



**CITY OF ST. AUGUSTINE CITY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING AGENDA
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2022 - 5:00 PM
ALCAZAR ROOM**

1. CALL TO ORDER

- ◆ Roll Call
- ◆ Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

2. ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

- ◆ Modification and Approval of REGULAR AGENDA

3. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS, RECOGNITIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS

- 3.A.** Certificate of Appreciation to Rev. Ted Voorhees and Caren Goldman. *(R. Horvath, Commissioner)*

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS FOR GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS OR FOR AGENDA ITEMS NOT REQUIRING A SEPARATE PUBLIC HEARING

- ◆ 3 minutes per individual

5. CONSENT AGENDA

6. APPEALS

7. GENERAL PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS, ITEMS OF GREAT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE, AND OTHER ITEMS REQUIRING PUBLIC HEARINGS

(PRESENTATIONS (MAXIMUM OF **10** MINUTES PER PRESENTATION)). PRESENTATIONS FOR COMMISSION MEETINGS MUST BE PRESENTED TO THE CITY MANAGER FOR APPROVAL NO LATER THAN TEN (10) WORKING DAYS PRIOR TO THE NEXT CITY COMMISSION MEETING. A PRESENTATION SUPPORT SERVICES REQUEST (AVAILABLE ON THE CITY'S WEBSITE) MUST ACCOMPANY ALL PRESENTATIONS.

7.A. General Public Presentations

7.A.1. Presentation by Dr. David Jaffee, Professor with the University of North Florida regarding corporate ownership of housing and its impacts on home ownership and affordable housing. *(D. Birchim, Assistant City Manager)*

7.B. Items of Great Public Importance

7.C. Other Items Requiring Public Hearing

8. ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS - PUBLIC HEARING REQUIRED

8.A. Ordinances - Second Reading

8.B. Ordinances - First Reading (only if required by law)

8.C. Resolutions - Public Hearing (only if required by law)

9. ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS – NO PUBLIC HEARING REQUIRED

9.A. Ordinances - First Reading

9.B. Resolutions

9.B.1. Resolution 2022-31: Supports the creation of the St. Johns County Public Housing Authority. *(D. Birchim, Assistant City Manager)*

9.B.2. Resolution 2022-34: Temporarily suspends metered rates for vehicles for hire. *(R. Thibault, Assistant City Attorney)*

10. STAFF REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS

11. ITEMS BY CITY ATTORNEY

12. ITEMS BY CITY CLERK

12.A. Appointment of the City of St. Augustine Poet Laureate. *(D. Galambos, City Clerk)*

13. ITEMS BY CITY MANAGER

13.A. Discussion regarding legislative priorities. *(J. Regan, City Manager)*

14. ITEMS BY MAYOR AND COMMISSIONERS

15. ADJOURN

NOTICES: In accordance with Florida Statute 286.0105: "if a person decides to appeal any decision made by the board, agency, or commission with respect to any matter considered at such meeting or hearing, he or she will need a record of the proceedings, and that, for such purpose, he or she may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based." ***In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, persons needing a special accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact the individual or agency sending notice not later than seven days prior to the proceeding at the address given on the notice. Telephone 904-825-1007; 1-800-955-8771 (TDB) or 1-800-955-8770 (V) via Florida Relay Services. ***The City of St. Augustine encourages anyone wishing to present the invocation at city commission meetings to contact the City Clerk's office, to be placed on the rotation list, and encourages people of all religious affiliations or of no religious affiliation to present a non-denominational invocation to inspire us in the work of the City Commission. The materials prepared and presented are part of the City's ongoing Florida Public Records and Government in the Sunshine compliance and are not intended to be relied upon or to reach investors or the trading markets.

CONSENT AGENDA - SEPTEMBER 12, 2022

CA.1. Preview of upcoming Commission meetings.

CA.2. THE FOLLOWING ORDINANCES ARE TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED FOR SECOND READING ON DATE SEPTEMBER 26, 2022: NONE.

CA.3. Reminder of Upcoming Meetings:

- September 22, 2022, 5:05pm, Special Commission Meeting and final public hearing for fiscal year 2023 budget and final millage rate adoption
- September 26, 2022, 5:00pm, City Commission Meeting
- October 10, 2022. 5:00pm, City Commission Meeting

CA.4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PRIOR COMMISSION MEETINGS:

- August 8, 2022, Special Commission Meeting
- August 8, 2022, Regular City Commission Meeting

CA.5. RELEASES OF LIEN FOR UNIT CONNECTION FEE MORTGAGE(S): NONE.

CA.6. PROPOSED PROCLAMATIONS, CERTIFICATES OF APPRECIATION/RECOGNITION. (COMMISSION APPROVAL REQUIRED). (TO BE READ AT A SUBSEQUENT MEETING). NONE.

CA.7. NOTIFICATION OF PROCLAMATIONS/CERTIFICATES OF RECOGNITION ISSUED: NONE.

CA.8. Request for use of Alcazar Room and City Seal by St. Augustine Film Festival. (*D. Galambos, City Clerk*)

End Consent Agenda

*City of St. Augustine
City Commission*

Certificate of Appreciation

In Acknowledgement of and

Presented with Honor to

Reverend Ted Voorhees and Caren Goldman

In recognition of

Your work and dedication to supporting Freedom, Democracy, Human Rights and Compassion within the community of the City of St. Augustine. We express our sincere gratitude for the legacy projects that were completed through your vision and wish you well on your retirement and future endeavors.



Tracy Upchurch, Mayor

CITY OF ST. AUGUSTINE

MEMORANDUM

TO: John Regan, P.E.
City Manager

Date: September 12, 2022

**RE: Public Presentation by Dr. David Jaffee, University of North Florida -
JAX Rental Housing Project**

Please place Dr. Jaffee on the September 12, 2022 City Commission agenda under general public presentations. Dr. Jaffee is a professor at the University of North Florida who is the creator of the JAX Rental Housing Project, which is a program of the Northeast Florida Center for Community Initiatives at UNF. This project researches and analyses the trend of investor-owned rental housing and its impacts on home ownership and affordable housing.

City Commissioner Barbara Blonder has sponsored this presentation. Commissioner Blonder has raised concerns about corporate ownership of housing in the past and how it impacts the city's stock of affordable rental housing. Dr. Jaffee's presentation should give valuable insights into this current real estate trend.

If you have any questions, please let me know.



David Birchim, AICP
Assistant City Manager



JAX Rental Housing Project

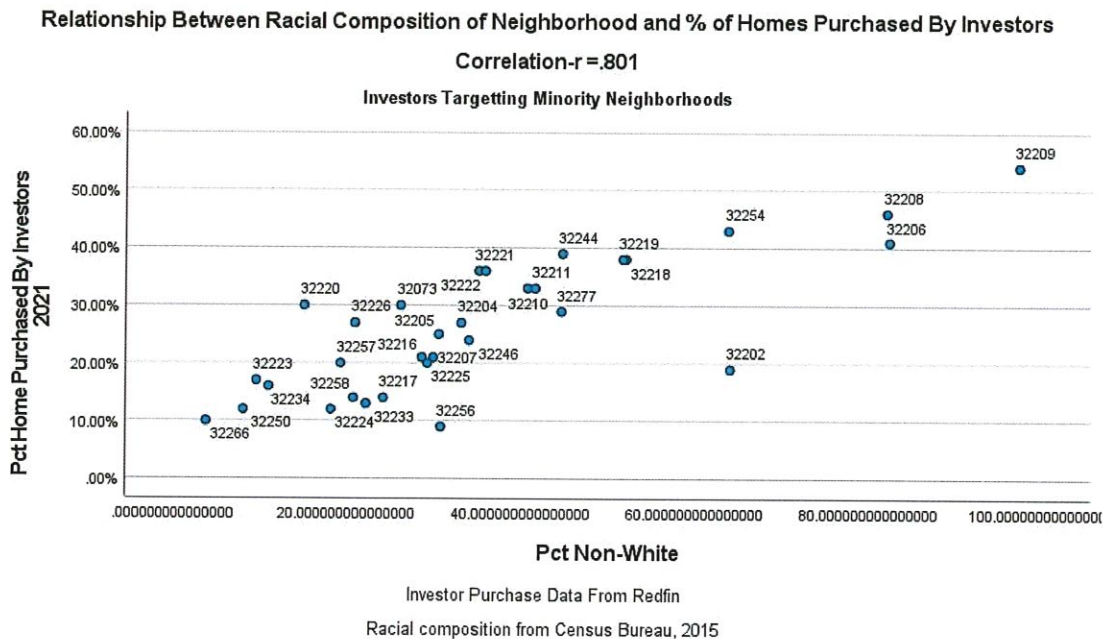
Research Brief 1.1

As reported recently in the [Washington Post](#), private investors are buying up single family homes in record numbers. More specifically, they are targeting minority neighborhoods where they can obtain properties at a relatively low price and then flip them for a hefty profit or, as is increasingly the case, convert them to high-cost rentals beyond the reach of community residents.

Based on the Redfin data included in the Washington Post article, and Census data for every Jacksonville zip code, the JAX Rental Housing Project wanted to answer the question:

What is the relationship between % of homes purchased by investors in 2021 and the racial composition of the neighborhood in Jacksonville?

The answer is found in the graph below:



The strength of the relationship, easily observed in the scatterplot above, and confirmed by a correlation coefficient of .801, shows a clear pattern of private investor targeting of minority neighborhoods in Jacksonville.

What are some of the now [widely documented implications](#) of the corporate landlord invasion for Jacksonville communities and residents?

- The loss of community control and ownership of single-family properties to out-of-state investors
- [Concentrated control](#) of rental housing in the hands of private investment firms
- A decline in home ownership rates among the members of the population living in these communities as they are [unable to compete with cash offers](#) from private investment firms
- The [displacement](#) of residents and increasing housing insecurity
- A [greater likelihood of eviction and the threat of eviction](#) by corporate landlord management companies
- Absentee landlords [unresponsive to the maintenance needs](#) of tenants

The next phase of our research will be to identify the specific private investment firms that have purchased single-family homes in these and other communities across Jacksonville, and the level of ownership concentration.

The JAX Rental Housing Project is a UNF community-based research project aimed at collecting and analyzing data on the state of the rental housing market and the conditions for renters in Jacksonville/Duval County as well as studying and advocating for housing policies that have been successfully implemented in other communities to address this critical issue. Students, faculty, and members of the community will be working together in preparing reports for public consumption.

Contact **David Jaffee** (Professor of Sociology, UNF) with your input, questions, or for more information at: djaffee@unf.edu

Research for this brief conducted by David Jaffee, Katelyn Renzi, and Alexander Cerle.



JAX Rental Housing Project

Info Brief 1.1

WHILE RENTS INCREASE IN JAX AT RECORD RATE, OUT OF TOWN INVESTORS REAP THE REWARDS

Rental Properties are now an asset class investment for the wealthy. Private investors turned corporate landlords have, and are, buying up thousands of homes in Jacksonville and converting them into rentals as investment vehicles for their clients.

Here is just one example based on [JWB Real Estate Capital](#). Jacksonville investment opportunities are promoted.



[How It Works](#) [Why Jacksonville?](#) [Learning Center](#) [Contact Us](#)

**LOOKING FOR A BETTER
MARKET TO INVEST IN?**

YOU DON'T NEED TO LIVE HERE TO BENEFIT FROM THE
GROWTH IN JACKSONVILLE

JWB does the work for you.

Why Jacksonville?

According to JWB: *"what makes JWB and Jacksonville different. Jacksonville, Florida is home to the perfect combination of low home prices, high rental rates and high property appreciation. That's why investing here is so appealing."*

Investors can select the individual rental properties they want to add to their investment portfolio.

"With over 4,300 rental properties currently managed by JWB, you know this is an excellent market for cash flow opportunities."

Here is one rental property they are highlighting, with monthly cash flow and rate of return calculated.

[How It Works](#)
[Why Jacksonville?](#)
[Learning Center](#)
[Contact Us](#)

[VIEW PROPERTIES](#)

Already Rented w/ Long-Term Lease In Place!

- Purchase Price: \$215,000
- Avg. Monthly Rent: \$1,600
- Est. Monthly Cash Flow: \$69
- Est. Return On Investment: 12.16%

If you're ready to add this property to your portfolio, schedule a strategy session with our property investing experts now.

Select a Day

June 2022

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29			

[Privacy & Cookie Policy](#)

See also [Tricon Private Capital](#) and [Tricon Residential](#) which currently [offers 80 single-family rental](#) properties in Jacksonville.

The corporate private investor invasion is not confined to single-family rentals.

