keep shelters (or at least one shelter) open 24/7 for intake of new homeless residents.

## **Recommendation #11**

### **COJ to expand the Homeward Bound Program**

Jacksonville Sheriff's Office (JSO) runs a homeward bound program, in coordination with Downtown Vision, Inc., that helps homeless residents in Jacksonville relocate to a stable location back to where they lived before becoming homeless (back to their permanent home). Other cities are identifying communities that are not addressing their homelessness crisis and are transporting their homeless to those cities across the country. We will address this by bringing individuals back to their original communities, their permanent homes, so that they can receive the help, support, and treatment they need from those who know them best. This also allows Jacksonville to devote its resources to only those individuals who live here.

## **Recommendation #12**

### **Expand and Increase Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) Programs**

Housing is the solution to homelessness. There are two ways to increase access to housing: development of new affordable units and making existing market housing affordable. With regards to homeless interventions, Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) provides long-term housing coupled with supportive, wraparound services for individuals experiencing chronic homelessness and others with significant barriers. This recommendation will monitor the Ability Housing PSH pilot program just launched with the City of Jacksonville and determine its success and growth potential for 2025. It will also expand support for the award-winning Mental Health Offender Program (MHOP) PSH program.

## Total Costs Overview

*(from all recommendations listed above for year one funding needs)*

The costs, listed below, are for each of the recommendations listed above for one year. Some of the costs are adjustable and could be decreased, based on need. You can find the total costs, over five years, in the overall five-year strategic plan to end homelessness – to be released at a later date once fully completed. This 2024 investment will ensure that Jacksonville not only addresses homelessness and the newly enacted state law (HB #1365), this year as required, but will continue to invest in mitigating homelessness through incorporating the rest of the five-year strategic plan in the years ahead.

Recommendation #1:	\$0.00
Recommendation #2:	\$459,917.00
Recommendation #3:	\$590,800.00
Recommendation #4:	\$1,790,000.00
Recommendation #5:	\$650,520.00
Recommendation #6:	\$567,840.00
Recommendation #7:	\$1,318,200.00
Recommendation #8:	\$4,547,400.00
Recommendation #9:	\$3,218,275.00
Recommendation #10:	\$0.00
Recommendation #11:	\$50,000.00
Recommendation #12:	\$447,500.00

**Total maximum costs (year one) to fully implement the state law (HB #1365):**

**\$13,640,452.00**

## City



## Announces Plan to Mitigate Homelessness and Address Florida HB 1365

July 22, 2024

In a press conference this morning, Mayor Donna Deegan announced the city's new plan to mitigate homelessness and address Florida HB 1365, the new state law that makes it illegal to sleep in public spaces as of **October 1, 2024**.

She was joined by Councilman **Michael Boylan**, Undersheriff **Shawn Coarsey**, Sulzbacher Center CEO **Cindy Funkhouser**, and Changing Homelessness CEO **Dawn Gilman**. Administration staff **Tracye Polson** and **Joshua Hicks** also joined as co-leads of the 21-person working group that developed the plan.

The plan focuses on data-driven decision-making, transparency, and accountability. It increases the city's bed capacity in existing shelters, a homeless village, and hotel rooms, while putting more funding into outreach and intake teams that connect people with housing and wraparound service options. It builds on JSO's existing Homeward Bound program that ensures the city is focusing on the individuals who live here. All these pieces work together to create a 24/7 network of places to go where no one is turned away. The 12 recommendations announced today are intended to specifically address HB 1365 and are part of a larger 5-year strategic plan on homelessness that is being finalized and will be announced in the weeks ahead.

"In every community conversation I've been to over the past year, one of the things I heard most often was the need to address homelessness," **said Mayor Donna Deegan**. "With that feedback in mind, our 12-point plan makes progress on this significant issue and complies with HB 1365. Our goal is to build safer neighborhoods and make homelessness a rare, brief, one-time occurrence in a person's life."

The mayor's proposed 2024-2025 budget allocates \$10 million towards this effort with an anticipated total cost of nearly \$14 million. The city is calling on the private sector to close that gap. This critical funding is needed to address the unfunded state mandate and make substantial progress on reducing homelessness. Without this plan, the city will be at risk of lawsuits starting January 1, 2024.

[Click here to read the full plan.](#)

[Click here for the mayor's remarks.](#)



## **MAYOR REMARKS FOR HB 1365 PLAN**

Good morning. This is an important day for Jacksonville as we announce our plans to address Florida House Bill 1365 – the new state law that goes into effect on October 1 and makes it illegal to sleep in public spaces.

