

## UAE Grant Fact Sheet

For more than 40 years, U.S. Presidents, U.S. diplomats, and Congressional leaders of both parties have considered UAE a strategic partner and ally in the Middle East. The Constitution of the United States empowers national leaders, not local elected officials, to make those decisions.

Since Hurricane Katrina and other natural disasters thereafter, UAE has an ongoing system of offering funds to local and state entities for the purpose of rebuilding vulnerable communities. Multiple states and cities around the nation have received these grants.

In 2017, after Hurricane Irma, UAE notified Florida officials in Tallahassee they would offer \$10 million to communities in our state. Volunteer Florida officials reached out to the Curry Administration and the process was started here in Jacksonville.

UAE made **only one request** of those applying for the grant money: Ensure that they go to vulnerable communities by offering synopsis about the programs seeking funds.

March 22<sup>nd</sup> 2018, UAE sent embassy staff who met with representatives of projects in Jacksonville that had been proposed for funding.

A few months later we were notified that we would be able to receive \$2.775 million for the projects we put forward (see legislation for full listing). In conjunction with the Office of General Counsel we reviewed international and national law. When legal checks ensured that no additional conditions or requirements would be stipulated, legislation was drafted.

- September 4<sup>th</sup> the bill passed by City Council committees unanimously.
- September 11<sup>th</sup> the bill passed by the full City Council vote unanimously.

When committee votes and full Council consideration is combined, **EVERY MEMBER of the City Council has voted YES at least one time for this action.**

On October 15<sup>th</sup>, with the agreement completed the UAE's Ambassador to the United States and his staff spent an afternoon in Jacksonville. After meeting with representatives of those receiving funds, he toured the project locations with city officials who thanked him and his nation for the grant.

The \$2.775 million in funds were transferred in City of Jacksonville accounts on October 19, and by the approval of Council and Mayor Curry those funds are appropriated for the projects approved in the legislation (again, see Council analysis document attached).

At no time has any official in Jacksonville been asked or agreed to defend any national or international policy of the UAE. There is no agreement related to trade or other commerce connected to this grant in any way, shape or form.

The grant DOES NOT require ANY LOCAL MATCH of new staffing. Therefore there are no policy decisions which would belong to local elected officials being mandated by outsiders.

It is a gift of nearly \$3 million dollars that will go straight to helping families in Jacksonville with no strings attached.

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# CITY COUNCIL RESEARCH DIVISION

## LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY



**JEFFREY R. CLEMENTS**  
Chief of Research  
(904) 630-1377

117 West Duval Street  
City Hall, Suite 425  
Jacksonville, FL 32202  
FAX (904) 630-3403

**Bill Type and Number:** Ordinance 2018-544

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

**Date of Introduction:** August 14, 2018

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

**Date of Analysis:** August 13, 2018

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

**Bill Summary:** This bill is an appropriation of \$2,775,000 in grant funds given to the City of Jacksonville through a donation agreement with the Embassy of the United Arab Emirates. The funds are appropriated for disaster recovery purposes, enabling the City to engage in the transformative neighborhood projects that will strengthen cultural and community leadership, reclaim blighted properties, improve the quality of life for residents, especially homeless and low-income residents, and grow community pride.

- \$425,000 to Duval County Public Schools for its Construction and Architecture Career Academy and Computer Labs at William M. Raines High School and Jean Ribault High School
- \$250,000 to Builders' Care for the Ken Knight Drive Neighborhood Home Repair and Restoration Project
- \$400,000 to Habitat for Humanity of Jacksonville, Inc. for the Ken Knight Drive Neighborhood Home Repair and Restoration Project
- \$900,000 to I.M. Sulzbacher Center for Mobile Medical Clinics; and
- \$800,000 to the City of Jacksonville for the Charles Reese Park Restoration and Public Infrastructure on Ken Knight Drive

The Office of Grants and Contract Compliance, the Parks, Recreation, and Community Services Department, the Neighborhoods Department, and the Public Works Department, shall oversee their respective projects.

**Background Information:** The United Arab Emirates is donating approximately \$10 million to various Florida locations impacted by Hurricane Irma. UAE Ambassador Otaiba indicated that UAE was inspired to award grant funds to the city because of the determination and resilience Jacksonville residents showed during Hurricane Irma. Any funds not used within one year after receipt of the Grant by the City shall be subject to other uses as mutually agreed between the Embassy and the City to carry out the Embassy's charitable intent. This Grant is intended by the Embassy and the City to benefit the citizens of the City, and is not intended to, nor does it, constitute a gift or benefit by the United Arab Emirates to any official of the City or of the State of Florida.

**Policy Impact Area:** Disaster recovery funds

**Fiscal Impact:** No City match required

**Analyst:** Hampsey



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## UAE Embassy Philanthropy Agenda

City Hall at St. James  
117 W. Duval Street, Suite 400  
March 22, 2018, 8:30am-4:00pm

- 8:30-9:00**     **Mayor's Office:** Brian Hughes, Chief of Staff  
Dawn Lockhart, Director of Strategic Partnerships  
Damian Cook, COJ Grant Administrator
- 9:00-9:45**     **Hurricane Irma: Response, Relief and Recovery**  
Long Term Recovery Organization and VOAD Progress  
Partners: LTRO-Michael Boylan, Janet Owens, Deirdre Conner
- 9:45-10:00**    **Travel**
- 10:00-11:00**   **Emergency Operations Center: Irma Response and Recovery**  
Assistant Chief of Emergency Preparedness Todd Smith
- 10:15-11:30**   **Road Trip: Emerald Necklace: Hogan's and McCoy's Creek, Ken Knight Drive,**
- 11:30-12:30**   **Lunch: Uptown Market, Historic Springfield**
- 12:30-12:45**   **Travel**
- 12:45-1:45**     **Downtown Homelessness: Infrastructure Improvements**  
Community Partners: Cindy Funkhauser, CEO, Sulzbacher Center  
Shannon Nazworth, CEO, Ability Housing
- 1:45-2:00**     **Travel**
- 2:00-3:00**     **Emerald Necklace: Neighborhood Development**  
Community Partners: Kay Ehas, Chief Executive Officer, Groundwork Jacksonville  
Janet Owens, Local Initiative Support Coalition  
Brian Burket, COJ Parks and Recreation
- 3:00-4:00**     **Neighborhood Restoration: Ken Knight Drive**  
Community Partners: President Nathaniel Glover, Edward Waters College  
Ryan Rewey, Director of Career and Technical Education, DCPS  
Justin Brown, Executive Director, Builders Care  
Mary Kay O'Rourke, Executive Director, Habijax  
Brian Burket, COJ Parks and Recreation
- 4:00**           **Commute to Airport**