Multifamily apartment complexes are also seeing a similar pattern of private investor consolidation.

[Laguna Point Properties](#) provides one example.

Why invest in multifamily properties?

“The premise behind the growth and popularity of the multifamily rental industry is simple – people need a place to live. While the ways in which people work and shop are turning parts of the commercial real estate industry upside down, the durable cash flow and appreciation that apartment properties provide have made this asset class the most attractive real estate investment.

Additionally, an increasing population in the U.S. cannot afford to own a home until later in life, fueling demand for multifamily rental properties. The “American Dream” of home ownership is out of reach for many”

Here is one of the multifamily properties in Laguna Point Properties portfolio.



COVE AT ATLANTIC BEACH

📍 Jacksonville, FL

Units: 204

[Property Website](#)

The Cove at Atlantic Beach is managed by [ZRS Management](#). ZRS currently [manages 18 multifamily properties](#) in Jacksonville for institutional investors like Laguna Point.

BOTTOM LINE: There is no path to affordable housing under this financialized system in which corporate rental property owners are beholden, first and foremost, to their shareholder clients.

Broader effects of the corporate landlord invasion:

- The systematic transfer of single-family property ownership from Jacksonville residents to out-of-state investors
- [Concentrated control](#) of rental housing in the hands of a small number of private investment firms with pricing power
- A decline in home ownership rates among Jacksonville residents as first-time home buyers are [unable to compete with cash offers](#) from private investment firms
- Changes in ownership and rising rental cost in multifamily properties results in the [displacement](#) of residents and increasing housing insecurity
- There is a [greater likelihood of eviction and the threat of eviction](#) by corporate landlord management companies
- Absentee corporate landlords are [less responsive to the maintenance needs of tenants](#)

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For more on the corporate landlord invasion see the excellent report: [Corporate Landlords and Market Power: What Does The Single-Family Rental Boom Mean for Our Housing Future](#) by Desiree Fields and Manon Vergerio.

+++++

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JAX Rental Housing Project

Financialization of Multifamily Rental Housing in Jacksonville: Case Study Brief #1

The rental housing market is increasingly dominated by private institutional investment ownership, aka corporate landlords, in both the single-family rental market as well as the multifamily apartment market. This is part of a larger trend over the past thirty plus years known as “financialization” which converts various forms of property into asset class investment vehicles for wealthy investors. It is now the dominant ownership trend in the rental housing market. The properties are converted into income generating assets organized to maximize profits and healthy returns for their investors.

The **Jax Rental Housing Project** is examining this widespread pattern as it is playing out in Jacksonville generally and, for this particular research brief, for multifamily properties. We briefly describe a representative case of private investment firm acquisition of a multifamily property in Jacksonville and supplement this analysis with testimony from a tenant(s) that have experienced changes in ownership and management of their multifamily apartment complex.

CASE #1: The multifamily apartment complex **The Pines of Mindanao** was purchased by **Laguna Point Properties** in April 2022 for \$22 million.

The letter notifying tenants included this introduction:

We would like to announce that Pines of Mindanao Apartments will be experiencing a change of ownership and management effective April 6, 2022. As the new management company, ZRS Management is pleased to be serving you and your community with its day-to-day operations.

Notice there is no mention of the actual new owner. If one were to go into the property appraiser data, they would find the owner listed as: **1700 MINDANAO 1 LLC ET AL.** This is not very helpful.

Only after further internet searching and sleuthing were we able to identify **Laguna Point Properties** <https://laguna-point.com> as the probable owner. This points to a common problem where the true owners of rental properties are hidden behind layers of LLCs – limited liability

corporations – which serve to protect corporations from liability, promote secrecy, and confer tax benefits. This makes it very difficult to assess the level of market concentration taking place in various communities, or for tenants to know who actually owns the property in which they live.

Laguna Point Properties website advertises the rationale for multifamily apartment investments: *“the durable cash flow and appreciation that apartment properties provide have made this asset class the most attractive real estate investment.... The expected inflation will only drive rents higher over the next couple of years...A typical scenario consists of renovating and upgrading dated apartment interiors and common areas, creating an opportunity to push rents.”*

For the tenants, the face of the new property owners is **ZRS Management** (<https://www.zrsmanagement.com>) a third-party property management company that currently manages over 50,000 units and 18 multifamily properties in the Jacksonville metropolitan area alone. When ZRS refers to their “clients” they are referring to the institutional investment firms that have contracted for their management services. In promoting their portfolio, they emphasize “comprehensive due diligence” as defined by providing *“acquisition assistance and due diligence services including unit by unit inspections, market surveys, and cost analysis. Our team will focus on areas of income such as **maximizing rents, ancillary income collections, and utility charges.**”*

On the matter of “maximizing rents”, ZRS is true to its word. 2-bedroom apartments recently advertised starting at \$900-\$1200 are now listed on the newly polished website for \$1520-\$1770. [see tenant interview below].

The apartment has also experienced a name change from the long-standing Pines of Mindanao to **Willow Trail** [<https://www.willowtrailjax.com>].



The economic stress and strain associated with changing ownership/management and the associated and seemingly inevitable rising rents is widespread beyond this particular case. Dissatisfaction with ZRS is reflected in the postings on the Better Business Bureau customer review site [<https://www.bbb.org/us/fl/orlando/profile/property-management/zrs-management-llc-0733-90011267/customer-reviews>]. In response to a web-posted complaint on the sharp rise in rent on lease renewal, ZRS explained that:

We have a fiduciary responsibility to ensure that pricing for our homes is in line with market conditions. Unfortunately, we are not able to reduce your renewal offer lower than 18%, additionally you were offered 10-, 12-, 13-, and 14-month lease options. We implore you to shop the market pricing has increased at all communities.

INTERVIEW WITH WILLOW TRAIL TENANT

During all my previous lease renewals I've been met with a reasonable rent increase that never exceeded fifty dollars. That all changed when my apartment complex was taken over by ZRS Management in April 2022. I was informed that my monthly rent would be increasing from \$925 to \$1325. When I questioned the reason for the drastic rate increase, I was initially told it was due to my rent having not increased during the Covid pandemic. I stated my rent didn't increase because my lease wasn't up for renewal. Then the leasing agent leveled with me and said the increase was simply a matter of business. I respect his honesty and understand the concept of supply and demand. However, I mistakenly assumed there would be some sort of legal safeguards in place preventing tenants from being caught in, and financially ground to dust...Since taking over, ZRS management has reduced the number of maintenance and "grounds" personnel from roughly 5 to 2. They also changed the name of the property to Willow Trail.

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Contact **David Jaffee** (Professor of Sociology, UNF) with your input, questions, or for more information at: djaffee@unf.edu

Research for this brief conducted by David Jaffee and Katelyn Renzi.



JAX Rental Housing Project

Corporate Owned Single-Family Homes and Eviction Filings

Research Brief 2.1

The financialization of the housing market generally, and rental housing in particular (as reported in previous JAX Rental Housing Project (JRHP) Info Brief 1.1)¹ -- where private investors purchase large swaths of property as asset class investment vehicles for investors -- has a wide range of consequences. In this research brief we examine the impact on human displacement through the eviction filing process.

As increasing numbers of properties are concentrated in the hands of private investors, single-family housing supply is squeezed, the number of single-family homes converted to rental properties increases, monthly rental rates rise, and a larger portion of the population is subject to potential eviction. All these trends have been widely reported in the media and are now a major area of academic policy-oriented research.²

The best available research on the corporate ownership-eviction relationship, conducted in Atlanta, one of the leading metropolitan areas experiencing the corporate landlord invasion, found that institutional investors are more likely to file evictions on tenants than smaller individual “mom and pop” landlords.³ This is facilitated by the fact that corporate landlords are more likely to have impersonal automated systems that track and monitor delinquent accounts resulting in the more rapid initiation of eviction proceedings. Further, because institutional investors are beholden to their investor clients, who expect a return on their investment, there is greater pressure to raise rents and remove financially unreliable tenants.

¹ JAX Rental Housing Project. Info Brief 1.1 *Corporate Landlords*.

<https://jaxrentalhousingproject.domains.unf.edu/research/>

² E.G. Emma Ockerman, Institutional investors have bought hundreds of thousands of homes, many in Black communities. Critics say it's creating a 'generation of renters'. <https://www.marketwatch.com/story/institutional-investors-have-bought-hundreds-of-thousands-of-single-family-homes-many-in-black-communities-critics-say-its-creating-a-generation-of-renters-11656514935>

Tim Henderson, Investors Bought a Quarter of Homes Sold Last Year, Driving Up Rents.

<https://www.governing.com/now/investors-bought-a-quarter-of-homes-sold-last-year-driving-up-rents>

³ Raymond, EL, et al. Corporate Landlords, Institutional Investors, and Displacement: Eviction Rates in Single-family Rentals. FRB Atlanta Community and Economic Development Discussion Paper No. 2016-4.

Raymond EL, Duckworth R, Miller B, et al. (2018) From Foreclosure to Eviction: Housing Insecurity in Corporate-Owned Single-Family Rentals. *Cityscape* 20(3): 159–188.

Immergluck, D. et al., (2020). Evictions, large owners, and serial filings: Findings from Atlanta. *Housing Studies*, 35(5), 903-924.

The JRHP was interested in exploring this relationship for Duval County. More specifically, using zip code level data, what are the eviction filing patterns within Duval County? Do we see a similar relation between investor owned SFHs and eviction filings, and in what communities are these patterns most pronounced?

The analysis reported here is based on data collected from several different sources (see below).

A simple ranking of the top five Duval County communities on the eviction filing rate, measures of institutional investor property ownership or purchase, and socio-economic and demographic characteristics, provides some preliminary insight into the communities most impacted. The common color-coded presence of zip code-based communities across the five indicators suggests a relationship between evictions, institutional ownership, and distressed and minority communities. It should also be noted that all these communities are in the west and north regions of Duval County with Springfield predominantly represented.

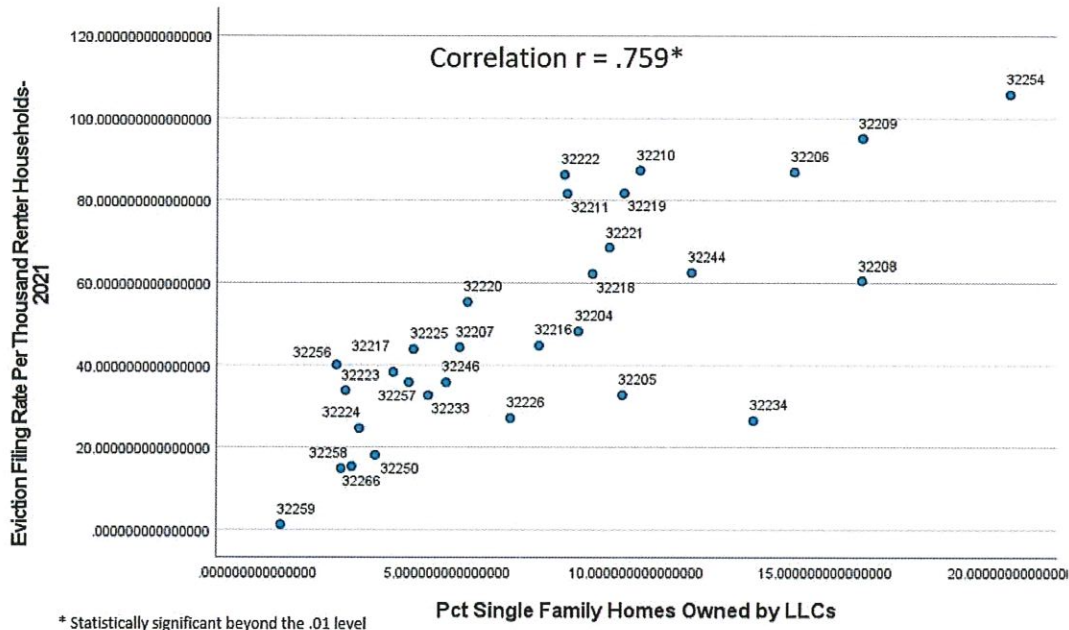
TABLE ONE

RANK	Eviction Filing Rate 2021	Pct SFHs Investor Owned	Pct Homes Purchased by Investors 2021	Distressed Community Index	Pct Black
1	32254 Springfield	32254 Springfield	32209 Springfield	32254 Springfield	32209 Springfield
2	32209 Springfield	32209 Springfield	32208 Springfield	32208 Springfield	32208 Springfield
3	32206 Springfield	32208 Springfield	32254 Springfield	32202 Oakland/Springfield	32206 Springfield
4	32210 Westside	32206 Springfield	32206 Springfield	32206 Springfield	32219 N. Jacksonville
5	32222 Westside	32234 Baldwin	32244 Westside	32209 Springfield	32254 Springfield

In order to establish whether there is a statistically significant relationship between eviction filings and these other measures, we conduct some basic bivariate correlation analyses complemented by graphs (scatterplots) that visually demonstrate the relationship and the location of the communities.