In every community conversation I've been to over the past year, one of the things I heard most often was the need to address homelessness. This challenge is not isolated to a single area of our city. Citizens in all 14 council districts asked me to work on this significant issue.

With that feedback in mind, I directed a working group to create a 5-year strategic plan that mitigates homelessness. Our overall goal is to achieve functional zero. This means that the number of people entering homelessness is equal to the number of people finding permanent housing. It also means turning homelessness into a rare, brief, one-time occurrence in a person's life.

Our working group was ahead of the curve when they began this work in January. As HB 1365 moved through the legislative session, we adjusted our plans to ensure Jacksonville complied with the

eventual state law – and that it still fit within our overall efforts to address homelessness.

Our 12-point plan increases data-driven decision-making, transparency, and accountability. It increases our bed capacity in existing shelters with the scalability of hotel rooms as a backup. We put more funding into outreach and intake teams that connect people with housing and wraparound service options. It builds on JSO's existing Homeward Bound program that ensures we are focusing on the individuals who live here. And all these pieces work together to create a 24/7 network of places to go where no one is turned away.

We also wanted to avoid having a tent city. So, another recommendation you'll see is pairing a homeless village with the services people need to get back on their feet. We would have failed if we only built a place to temporarily house people without putting them on the path to becoming a functioning member of society once again.

Our proposed 2024-2025 budget allocates \$10 million towards this effort. We anticipate the total cost of this initiative to be nearly \$14 million and we are calling on the private sector to close that gap.

None of this critical funding is optional. We absolutely need it to address the unfunded mandate that has been handed down to us by the state, and we need it to make substantial progress on reducing homelessness. Without this plan, we will be at risk for lawsuits starting January 1.

I'm incredibly proud of the collaborative effort that included dozens of meetings, hundreds of hours, 20 leaders, and many more community voices. The HB 1365 plan is also part of a larger 5-year strategy that is still being finalized and that we'll make available in the weeks ahead. Our working group brought together multiple city departments, the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office, non-profit community, faith-based organizations, and affordable housing developers to the table.

This final product shows what is possible when we unite towards a common goal and build the public-private partnerships that bring our shared vision to life.

There are so many people to thank, and you'll see the members of our working group on the second page of the plan. To each of you who contributed to this effort, you have my gratitude. I do want to

specifically shout out Sulzbacher Center CEO Cindy Funkhouser, Changing Homelessness CEO Dawn Gilman, and Ability Housing CEO Shannon Nazworth. They are the experts we relied upon throughout this process. And you'll hear more from Cindy and Dawn on the plan in a few minutes.

I also want to thank the working group co-leads: our administration's Director of Strategic Partnerships Tracye Polson and Affordable Housing Director Josh Hicks. They put an immense amount of work into this plan on top of their already busy roles.

The first recommendation of the working group was to identify a person in the Mayor's Office to oversee the execution of this plan. I'm excited to announce that Tracye will be that person. Having a single point person will ensure that resources are optimized, and opportunities are not missed.

Ask any expert for the most effective way to reduce homelessness, and they will tell you to build more affordable housing units. Josh will continue to play a critical role leading our affordable housing efforts for the city and working closely with Tracye on homelessness. We already have nearly 4,000



affordable housing units that will be completed by the end of 2025 – and there will be more on the way.

I'm grateful for the partnership with Sheriff Waters and the JSO team throughout the process of developing this plan. It's our goal to make sure they have the needed support when it comes to enforcement of the new state law. Undersheriff Shawn Coarsey is here with us today, and he'll provide us with more insight on what that looks like.

I'm also grateful for continued collaboration with the City Council. For several years, they have studied the issue of homelessness and developed programs to address it. And over the past year, we collaborated on millions of dollars of programs that keep people from becoming homeless in the first place, while working to address the difficult challenge of chronic homelessness.


Without further ado, I'd like to welcome **Councilman Michael Boylan** who has been at the center of these efforts.

