

1 Introduced by Council Member Diamond:
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4 **ORDINANCE 2026-186**

5 AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$314,900 FROM GENERAL
6 FUND OPERATING RESERVES TO THE FRFO
7 ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES - FIRE CONTROL -
8 SPECIALIZED EQUIPMENT ACCOUNT, TO PROVIDE
9 FUNDING TO THE JACKSONVILLE FIRE AND RESCUE
10 DEPARTMENT FOR THE PURCHASE AND INSTALLATION OF
11 INFANT SAFETY DEVICES COMMONLY REFERRED TO AS
12 "BABY BOXES" AT 14 FIRE STATIONS THROUGHOUT
13 DUVAL COUNTY; PROVIDING FOR CARRYOVER TO FISCAL
14 YEAR 2026-2027; PROVIDING FOR OVERSIGHT BY THE
15 JACKSONVILLE FIRE AND RESCUE DEPARTMENT;
16 PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.
17

18 **WHEREAS**, in 2000 the State of Florida enacted the "Safe Haven
19 law", codified as Section 383.50, *Florida Statutes*, to allow for 24/7
20 anonymous, legal surrender of newborns babies; and

21 **WHEREAS**, the law authorizes hospitals, emergency medical
22 services stations, or fire stations that are staffed 24 hours per day
23 to use an infant safety device, commonly known as a "Baby Box", to
24 accept surrendered infants aged 30 days or younger; and

25 **WHEREAS**, each Baby Box is required to be temperature controlled
26 and ventilated, installed to be physically part of the hospital,
27 emergency medical service station, or fire station where it is
28 located, equipped with a dual alarm system which automatically
29 triggers an alarm inside the building when an infant is placed in the
30 Baby Box, and equipped with a surveillance system that allows
31 employees of the hospital, emergency medical services station, or

1 fire station to monitor the inside of the Baby Box 24 hours per day;
2 and

3 **WHEREAS,** Baby Boxes have been installed in numerous locations
4 throughout Florida, traditionally on the exterior walls of fire
5 stations, and since the Safe Haven law went into effect more than 414
6 newborns have been safely surrendered at a safe haven in Florida; and

7 **WHEREAS,** the City Council finds it in the best interests of the
8 public to provide parents with a safe, secure and compassionate
9 alternative to surrender a newborn child with complete anonymity; now
10 therefore

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

12 **Section 1. Appropriation.** For the 2025-2026 fiscal year,
13 within the City's budget, there is hereby appropriated the indicated
14 sum(s) from the account(s) listed in subsection (a) to the account(s)
15 listed in subsection (b):

16 (The account information is attached hereto as **Exhibit 1** and
17 incorporated herein by this reference)

18 (a) Appropriated from:

19 See **Exhibit 1** \$314,900

20 (b) Appropriated to:

21 See **Exhibit 1** \$314,900

22 (c) Explanation of Appropriation:

23 The funding above represents an appropriation of \$314,900
24 from General Fund Operating Reserves to the FRFO
25 Administrative Services - Fire Control - Specialized
26 Equipment account to provide funding to the Jacksonville
27 Fire and Rescue Department for the purchase and
28 installation of infant safety devices, commonly referred
29 to as "Baby Boxes", at 14 fire stations throughout Duval
30 County as more fully described herein.

31 **Section 2. Purpose.** The purpose of the appropriation in

1 Section 1 is to provide funds for the purchase and installation of
2 Baby Boxes at fire stations throughout Duval County. The Baby Boxes
3 will be placed in one fire station within each Council District at
4 the locations more fully described in **Exhibit 2**, attached hereto and
5 incorporated herein by this reference. The Baby Boxes are intended
6 to provide a safe, secure location where parents may anonymously
7 surrender a newborn infant aged 30 days or younger in keeping with
8 Section 383.50, *Florida Statutes*, also known as Florida's "Safe Haven"
9 law.

10 **Section 3. Carryover.** The funds appropriated herein shall
11 not lapse but shall carryover to Fiscal Year 2026-2027.

12 **Section 4. Oversight Department.** The Jacksonville Fire and
13 Rescue Department shall have oversight of the project described
14 herein.

15 **Section 5. Effective Date.** This Ordinance shall become
16 effective upon signature by the Mayor or upon becoming effective
17 without the Mayor's signature.

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19 Form Approved:

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21 /s/ Mary E. Staffopoulos

22 Office of General Counsel

23 Legislation Prepared By: Mary E. Staffopoulos

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