The first chart below indicates a strong positive and statistically significant correlation (+.759) between the percent of SFHs owned by investors and the eviction filing rate. As the table above also revealed, the highest levels of investor ownership and eviction filings are concentrated in the Springfield zip codes.

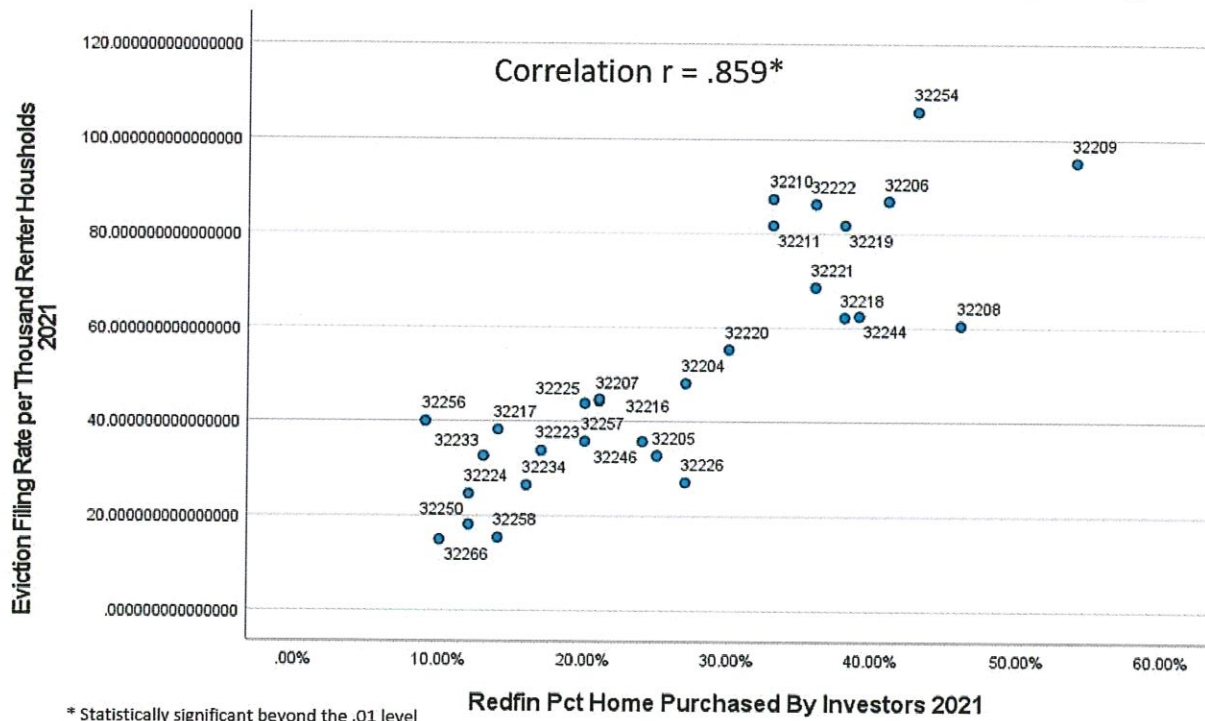
Relationship Between Investor Owned SFHs and Eviction Filings



A second measure of investor ownership of SFHs, provided by data collected by Redfin and highlighted in a recent Washington Post report⁴, is the percent of SFHs purchased in 2021 by institutional investors. The correlation and scatter plot for the relationship between that measure and 2021 eviction filings is presented below.

⁴ Washington Post. *Investors Bought a Record Share of Homes in 2021. See Where.*
<https://www.washingtonpost.com/business/interactive/2022/housing-market-investors/>

Relationship Between Investor Purchases of SFHs and Eviction Filings



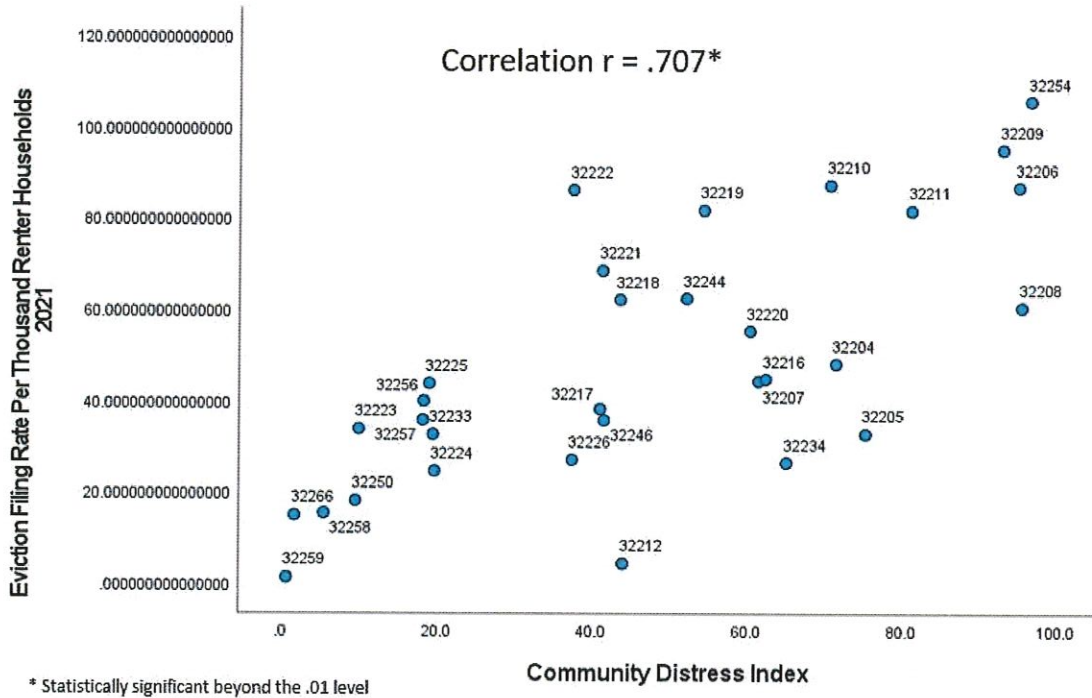
The correlation and the scatterplot exhibit similar strength and pattern as observed in the prior bivariate analysis. But it is also worth noting that the relationship of eviction filings with investor purchasing data is even stronger (+.859). This is likely due to the fact this purchasing measure gauges recent investor activity, which was accelerated in 2021, also matching the year for the eviction filing measure.

A final question worth exploring, suggested by the Washington Post report, involves the issue of institutional investors targeting distressed and minority communities where they can obtain properties at a relatively low price and then flip them for a hefty profit or, as is increasingly the case, convert them to high-cost rentals beyond the reach of community residents.

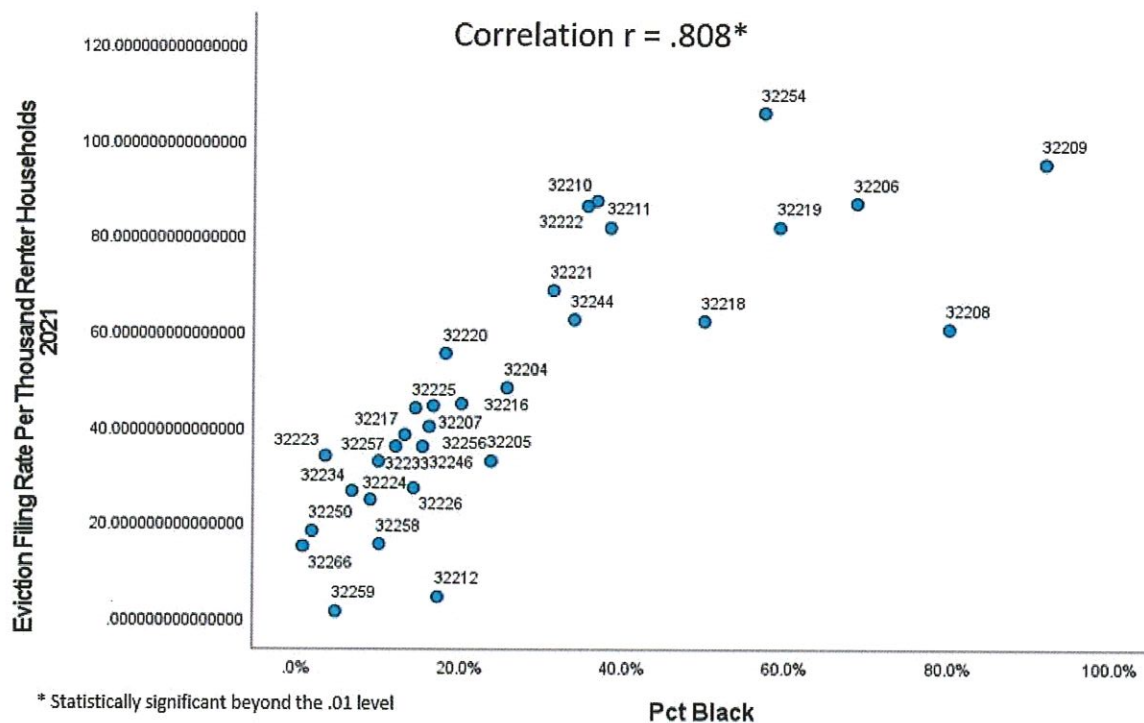
An earlier JRHP research brief confirmed this pattern with a strong positive correlation of +.801 between percent of SFHs purchased in 2021 and the percent non-white for Duval County zip codes.⁵ Given that pattern and what we see in Table One above, we might logically expect to see a strong relationship between eviction filings and the socio-economic and demographic characteristics of neighborhoods. This question is explored in the following two graphs.

⁵ JAX Rental Housing Project. Research Brief 1.1: Investor Single Family Home Purchases and Neighborhood Racial Composition <https://jaxrentalhousingproject.domains.unf.edu/research/>

Relationship Between Distressed Community Index and Eviction Filings



Relationship Between Percent Black and Eviction Filings



As expected, there is a strong positive correlation between the eviction filing rate and the socio-economic conditions (+.707) and minority representation (+.808) of Duval County communities.

Based on the bivariate analysis conducted in this research brief, we observe for Duval County the following pattern that has been reported in both media and other academic research accounts:

There is a strong positive association between the purchase and ownership of SFHs and the eviction filing rate. Because this private investment activity is disproportionately directed toward minority and socio-economically distressed communities, the deleterious effects of this activity are most pronounced in those communities.

Focusing this research brief on the process of eviction highlights the larger current crisis of housing instability and human displacement underway in Duval County. At the community level, evictions contribute to the deterioration of social capital and social bonds through the displacement of long-time residents further exacerbating levels of concentrated disadvantage and social disorganization. At the individual level, eviction filings disrupt family and employment relations, undermine credit ratings, and contribute to unemployment, poverty, and homelessness⁶.

⁶ Desmond, M. 2016. *Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City*. Broadway Books: New York.
Desmond, M and Shollenberger, T. *Forced Displacement From Rental Housing: Prevalence and Neighborhood Consequences*. *Demography* (2015) 52:1751–1772.

The next phase of our research will examine these eviction patterns using multivariate statistical procedures and gather the necessary data to identify the specific institutional investors and private equity firms that own and control the largest proportion of SFHs in Duval County.

DATA SOURCES

Eviction Filings: Shimberg Center for Housing Studies, University of Florida.

<http://www.shimberg.ufl.edu>

Renter Occupied Households: American Community Survey, Bureau of the Census

<https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs>

Single-family Homes Owned By LLCs: Duval County Property Appraiser

<https://www.coj.net/departments/property-appraiser>

Single-family homes purchased in 2021 by investors: Washington Post/Redfin Data

<https://www.redfin.com/news/data-center/>

Distressed Community Index: Economic Innovation Group <https://eig.org/distressed-communities/>

Percent Black: American Community Survey, Bureau of the Census

<https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs>

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Contact **David Jaffee** (Professor of Sociology, UNF) with your input, questions, or for more information at: djaffee@unf.edu

Research for this brief conducted by David Jaffee, Lucia Grattone, and AJ Likosar.

The JRHP thanks the Shimberg Center for Housing Studies for the Duval County zip-code level data on eviction filings.