*[SPEAKERS THAT FOLLOW]*


- ***Dawn Gilman, Changing Homelessness***
- ***Cindy Funkhouser, Sulzbacher Center***

- ***Undersheriff Shawn Coarsey, JSO***

# Exhibit "B"



## 2024 Homeless Memorial Service



### Opening Performance

The City Rescue Mission Choir

### Welcome

Paul Stasi | *Executive Director, City Rescue Mission*

### Greetings

Brad Russell | *Board Chair, Changing Homelessness*

Mark Anderson | *Board Chair, City Rescue Mission*

### Purpose

Dawn Gilman | *CEO, Changing Homelessness*

### Elected Remarks

Charles Griggs | *Director of Community Initiatives &  
Journey Forward, Mayor's Office*

The Honorable Randy White | *President, Jacksonville City Council*

### Message of Love

Reverend Pat Warren | *First Baptist Church of Oakland*

### Reading of the Names

Jaime Williams | *Director of Social Services, City Rescue Mission*

Will Evans | *Chief of Programs, Changing Homelessness*



### Closing Remarks

Paul Stasi | *Executive Director, City Rescue Mission*

Dawn Gilman | *CEO, Changing Homelessness*

### Closing Performance

The City Rescue Mission Choir





# Homeless Deaths - 2024



## Honoring

Valerie McCracken  
Cathy Mims  
Robithia D. Carroll  
Frank Sigler  
Tyrone Parham  
Willie Anderson  
Bobby Bryant  
Lisa Ellen Williams  
Michael Green  
Melinda Aline Charles  
Daphany Bennett  
Darlene Hollie  
Terry Pugh  
Richard M. Labo  
Bithye Ann Russell  
Louis Edward Atchison  
Tracy E. Whitaker  
Randy McKeel  
Joe L. Grant  
Luis R. Marcano-Santos

Charles Watson  
Tracey Lee Biggs  
Kevin Scott Garn  
James Tyson, Jr.  
Tammy Smallwood  
John Wilder  
Billie Dodson  
Clarence Hall  
Aubrey Long  
Tracy Schetrompf  
Eddie Elvord  
Timothy Stewart  
Samuel Henry  
Cleveland Wilson  
James Wise  
Marvin Johnson  
Michael Thompson  
Eddie Holland  
James Carr  
Charles Boyance

Carmelina Elizabeth Henry  
Charlotte Emma Jessica Montgomery





## Homeless Deaths - 2023

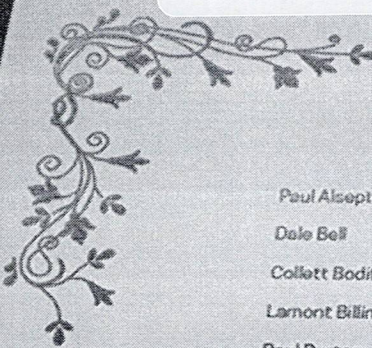
### HONORING

Antoner Thomas	Mickey J Gee
Kevin Witherspoon	Darryl L Faulk
Ivan Hurtle Taylor	Byron McClendon
Don Earl Thomas, Sr.	James Paul Hart
Edgar Alexander Walker	Joshua Anthony Twohig
David Lee Spencer	Dexter Barry
Samantha Louise Gaines	Nancy Gibbs
Donovan Hinds	Christopher Lee Edwards
Jon Kelvin McLeod	Aveann Bennett
Alphonso Gary	John Williams
Stojan Milinkovic	Maureen Brown
John Cas Williams	Gary Howard
Richard Barnes	Kimbler Lisa Herrington Armstrong
Terry Lee Peavy	Darius Dean
Faye Lois Dale	Antonin Korous
Rachel Leistriz	Nathaniel Gary
Richard J Dossenback	Landier Jordan
Franklin Spann	Holly Rooker
Rhonda Davidson	Lewis Eichorn
Eric Doscher	Fredrica Browder
Andrea Campbell	Jimmie Matthew Avant
Ethan E Chilcoat	Regina Bradham Miller
Thomas Robert Clayton	Michael Beard
Gary White	Samantha Cranford



