



## OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

**DONNA DEEGAN**  
MAYOR

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JACKSONVILLE, FL 32202

TO: The Honorable Randy White, President  
Jacksonville City Council

FROM: Mayor Donna Deegan

DATE: June 24, 2025

SUBJECT: Ordinance 2025-138-E

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President White: This memo serves as my veto of 2025-138.

**1. The bill is duplicative of existing state and federal laws and requirements.**

Immigration is the domain of the federal government, not local agencies. Florida Statute §908.103, enacted in 2019, prohibits the establishment of sanctuary policies by local governments which I have repeatedly stated my commitment to follow. In addition, existing compliance requirements already include protocols related to eligibility and legal status for programs and funding.

**2. The bill lacks a defined scope and fails to quantify the problem it seeks to address.**

During debate on the bill there was a lack of concrete examples or fiscal estimates. The bill introduces reporting requirements without budget or staffing for implementation. This leaves administrative departments with a policy that is unclear as to how to comply.

**3. The bill introduces legal exposure for the City and for non-profit and healthcare partners.**

Requiring the City's contracted partners to distinguish service recipients based on immigration status raises significant operational and legal questions. Attempting to identify, document, or separate recipients based on citizenship status may also have a chilling effect, discouraging residents from accessing public safety or healthcare services. This creates downstream risks—including unreported crime, public health concerns, and increased emergency care utilization—ultimately generating **greater costs for taxpayers**, not less. Furthermore, exempting certain providers from the reporting requirements creates a discriminatory environment.

**4. The City is already taking steps to ensure accountability and compliance.**

Again, let me be clear: I will always comply with current federal and state law. I believe in accountability. I believe in transparency. And I believe in meaningful action.

I will be directing departments to review and strengthen procedures related to contractor documentation and reporting, especially for sub-contractors. I am also calling for a report for all city dollars provided to non-profits starting from FY 24-25. City departments will continue to comply with all applicable immigration laws.

In conclusion, Ordinance 2025-138 introduces unnecessary administrative burdens, lacks fiscal justification, and was passed in a context of misinformation that does not serve the City's best interests. We are called on to be principled and to lead with truth. Therefore, I veto Ordinance 2025-138

Sincerely,

Donna Deegan  
Mayor

Cc: Jacksonville City Council  
Legislative Services  
Office of General Counsel

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