CITY OF ST. AUGUSTINE

MEMORANDUM

TO: John Regan, P.E.
City Manager

DATE: September 12, 2022

RE: **Resolution 2022-31 – Supporting the Creation of the St. Johns County Public Housing Authority**

On August 2, 2022, the St. Johns County Affordable Housing Advisory Committee (AHAC) made a recommendation to the St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners to create a public housing authority. A housing authority is a public agency that can provide rental assistance to individuals in need of affordable housing and they can also help with the development of affordable housing units and communities.

On August 8, 2022, several individuals appeared before the City Commission requesting the City Commission's support for the creation of a public housing authority. The City Commission directed city staff to draft a resolution in support of the creation of a St. Johns County Public Housing Authority and to return at a future date for consideration.

It is interesting to note that on August 23, 2022, the St. Augustine Record published a story that identified the median home price in St. Johns County as \$595,000 (down 0.8% from the previous month's \$599,000). This is the midway point of all the home prices in St. Johns County and it reflects a real estate market that is not affordable to many people in our community.

Please place Resolution 2022-31 on the September 12, 2022 City Commission agenda for consideration.



David Birchim, AICP
Assistant City Manager

RESOLUTION 2022-31

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF ST. AUGUSTINE, FLORIDA SUPPORTING THE CREATION OF A COUNTY-WIDE PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITY FOR ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA TO ADDRESS A DEFICIT OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING.

WHEREAS, on May 18, 2022, the St. Johns County Housing Finance Authority (HFA) and the St. Johns County Affordable Housing Advisory Committee (AHAC) held a joint meeting to hear the advantages and challenges of a housing authority from a Consultant; and

WHEREAS, according to a United Way Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed (ALICE) report, St. Johns County is reaching a breaking point when it comes to housing shortages; and

WHEREAS, the ALICE report outlines statistics supporting the need for affordable housing, including the unfulfilled need for rent assistance, businesses struggling to find employees because they can not afford to live near their place of employment, the pattern of rising rent costs, and the benefits to education, employment, and crime prevention that stable housing can provide; and

WHEREAS, at the August 2, 2022, St. Johns Board of County Commissioners meeting, the AHAC requested that the Board pursue the creation of a Housing Authority in St. Johns County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Commission of the City of St. Augustine:

Section 1: The City Commission of St. Augustine, Florida hereby supports the creation of a county-wide public housing authority for St. Johns County, Florida to combat the current affordable housing shortage.

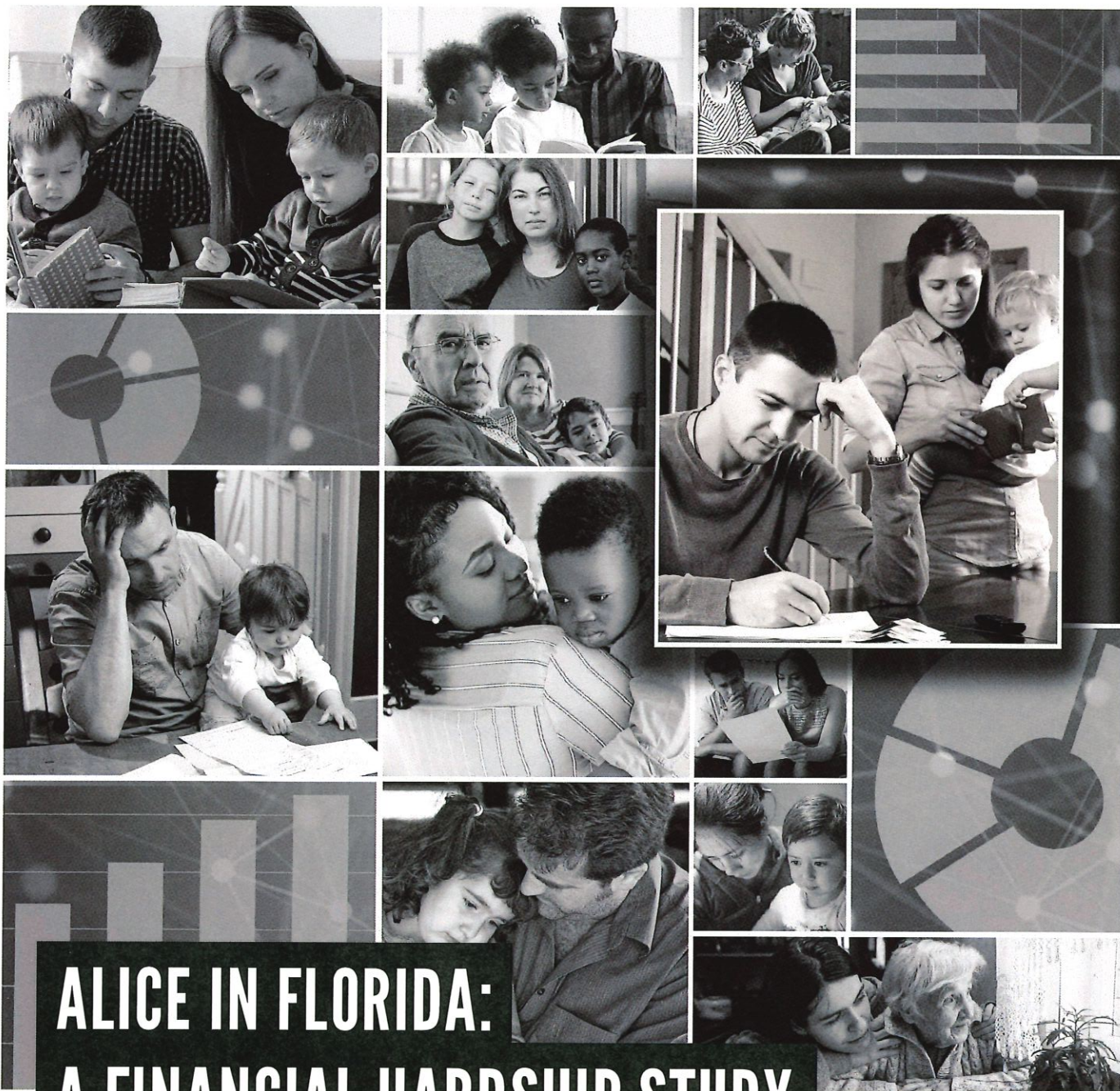
ADOPTED in Regular Session of the City Commission for the City of St. Augustine, Florida, this 12th day of September, 2022.

ATTEST:

CITY OF ST. AUGUSTINE, FLORIDA

Darlene Galambos, City Clerk
(Seal)

Tracy Upchurch, Mayor-Commissioner



ALICE IN FLORIDA: A FINANCIAL HARDSHIP STUDY

LIVE UNITED

2020 FLORIDA REPORT



United Way of Florida

ALICE IN THE TIME OF COVID-19



The release of this ALICE Report for Florida comes during an unprecedented crisis — the COVID-19 pandemic. While our world changed significantly in March 2020 with the impact of this global, dual health and economic crisis, ALICE remains central to the story in every U.S. county and state. The pandemic has exposed exactly the issues of economic fragility and widespread hardship that United For ALICE and the ALICE data work to reveal.

That exposure makes the ALICE data and analysis more important than ever. The ALICE Report for Florida presents the latest ALICE data available — a point-in-time snapshot of economic conditions across the state in 2018. By showing how many Florida households were struggling then, the ALICE Research provides the backstory for why the COVID-19 crisis is having such a devastating economic impact. The ALICE data is especially important now to help stakeholders identify the most vulnerable in their communities and direct programming and resources to assist them throughout the pandemic and the recovery that follows. And as Florida moves forward, this data can be used to estimate the impact of the crisis over time, providing an important baseline for changes to come.

This crisis is fast-moving and quickly evolving. To stay abreast of the impact of COVID-19 on ALICE households and their communities, visit our website at UnitedforALICE.org/COVID19 for updates.

THE UNITED WAYS OF FLORIDA

Heart of Florida United Way

United Way Emerald Coast

United Way of Brevard County

United Way of Broward County

United Way of Central Florida

United Way of Charlotte County

United Way of Citrus County

United Way of Collier and the Keys

United Way of Hernando County

United Way of Indian River County

United Way of Lake & Sumter Counties

United Way of Lee, Hendry, Glades &
Okeechobee Counties

United Way of Marion County

United Way of Martin County

United Way of Miami-Dade

United Way of North Central Florida

United Way of Northeast Florida

United Way of Northwest Florida

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United Way of Volusia-Flagler Counties

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United Way Suncoast

Learn more about ALICE in Florida: www.uwof.org/ALICE

Special thanks to the following United Way staff for their help with the development of the 2020 ALICE Report for Florida:
JahKiya Bell, Ed.D.; Becca Crum; Nancy McCarthy, A.R.P.; Stephanie Scott, Ph.D., M.S.S.W.; Ellen Zinzeleta, Sc.D.

Acknowledgements

United Way of Florida thanks our sponsors, partners, and community stakeholders throughout the state for their support and commitment to this 2020 ALICE Report for Florida. It is our hope that this Report will help raise awareness of the 46% of households in the state who live in poverty or who are **ALICE** – **A**sset **L**imited, **I**ncome **C**onstrained, **E**mployed. Our goal is to inform and inspire policy and action to improve the lives of ALICE families.

To learn more about how you can get involved in advocating and creating change for ALICE in Florida, contact:
[Rick Owen, rick@uwof.org](mailto:RickOwen@uwof.org)

To access the ALICE data and resources for Florida, go to UnitedForALICE.org/Florida



ALICE RESEARCH

ALICE Reports provide high-quality, research-based information to foster a better understanding of who is struggling in our communities. To produce the ALICE Report for Florida, our team of researchers collaborated with a Research Advisory Committee composed of experts from across the state. Research Advisory Committee members from our partner states also periodically review the ALICE Methodology. This collaborative model ensures that the ALICE Reports present unbiased data that is replicable, easily updated on a regular basis, and sensitive to local context.

Learn more about the ALICE Team on our website at UnitedForALICE.org/ALICE-team

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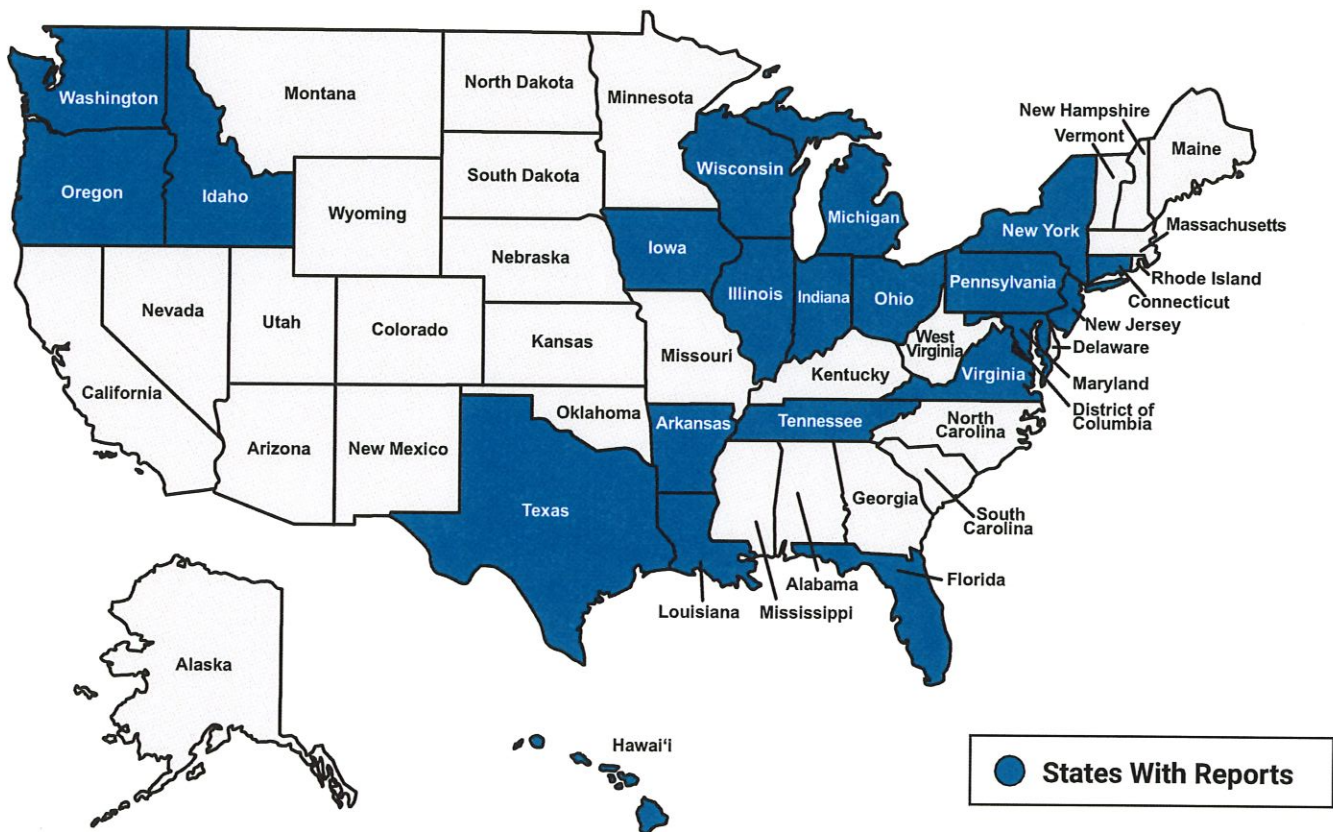
Dr. Sue Woltanski, M.D.