# Homeless Deaths - 2022

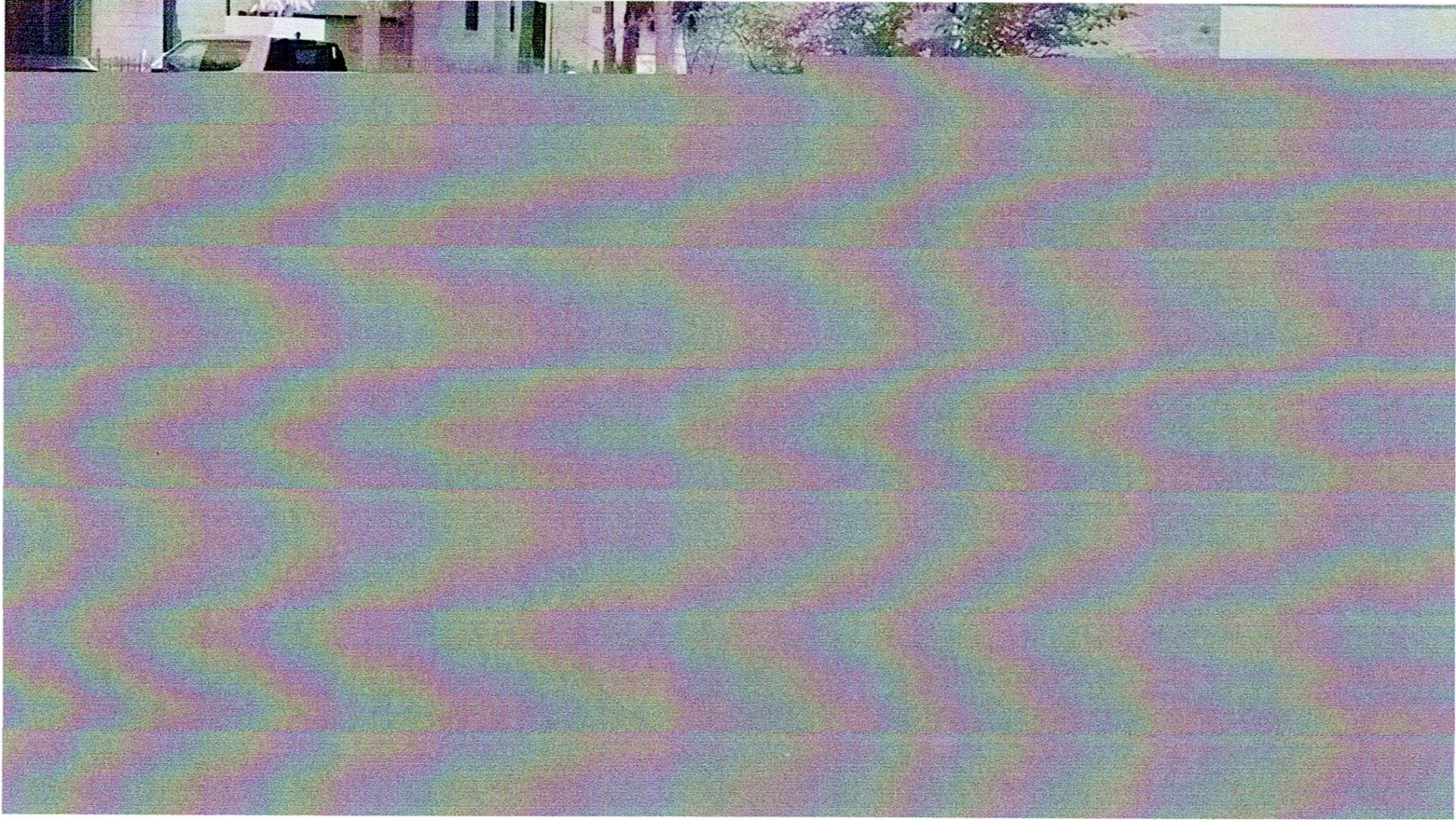
## IN REMEMBRANCE



Paul Alsept	Kevin Mathoney
Dale Bell	Malik Morris
Collett Bodiford	Donald Napier
Lamont Billings	Edward "Mark" Russell
Paul Burton	Tyrone Smith
Kash Dunkley	Frank Sobczak
Junior Duncan	Carolyn Sullivan
Marcus Dixon	Robert Tippins
Bradley Dymond	Isaac Victery
Christopher Edwards	Donald Vulhop
Louis English	Jessie Walker
Gene Gatlin	Cynthia White
Lawrence Greer	Harrel White
William Hardy	John Winant
Donald Lucas	Keith Waters
Sherry Manning	



# NEWS



*Two people camp out in March in the grass off Newnan and East Bay streets. | Michelle Corum, Jacksonville Today*