Monroe County School District

ALICE: A GRASSROOTS MOVEMENT

This body of research provides a framework, language, and tools to measure and understand the struggles of a population called **ALICE** — an acronym for **A**sset **L**imited, **I**ncome **C**onstrained, **E**mployed. ALICE represents the growing number of households in our communities that do not earn enough to afford basic necessities. Partnering with United Ways, nonprofits, academic institutions, corporations, and other state organizations, this research initiative provides data to stimulate meaningful discussion, attract new partners, and ultimately inform strategies for positive change.

Based on the overwhelming success of this research in identifying and articulating the needs of this vulnerable population, this work has grown from a pilot in Morris County, New Jersey to 21 states and more than 648 United Ways. Together, United for ALICE partners can evaluate current initiatives and discover innovative approaches to improve life for ALICE and the wider community. To access Reports from all states, visit UnitedForALICE.org



NATIONAL ALICE ADVISORY COUNCIL

The following companies are major funders and supporters of this work:

**Aetna Foundation ■ Allergan ■ Alliant Energy ■ AT&T ■ Atlantic Health System ■ Atlantic Union Bank
Compare.com ■ Deloitte ■ Entergy ■ Johnson & Johnson ■ JLL ■ Key Bank ■ RWJBarnabas Health
Robert Wood Johnson Foundation ■ Thrivent Financial Foundation ■ UPS ■ U.S. Venture**

WHAT'S NEW IN ALICE RESEARCH

Every two years, United For ALICE undertakes a full review of the ALICE Methodology to ensure that the ALICE measures are transparent, replicable, and current in order to accurately reflect how much income families need to live and work in the modern economy. In 2019, more than 40 external experts — drawn from the Research Advisory Committees across our United For ALICE partner states — participated in the review process. A full description of the Methodology and sources is available at UnitedForALICE.org/Methodology

This Report includes the following improvements:

More local variation: The ALICE budgets for housing, food, transportation, health care, and taxes incorporate more local data. For housing, we differentiate counties within Metropolitan Statistical Areas using American Community Survey gross rent estimates. For food, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Thrifty Food Plan is adjusted at the county level using Feeding America's cost-of-meal data. For transportation, auto insurance is added to new miles-traveled data (discussed in the next paragraph) to reflect different driving costs by state. For health care, out-of-pocket costs are provided by census region. And taxes now systematically include local income tax, using data from the Tax Foundation.

Better reflection of household composition: Transportation and health care budgets now better reflect costs for different household members. The transportation budget for driving a car uses the Federal Highway Administration's miles-traveled data, sorted by age and gender, and AAA's cost-per-mile for a small or medium-sized car. The health care budget reflects employer-sponsored health insurance (the most common form in 2018, when it covered 49% of Americans¹), using the employee's contribution, plus out-of-pocket expenditures by age and income, from the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality Medical Expenditure Panel Survey.

More variations by household size: The median household size in the U.S. is three people for households headed by a person under age 65 and two people for households headed by seniors (65+).² Reflecting this reality, the Household Survival Budgets are presented in new variations, including a Senior Survival Budget. The website provides data to create budgets for households with any combination of adults and children. The ALICE Threshold has also been adjusted to incorporate the most common modern household compositions. These new budget variations are included in the County Profile and Household Budget pages on UnitedForALICE.org/Florida

New ALICE measures:

- The **Senior Survival Budget** more accurately represents household costs for people age 65 and over. Housing and technology remain constant; however, some costs are lower — transportation, food, and health insurance premiums (due to Medicare) — while others are higher, especially out-of-pocket health costs. Because over 90% of seniors have at least one chronic condition, the Senior Survival Budget includes the additional cost of treating the average of the five most common chronic diseases.
- The **ALICE Essentials Index** is a standardized measure of the change over time in the costs of essential household goods and services, calculated for both urban and rural areas. It can be used as a companion to the Bureau of Labor Statistics' (BLS) Consumer Price Index, which covers a broader range of goods and services that families at all income levels buy regularly.

Data Notes: The data are estimates; some are geographic averages, others are one- or five-year averages depending on population size. Change-over-time ranges start with 2007, before the Great Recession, then measure change every two years from 2010 to 2018. County-level data remains the primary focus, as state averages mask significant differences between counties. For example, the share of households below the ALICE Threshold in Florida ranges from 32% in Santa Rosa County to more than 65% in sparsely populated Liberty and Desoto counties. Many percentages are rounded to whole numbers, sometimes resulting in percentages totaling 99% or 101%. The methodological improvements included in this Report have been applied to previous years to allow for accurate year-over-year comparisons. This means that some numbers and percentages at the state and county level will not match those reported in previous ALICE Reports for Florida.

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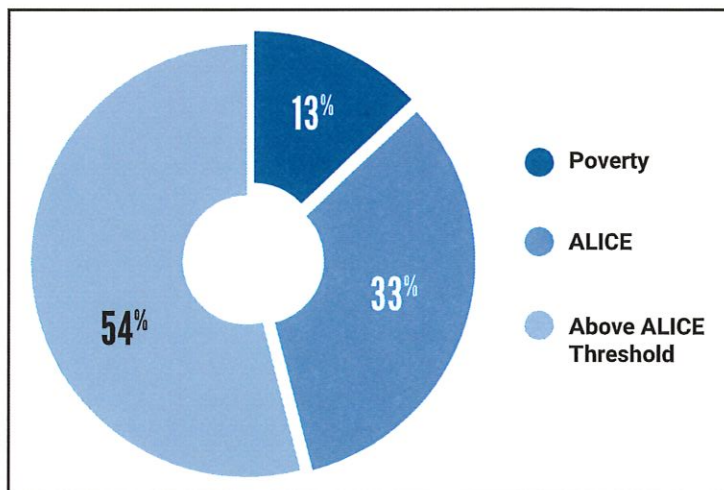
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ASSET LIMITED, INCOME CONSTRAINED, EMPLOYED

From 2010 to 2018, Florida showed steady economic improvements according to traditional measures. Unemployment in the state and across the U.S. fell to historic lows, GDP grew, and wages rose slightly. Yet in 2018, eight years after the end of the Great Recession, 46% of Florida's 7,792,605 households still struggled to make ends meet. And while 13% of these households were living below the Federal Poverty Level (FPL), another 33%— more than twice as many — were **ALICE** households: **A**sset **L**imited, **I**ncome **C**onstrained, **E**mployed. These households earned above the FPL, but not enough to afford basic household necessities.

This Report provides new data and tools that explain the persistent level of hardship faced by ALICE households, revealing aspects of the Florida economy not tracked by traditional economic measures. The Report highlights three critical trends:



- **The cost of living is increasing for ALICE households.** From 2007 to 2018, the cost of household essentials (housing, child care, food, transportation, health care, and technology) increased faster than the cost of other goods and services. The ALICE Essentials Index, a new tool that measures change over time in the cost of essentials, increased at an average rate of 3.4% annually nationwide over the past decade, while the official rate of inflation was 1.8%.
- **Worker vulnerability is increasing while wages stagnate in ALICE jobs.** By 2018, a near-record-low number of people were reported to be unemployed. However, that low unemployment concealed three trends that expose ALICE workers to greater risk: growth in the number of low-wage jobs, minimal increases in wages, and more fluctuations in job hours, schedules, and benefits that make it harder to budget and plan. These trends were clear in 2018: A record number of Florida workers — 50% — were paid by the hour, and 65% of the state's jobs paid less than \$20 per hour.
- **The number of ALICE households is increasing in Florida as a result of rising costs and stagnant wages.** There are more ALICE households than households in poverty, and the number of ALICE households is increasing at a faster rate. The FPL, with its minimal and uniform national estimate of the cost of living, far underestimates the number of households that cannot afford to live and work in the modern economy. In Florida, the percentage of households that were ALICE rose from 22% in 2007 to 33% in 2018. By contrast, those in poverty fluctuated at around 13% throughout the period.

This Report provides critical measures that assess Florida's economy from four perspectives: They track financial hardship over time and across demographic groups; quantify the basic cost of living in Florida; assess job trends; and identify gaps in assistance and community resources. These measures also debunk assumptions and stereotypes about low-income workers and families. ALICE households are as diverse as the general population, composed of people of all ages, genders, races, and ethnicities, and they live in all counties in Florida — urban, suburban, and rural.

The Report concludes with an analysis of the economic benefits if all households had income above the ALICE Threshold. Not only would there be a significant positive impact on families and their communities, but the state economy would also benefit. In fact, the added value to the Florida GDP would be approximately \$244 billion.

This Report and its measures are tools to help stakeholders ask the right questions, reduce vulnerabilities, remove obstacles to advancement, identify gaps in community resources, build a stronger workforce, and implement programs and policies that help put financial stability within reach for ALICE households. With the magnitude of financial hardship revealed, these actions can help move all households toward a more equitable economy, and ensure that no one is left behind in harder times.

GLOSSARY

ALICE is an acronym that stands for **A**sset **L**imited, **I**ncome **C**onstrained, **E**mployed — households with income above the Federal Poverty Level but below the basic cost of living. A household consists of all the people who occupy a housing unit. In this Report, households do not include those living in group quarters such as a dorm, nursing home, or prison.

The **Household Survival Budget** estimates the actual bare-minimum costs of basic necessities (housing, child care, food, transportation, health care, and a basic smartphone plan) in Florida, adjusted for different counties and household types.

The **Senior Survival Budget** incorporates specific cost estimates for seniors for food, transportation, and health care, reflecting key differences in household expenses by age.

The **Household Stability Budget** calculates the costs of supporting and sustaining an economically viable household over time, including a contingency for savings.

The **ALICE Threshold** is the average income that a household needs to afford the basic necessities defined by the Household Survival Budget for each county in Florida. Households **Below the ALICE Threshold** include both ALICE and poverty-level households.

The **ALICE Essentials Index** is a measure of the average change over time in the costs of the essential goods and services that households need to live and work in the modern economy — housing, child care, food, transportation, health care, and a smartphone plan.

ALICE ONLINE

Visit UnitedForALICE.org for more details about ALICE, including:



Interactive Maps

Data at the state, county, municipal, ZIP code, and congressional district levels



Research Advisory Committee

Learn about the members and role of this critical group



Additional Reports

Explore The ALICE Essentials Index and The Consequences of Insufficient Household Income



Demographic Data

Information about ALICE households by age, race/ethnicity, and household type



Data Spreadsheet

Download the ALICE data



Jobs Graphs

Details about where ALICE works



County Profiles

Detailed data about ALICE households in each county



Methodology

Overview of the sources and calculations used in the ALICE research



More about United For ALICE

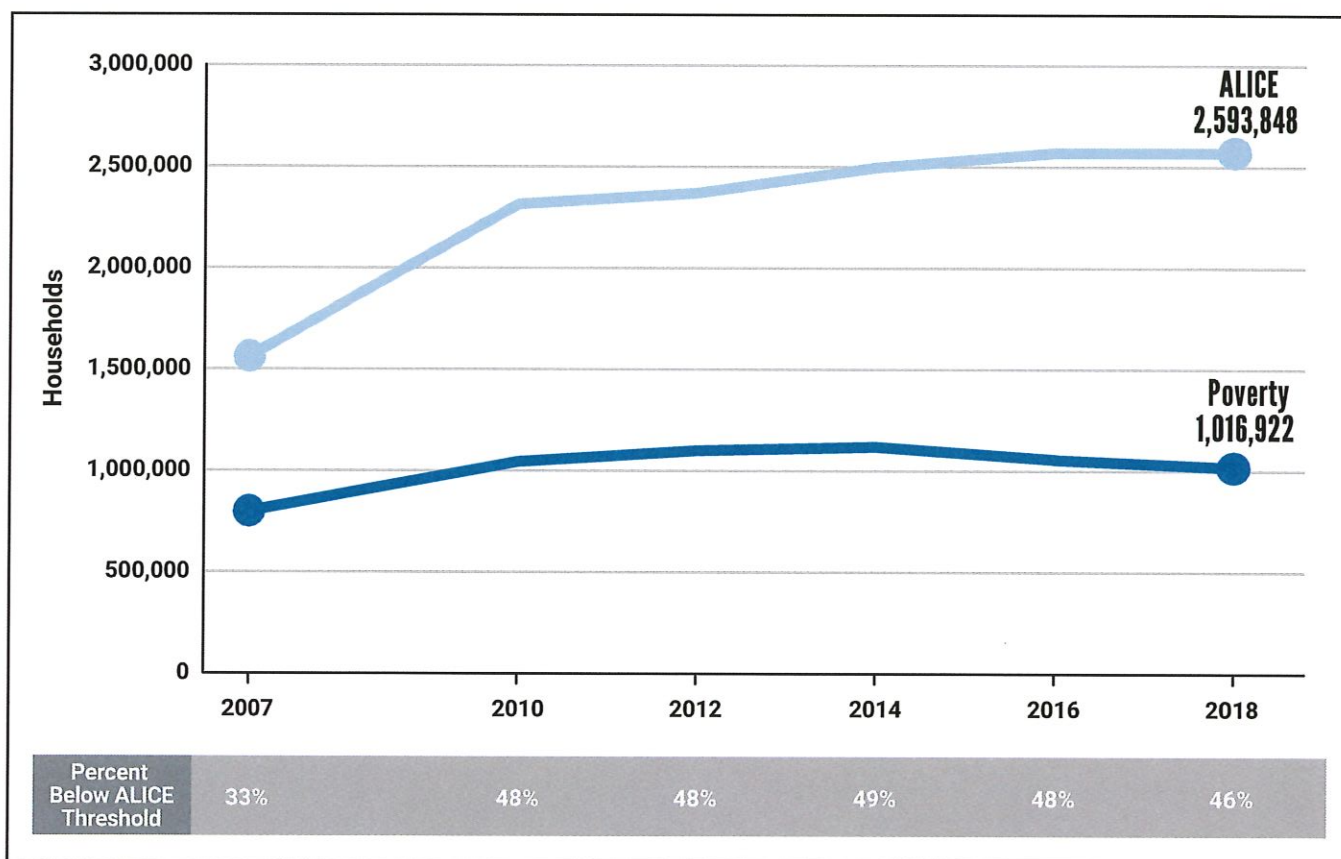
See our partners, press coverage, learning communities, etc.

WHO IS ALICE?

With income above the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) but below a basic survival threshold — defined as the ALICE Threshold — ALICE households earn too much to qualify as “poor” but are still unable to make ends meet. They often work as cashiers, nursing assistants, office clerks, servers, laborers, and security guards. These types of jobs are vital to keeping Florida’s economy running smoothly, but they do not provide adequate wages to cover the basics of housing, child care, food, transportation, health care, and technology for these ALICE workers and their families.

Between 2007 and 2018 — and particularly from 2010 to 2018 — the number of Florida households in poverty remained relatively flat, comprising approximately 13% of all households. The total number of households in the state increased by 10%, to a total of 7,792,605 households in 2018. Yet the number of ALICE households in Florida increased significantly more, with their share of all households rising from 22% in 2007 to 33% in 2018. Overall, the percentage of households living below the ALICE Threshold (ALICE and poverty-level households combined), increased from 33% in 2007 to a peak of 49% in 2014, then landed at 46% in 2018 (Figure 1).

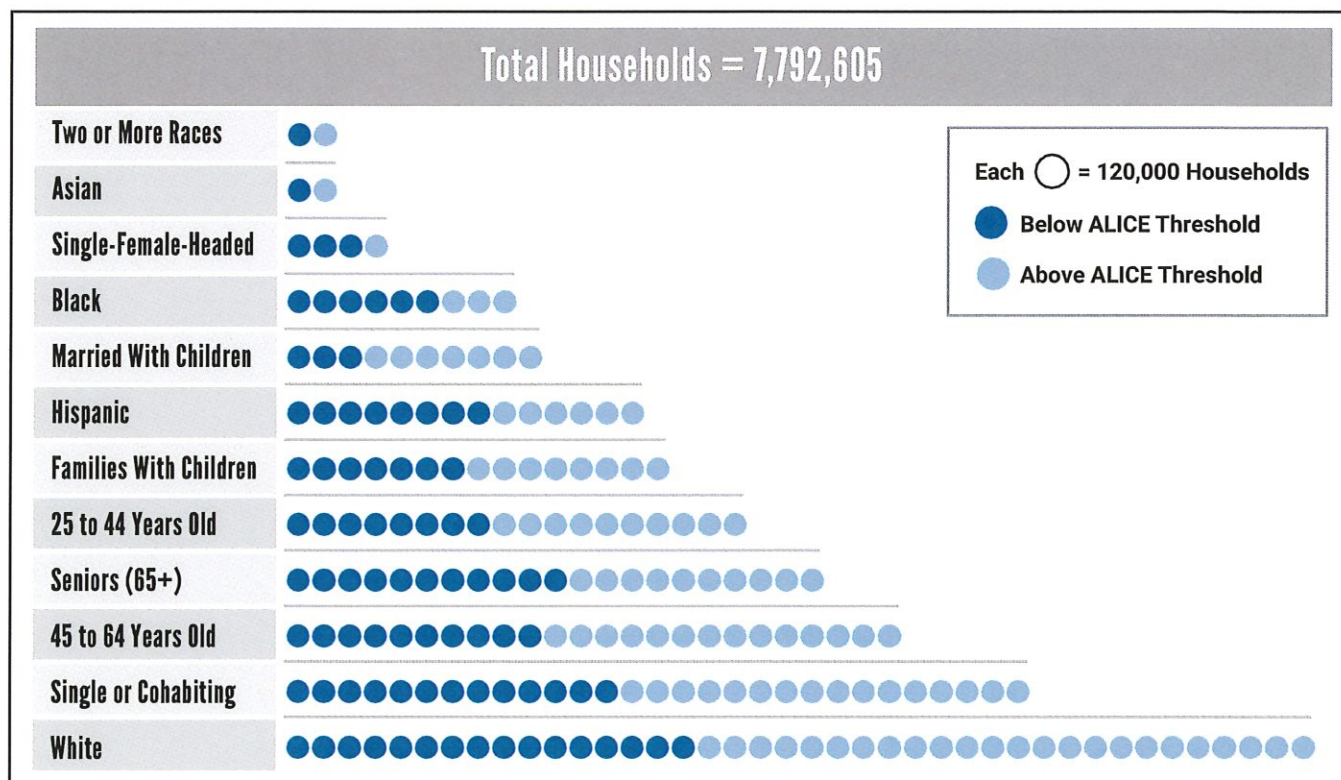
Figure 1.
Households by Income, Florida, 2007-2018



Sources: ALICE Threshold, 2007-2018; American Community Survey, 2007-2018

ALICE households live in every county in Florida — urban, suburban, and rural — and they include people of all genders, ages, and races/ethnicities, across all household types. Figure 2 shows that in 2018, the largest numbers of households below the ALICE Threshold were in the largest demographic groups in Florida — namely, households headed by someone in their prime working years (ages 25-64), White households, seniors, and single or cohabiting households (without children or seniors). Among families with children — another of the state’s biggest groups — married-parent families were the largest subgroup and accounted for 40% of families with children living below the ALICE Threshold.

Figure 2.
Household Types by Income, Largest Groups, Florida, 2018

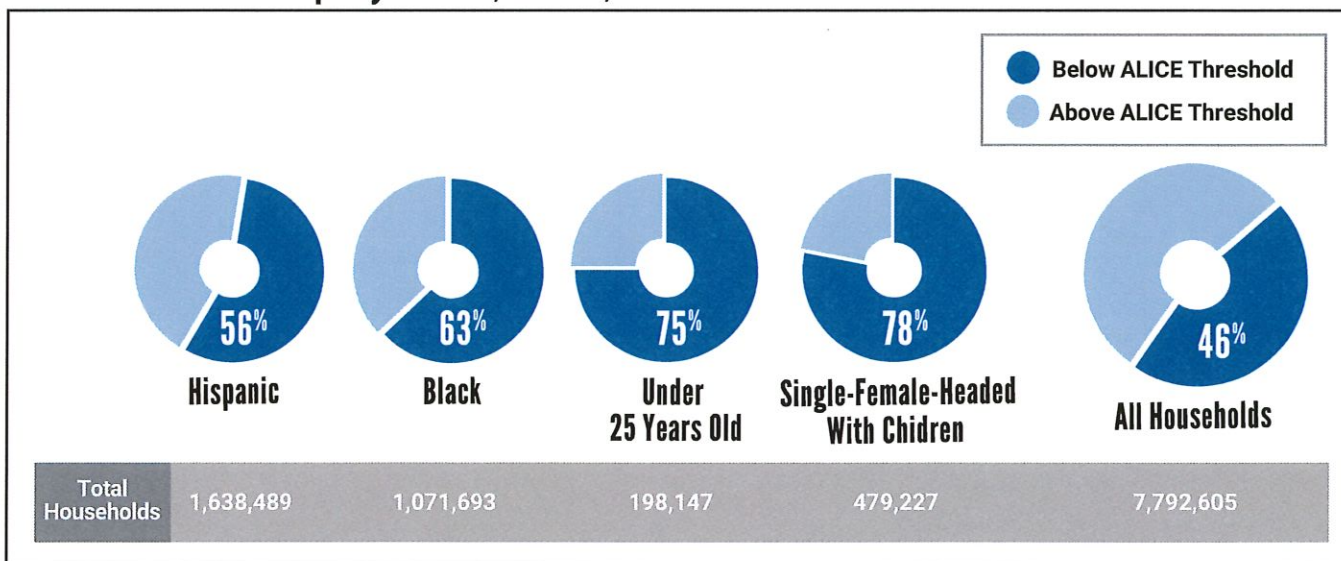


Note: Categories shown in figure are overlapping.

Sources: ALICE Threshold, 2018; American Community Survey, 2018

Another way to examine the data is to look at the proportion of each group that is below the ALICE Threshold. Overall, 46% of households in Florida had income below the ALICE Threshold in 2018. But many smaller groups had a disproportionately high percentage of families below the ALICE Threshold, including Black and Hispanic households, young households (headed by someone under age 25), and single-parent households (Figure 3).

Figure 3.
Select Household Groups by Income, Florida, 2018



Sources: ALICE Threshold, 2018; American Community Survey, 2018

TRENDS: HOUSEHOLD DEMOGRAPHICS

A growing number of households live on the edge of the ALICE Threshold. For these households, even a small increase in the cost of housing or a decrease in work hours can mean the difference between being financially stable and being ALICE — or between being ALICE and falling into poverty. **In Florida, 14% of households were on the cusp of the ALICE Threshold in 2018**, with earnings just above or below it.³ This matters not only for families, but also for the Florida economy: Small increases in regular bills like rent, food, or gasoline, a decrease in wages or hours worked, or an unexpected emergency — such as a factory closing or a natural disaster — could destabilize a large number of households.