## **Jacksonville seeks more beds to comply with homeless law**

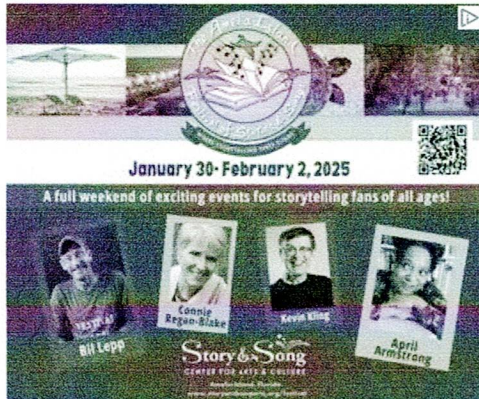
*By Dan Scanlan*

Published on November 12, 2024 at 3:30 pm

*Free local news and info, in your inbox at 6 a.m. M-F. [Sign up for the Jacksonville Today newsletter.](#)*

Jacksonville is seeking to add bed space at homeless shelters to comply with a new state law that seeks to prevent people from camping on public streets.

New City Council legislation would allocate \$1.33 million to add beds at three shelters — 44 beds at Trinity Rescue Mission, 26 at City Rescue Mission and 40 at Salvation Army.



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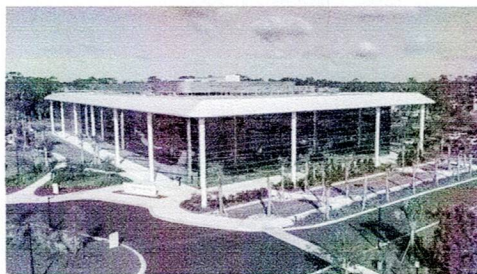
The bill says the move would protect the city against lawsuits from anyone who claims the city is not following the new homeless law.

The bill was expected to be introduced Tuesday night. It will get its first public hearing Nov. 26.

The new state law took effect Oct. 1. It prohibits municipalities from allowing homeless people to sleep in public or camp on public property and rights of way without a permit.

*Article continues below* ↓

## **More from Jax Today**



**Advanced PGA Tour Studios opens in Ponte Vedra Beach**

**Jacksonville names fire headquarters for late chief**



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*Become one.*

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A new Jacksonville Fire and Rescue Department team is trying to move those people to a safe place and to give them access to mental health and substance abuse programs.

“Our next work is going to be on expanding the number of shelter positions,” Deegan said Tuesday on *First Coast Connect* on WJCT News. “That’s where we had asked for additional money in the budget, which we did not get, at least so far. I think we have 500 shelter beds which are mostly full right now, so that’s going to become an issue for us.”

City Council did approve \$2.5 million to address the homeless situation when it passed the city budget in late September. But it was much less than a proposed \$10 million, five-year plan to help the city handle the state’s homeless law, Deegan said.

Under the latest legislation, each of the shelters would be paid for the cost of adding beds. As a condition of receiving the money, they would have to provide 24-hour-a-day coordination and intake support, as well as capacity information available online and telephone by firefighters and police.



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1 Introduced by Council Members Salem and White:

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**ORDINANCE 2024-888**

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AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$1,333,72

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HOMELESSNESS INITIATIVES SPECIAL REV

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DESIGNATED CONTINGENCY ACCOUNTS

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JACKSONVILLE FIRE AND RESCUE DEPA

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The shelters also would be required to jointly staff a shelter hotline on a weekly rotating basis and to provide secure storage for personal belongings.

The Jacksonville Fire and Rescue Department would coordinate with Trinity Rescue, City Rescue and Salvation Army to track results so that "real-time adjustments can be made to improve effectiveness and address areas that are under- or over-resourced," the bill states.

The bill stresses that emergency passage is requested because there is an "immediate need" to comply with the new state law.



*Two homeless men sleep in a doorway on Monroe Street. | Michelle Corum, Jacksonville Today*

“As we get into the colder months, that will become a bigger issues for us,” Deegan said. “So time is of the essence that we continue to put this plan into place.”

The legislation was introduced by Council President Randy White and his predecessor, Ron Salem.

The bill reminds everyone that the new homeless law allows residents, business owners and the attorney general to sue the city for “authorizing or allowing regular public camping and sleeping that is not otherwise permitted under the statute.” The ability to sue starts Jan. 1.



**Dan Scanlan**

*Reporter*

✉ [email](#)

Dan Scanlan is a veteran journalist with almost 40 years of experience in radio, television and print reporting. He has worked at various stations in the Northeast and Jacksonville. Dan also spent 34 years at The Florida Times-Union as a police and current affairs reporter.