Florida is increasingly diverse. Florida is one of the fastest-growing states in the country, and the fourth most populous. While all of the state's racial and ethnic groups grew between 2010 and 2018, their trajectories for growth and financial hardship differed. The largest group, White households, increased by 3%, with a larger proportion of seniors than in other racial/ethnic groups; the next largest groups included more international migrants and people in their prime working years. Hispanic households increased by 30%, Black households by 13%, and the smallest group, Asian households, by 24%. These groups had different trajectories for those below the ALICE Threshold: While White households saw a 2% drop in the number of households below the ALICE Threshold, all others experienced an increase: Black households by 13%, Hispanic households by 26%, and Asian households by 29%.⁴

Florida's household structure continues to change. Married-parent families with children are no longer the most common household type. In 2018, single or cohabiting adults under age 65 with no children under age 18 made up the largest proportion of households in Florida (45%), as well as the largest share of households below the ALICE Threshold (43%). Nationally, the number of cohabiting adults more than doubled between 1996 and 2017, and these partners tend to have higher levels of education and be more racially diverse today than cohabiting adults 20 years ago.⁵

Baby boomers and millennials, the two largest population bubbles, are getting older. This natural aging of the population is increasing the number of seniors as more boomers pass age 65, and that trend is amplified by the large number of seniors who migrate to Florida in retirement. In addition, the proportion of both college-age students and families with children is falling as millennials have passed traditional college age, are having fewer children, and are waiting longer than previous generations to have them.⁶

Among seniors, there are three trends. The White population in Florida is older than other racial/ethnic groups and will continue to account for an increasing share of the senior population. Having lived through a decade of financial challenges since the Great Recession, more Florida seniors will become ALICE. (Though without the many policies and programs in place to help seniors financially — such as Social Security, property tax deductions or exemptions based on age, and senior discounts for both private and public purchases — many more seniors would fall below the ALICE Threshold.) And seniors make up a larger portion of households in rural areas, where they will continue to face additional challenges in access to transportation, health care, and caregiving.⁷

Inequality in income and wealth will continue to rise as wage growth and job stability in high-wage jobs greatly outpace growth and stability at the lower end. Nationwide, from the late 1940s to the early 1970s, incomes across the income distribution grew at nearly the same pace. Then, beginning in the 1970s, income disparities began to widen: The average income for the top 1% increased over five times more than that of the middle 60% and over three times more than that of the bottom fifth, from 1979 to 2016.⁸ The gap in wealth (savings and assets) is even greater. Unable to save, ALICE families do not have the means to build assets, let alone catch up to those who already have assets (especially those who have been building assets for generations). ALICE families also face more barriers that, when compounded, create an even bigger wealth gap. These include issues like lower pay for women, racial/ethnic discrimination in homeownership, and student loan debt.⁹

THE COST OF LIVING IN FLORIDA

Traditional economic measures systematically underestimate the actual cost of basic needs and their rate of increase over time, concealing important aspects of the local and national economy. To better capture the reality of how much income households need to live and work in the modern economy in each county in Florida, this Report includes the **ALICE Household Budgets**. In addition, the Report presents the **ALICE Essentials Index**, a standardized national measure that captures change over time in the cost of household essentials that ALICE households purchase. Together, these tools provide a more accurate estimate of the cost of living and a clearer way to track change over time.

THE ALICE HOUSEHOLD BUDGETS

United For ALICE provides three basic budgets for all counties in Florida. Each budget can be calculated for various household types.

- The **ALICE Household Survival Budget** is an estimate of the minimal total cost of household essentials — housing, child care, food, transportation, health care, and technology, plus taxes and a miscellaneous contingency fund equal to 10% of the budget. It does not include savings, auto repairs, cable service, travel, laundry costs, or amenities such as holiday gifts or dinner at a restaurant that many families take for granted.
- The **Senior Survival Budget**, new to this Report, adjusts the Household Survival Budget to reflect the fact that seniors have lower food costs than younger adults, travel fewer miles for work and family responsibilities, and have increasing health needs and out-of-pocket health care expenses.
- For comparison to a more sustainable budget, the **ALICE Household Stability Budget** estimates the higher costs of maintaining a viable household over time, and it is the only ALICE budget to include a savings category, equal to 10% of the budget.

The actual cost of household basics in every county in Florida is well above the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) for all household sizes and types (Figure 4). For a single adult, the FPL was \$12,140 per year in 2018, but the average Household Survival Budget in Florida was \$24,600 per year.¹⁰ The average Senior Survival Budget totaled \$27,348 per year, primarily due to increased health costs. (Despite having Medicare, seniors have greater out-of-pocket health care costs, largely due to increased spending on chronic health issues like heart disease and diabetes.) And all budgets were significantly lower than the Household Stability Budget, which reached \$47,232 per year for a single adult.

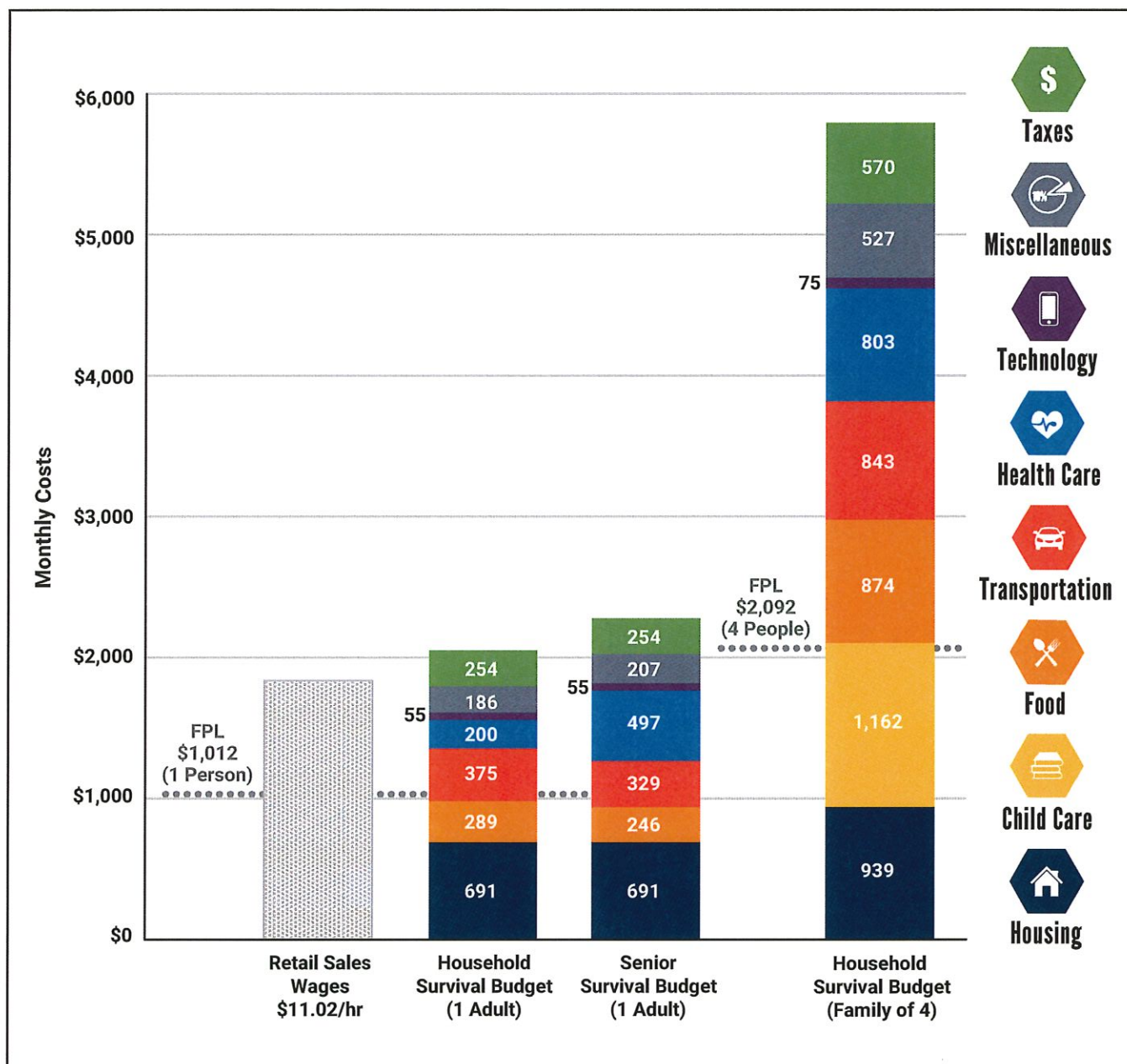
The gaps are even larger for families. The FPL for a four-person family was \$25,100 in 2018, while the Household Survival Budget for a family with two adults, an infant, and a four-year-old was \$69,516.¹¹

The hourly wages needed to support these budgets were \$12.30 for the single adult Survival Budget; \$13.67 for the Senior Survival Budget; and \$34.76 for one worker or \$17.38 each for two workers for the Survival Budget for a family of four. To put these wages in perspective, the median hourly wage for the most common occupation in Florida, retail sales, was \$11.02 in 2018, or \$22,040 if full time, year-round — not enough to support any of the ALICE budgets.

Public assistance programs are based on the FPL, but the FPL is not enough for a household to cover even its most minimal costs, as shown by the comparison to the Household Survival Budget in Figure 4. This means that assistance programs serve far fewer households than actually need assistance, even in a strong economy.

To see the details of each ALICE budget for different household types, visit UnitedForALICE.org/Florida

Figure 4.
Monthly Budget Comparison, Florida, 2018



Note: The FPL is a total; there is no breakdown of how that amount is allocated by budget category.

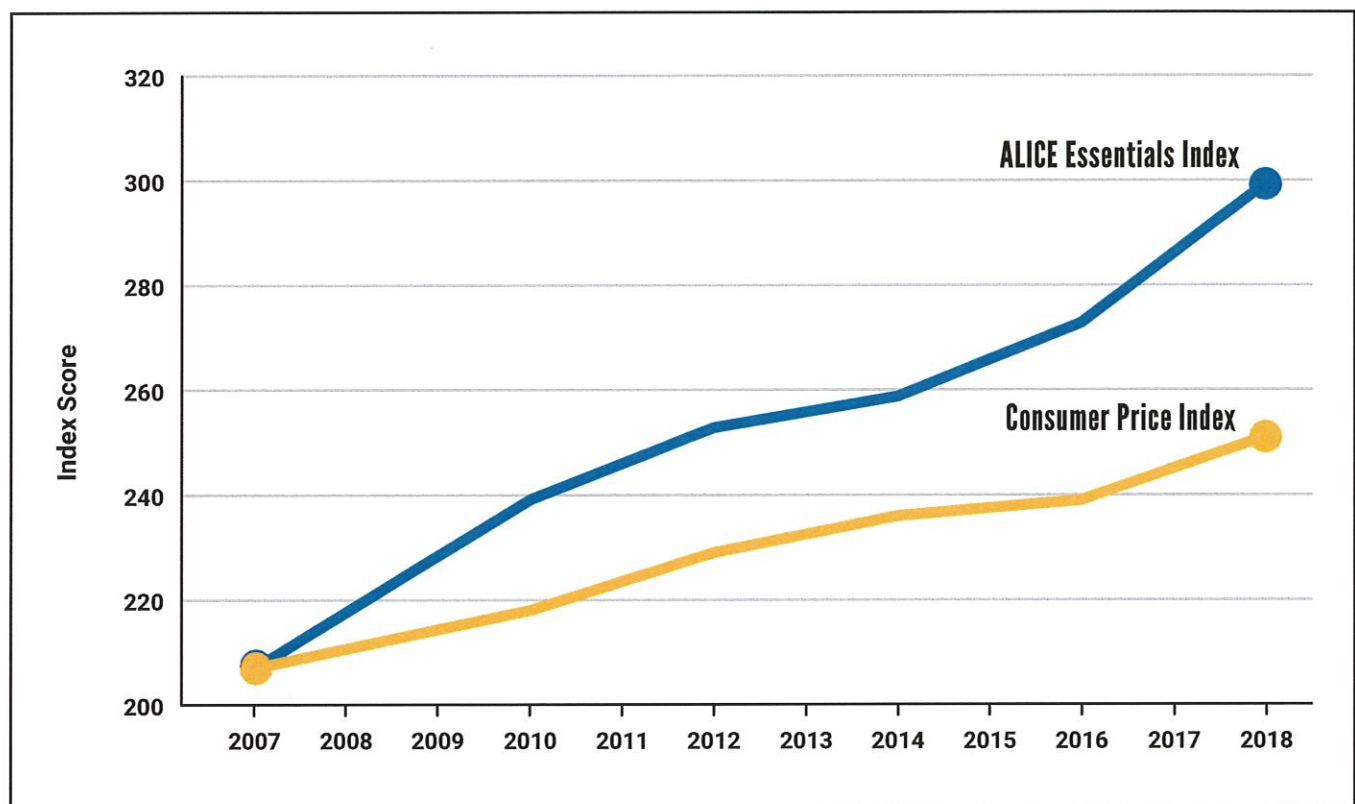
Sources: AAA, 2018; Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, 2018; American Community Survey, 2018; Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2018—Consumer Expenditure Surveys; Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2018—Occupational Employment Statistics; Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, 2019; Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, 2019—Medicare - Chronic Conditions; Federal Highway Administration, 2017; Florida Department of Education, 2017; Fowler, 2019; Gundersen, Dewey, Kato, Crumbaugh, and Strayer, 2019; Internal Revenue Service, 2020; The Zebra, 2018; U.S. Department of Agriculture, 2018—Official USDA Food Plans; U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, 2018—Fair Market Rents. For more details, see the Methodology Overview at [UnitedForALICE.org/Methodology](https://www.unitedforalice.org/methodology).

THE ALICE ESSENTIALS INDEX

Based on items in the Household Survival Budget, the ALICE Essentials Index measures the change over time in the costs of household essentials — a much narrower definition than the more common rate of inflation based on the BLS Consumer Price Index (CPI). While the CPI covers a large group of goods and services that urban consumers buy regularly (housing, food and beverages, transportation, medical care, apparel, recreation, education, and communication services), the ALICE Essentials Index includes only essential household items (housing, child care, food, transportation, health care, and a smartphone plan). The ALICE Essentials Index is also calculated for both urban and rural areas, while the CPI only tracks inflation based on a select number of metropolitan (urban) counties.¹²

Across the country, the ALICE Essentials Index has increased faster than the CPI over the last decade (Figure 5). From 2007 to 2018, the average annual rate of increase was 3.3% in urban areas and 3.4% in rural areas, while the CPI increased 1.8%.¹³ This difference is primarily due to the fact that the costs of basics, especially housing and health care, have increased, while the costs of other items — notably manufactured goods, from apparel to cars — have remained relatively flat. And while basic household goods were 18% to 22% more expensive in urban areas than in rural areas, those costs increased at nearly the same rate in both areas during this period.

Figure 5.
Consumer Price Index and ALICE Essentials Index, United States, 2007-2018



Sources: ALICE Essentials Index, 2007- 2018; Bureau of Labor Statistics—Consumer Price Index, 2007-2018. For more information, visit UnitedForALICE.org/Essentials-Index

The difference between these two cost-of-living measures is more than an academic question. The CPI is used to measure inflation and monitor monetary policy. It also determines the rate at which a wide range of government program levels and benefits are increased, including Social Security, veterans' and Federal Civil Service retirees' benefits, government assistance programs, the FPL, income tax brackets, and tax credits like the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC).¹⁴ But the ALICE Essentials Index shows that from 2007 to 2018, the CPI considerably underestimated the increase in the cost of living across the country.

TRENDS: COST OF LIVING

The cost of living for ALICE is growing significantly in both urban and rural areas, often driven by the cost of housing. In Florida, rising costs in urban areas are due to rapid population growth and increasing demand for low-cost, urban rental units (especially among millennials and seniors). This is especially pronounced in metropolitan areas with high-end resorts and retirement communities, such as The Villages, Cape Coral-Fort Myers, Orlando, and New Smyrna Beach. This trend will continue as affordable housing becomes harder to find. And while the overall cost of living in rural America is lower than in metro areas, expenses — especially housing — are rising at similar rates in both areas. Nationwide, households that are severely rent burdened (with rent accounting for more than 50% of their income) are projected to grow by at least 11%, to 13.1 million households, by 2025.¹⁵

Commuting times will continue to increase, as will demand for alternative transportation options. High housing costs and urban sprawl push workers farther from their jobs, increasing commute times with a negative impact on health, job retention, and productivity. With these pressures, as well as minimal public transportation infrastructure and the cost of owning and maintaining a car, there will be increased demand in Florida to explore new public transportation options (e.g., trains and buses, rideshares, and self-driving vehicles).¹⁶

The child care industry will face new challenges, and so will parents. As the number of families with children starts to decrease (it fell 1% in Florida from 2010 to 2018), it will be more difficult for child care centers to stay in business, making child care harder to find and more expensive, especially in less populated areas. Since single-parent families are still more likely to be below the ALICE Threshold, they will also struggle to afford quality child care. Compounding this issue is the fact that low-paid child care workers are ALICE as well (with a median hourly wage of \$10.51 in Florida).¹⁷ The overall trend, then, is toward fewer families with children but more who are struggling.

“In 2018, households headed by adults under the age of 25 were more likely to be below the ALICE Threshold compared to other age groups in Florida, and they often struggled to put food on the table.”

Food insecurity is increasing among young adults and seniors. In 2018, households headed by adults under the age of 25 were more likely to be below the ALICE Threshold compared to other age groups in Florida, and they often struggled to put food on the table. For example, reports consistently find higher rates of food insecurity among college students. There is also growing food insecurity at the other end of the age spectrum, with a projected 8 million food-insecure seniors nationwide by 2050. Compared to other seniors, food-insecure seniors are more than twice as likely to have depression, 91% more likely to have asthma, 66% more likely to have had a heart attack, and 57% more likely to have congestive heart failure. Public benefits help but do not eliminate the need for emergency assistance measures, such as food pantries.¹⁸

Gaps in health based on demographic, environmental, and socioeconomic factors will continue to grow. Volatility in health insurance availability and coverage, increasing out-of-pocket costs — even for those with employer-sponsored programs — and shortages of health care providers (especially in rural areas) make it harder for many families to get the health care they need.¹⁹ Florida ranked 49th — the third-lowest score — in the Commonwealth Fund’s 2018 survey of state health systems, with particular issues of access and affordability, prevention and treatment, and the disparity in care between rich and poor patients.²⁰ These disparities will grow with new but expensive advances in medicine, compounded exposure to environmental hazards and public health crises for many low-income households, and a persistent context of discrimination and institutionalized racism in Florida and across the country.²¹

Natural and human-made disasters will continue to impact ALICE households disproportionately. Florida's greatest hazard is flooding, and the state is becoming more vulnerable with the increase in extreme weather events, especially hurricanes. The increasing impact of these incidents — from floods and wildfires to pandemics — is felt most acutely by ALICE households and their surrounding communities. With minimal job security and little or no savings, ALICE families feel the impact of an economic disruption almost immediately as hourly paid workers suffer lost wages right away. ALICE households are more vulnerable during natural disasters as they often live in communities with fewer resources, and housing that is more susceptible to flooding, fire, and other hazards. With no financial cushion, ALICE workers struggle to repair damage, recover from illness, and pay ongoing bills. At the same time, ALICE workers are essential to disaster recovery efforts in both infrastructure repair and health care, and they are often forced to choose between caring for their families and ensuring community recovery. All of these costs are added to the increased risk of physical harm ALICE families face if they cannot afford to flee an oncoming natural disaster or take necessary precautions during a public health crisis.²²

Financial instability will mean additional costs for ALICE households. The costs of financial instability are cumulative and intensify over time. Skimping on essentials, from food to health care, leads to greater long-term problems (see United For ALICE's 2019 Report *The Consequences of Insufficient Household Income*). Failure to pay bills on time leads to fees, penalties, and low credit scores, which in turn increase interest rates, insurance rates, and costs for other financial transactions (from check-cashing fees to payday cards).²³ Unexpected expenses can intensify these impacts. In 2017, only 51% of Florida households had set aside any money in the past 12 months that could be used for unexpected expenses or emergencies such as illness or the loss of a job. Though this was above the national rate of 42%, it still left nearly half of Floridians without any financial cushion. And without enough income to cover current and unexpected expenses, ALICE households cannot save for future expenses like education, retirement, or a down payment on a house.²⁴

THE CHANGING LANDSCAPE OF WORK IN FLORIDA

ALICE workers play an essential role in Florida's economy but have not benefited from many of the state's recent economic gains — a reality that is not captured by traditional economic measures. In many ways, the Florida economy is booming: GDP and population growth are above the national average, and unemployment is low.²⁵ This section breaks down labor force data in new ways, and in so doing highlights the challenges ALICE workers face: the declining power of wages to keep up with the cost of living, greater dependence on hourly wages, a historically high number of adults out of the labor force, and increased economic risk for workers.

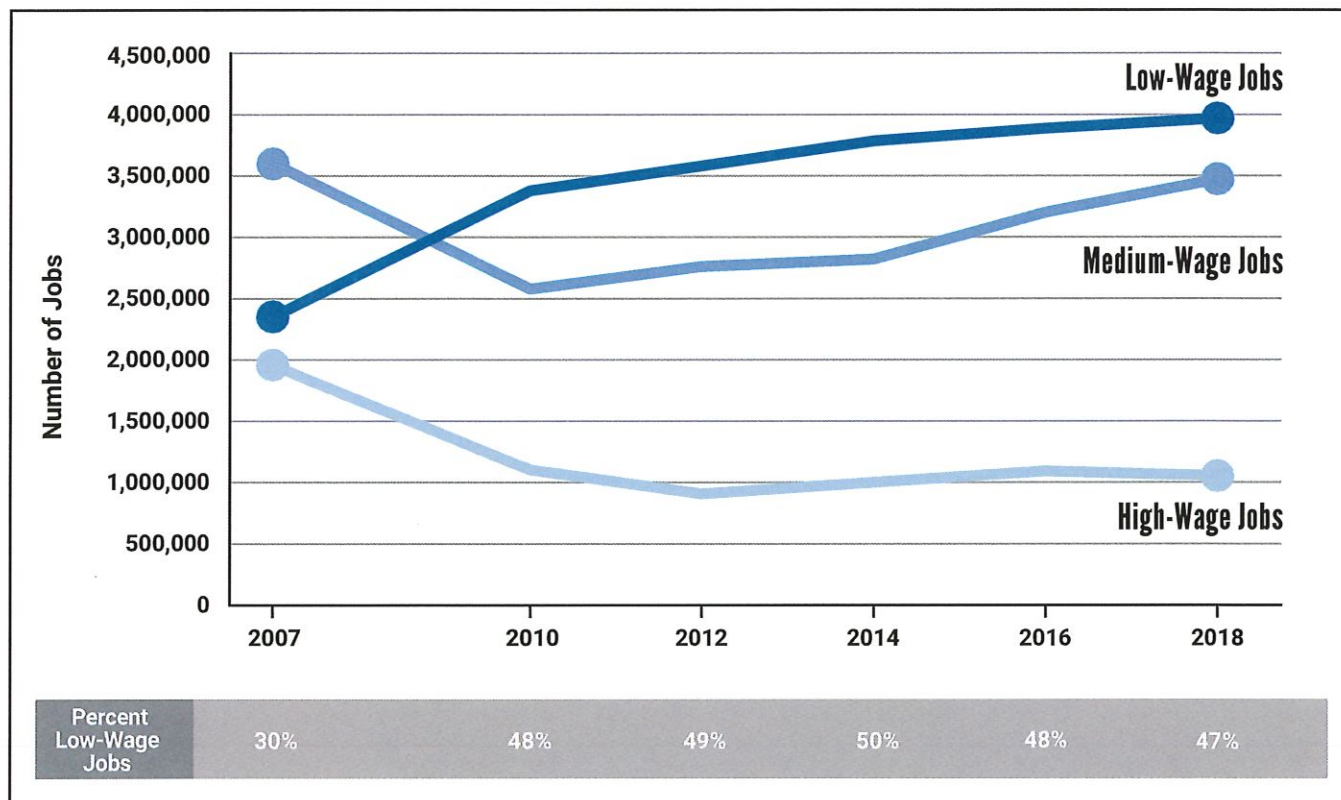
With the nation's fourth largest economy and a near-record-low unemployment rate, Florida appeared to have a robust economic profile in 2018, with only 3% of adults actively looking but unable to find work and employment growth of 16%. Yet the state economy was dominated by low-wage jobs that could not keep up with the increase in the cost of the basic household budget (Figure 6). For example, growth in the state's tourism and agriculture sectors relies on low-wage jobs. In fact, the accommodation and food services industry is one of the largest but has the lowest average annual wage; similarly, in health care, the expansion in health services has largely been in low-wage health care jobs. Aviation and aerospace, construction, and financial services have been bright spots but are a small part of the state's overall employment, and the manufacturing sector has been rebounding slowly, with small levels of job gains.²⁶

“ALICE workers play an essential role in Florida's economy but have not benefited from many of the state's recent economic gains — a reality that is not captured by traditional economic measures.”

Figure 6 illustrates the following trends in wages compared to the cost of living in Florida from 2007 to 2018:

- Low-wage jobs (dark-blue line) are defined as those paying less than the wage needed for two workers to afford the family Household Survival Budget (which includes costs for two adults, an infant, and a four-year-old). In 2007, this was less than \$11.93 per hour; by 2018, the wage required had increased to \$17.38 per hour. The number of low-wage jobs increased by 69% during that period and accounted for the largest number of jobs in Florida in 2018. This shows that, even with two earners working full time, it is not only possible but common for households to fall below the ALICE Threshold.
- Medium-wage jobs (medium-blue line) allow two workers to afford a family Household Survival Budget. In 2007, these were jobs that paid between \$11.93 and \$23.86 per hour, per worker; by 2018, wages needed for these jobs were between \$17.38 and \$34.76 per hour, per worker. The number of medium-wage jobs decreased by 4% during that period.
- High-wage jobs (light-blue line) allow one worker to afford a family Household Survival Budget. In 2007, the wage required was \$23.86 per hour or more; by 2018, the wage required had increased to \$34.76 per hour. The number of high-wage jobs decreased by 46% during that period.²⁷

Figure 6.
Number of Jobs by Wage Level, Florida, 2007-2018



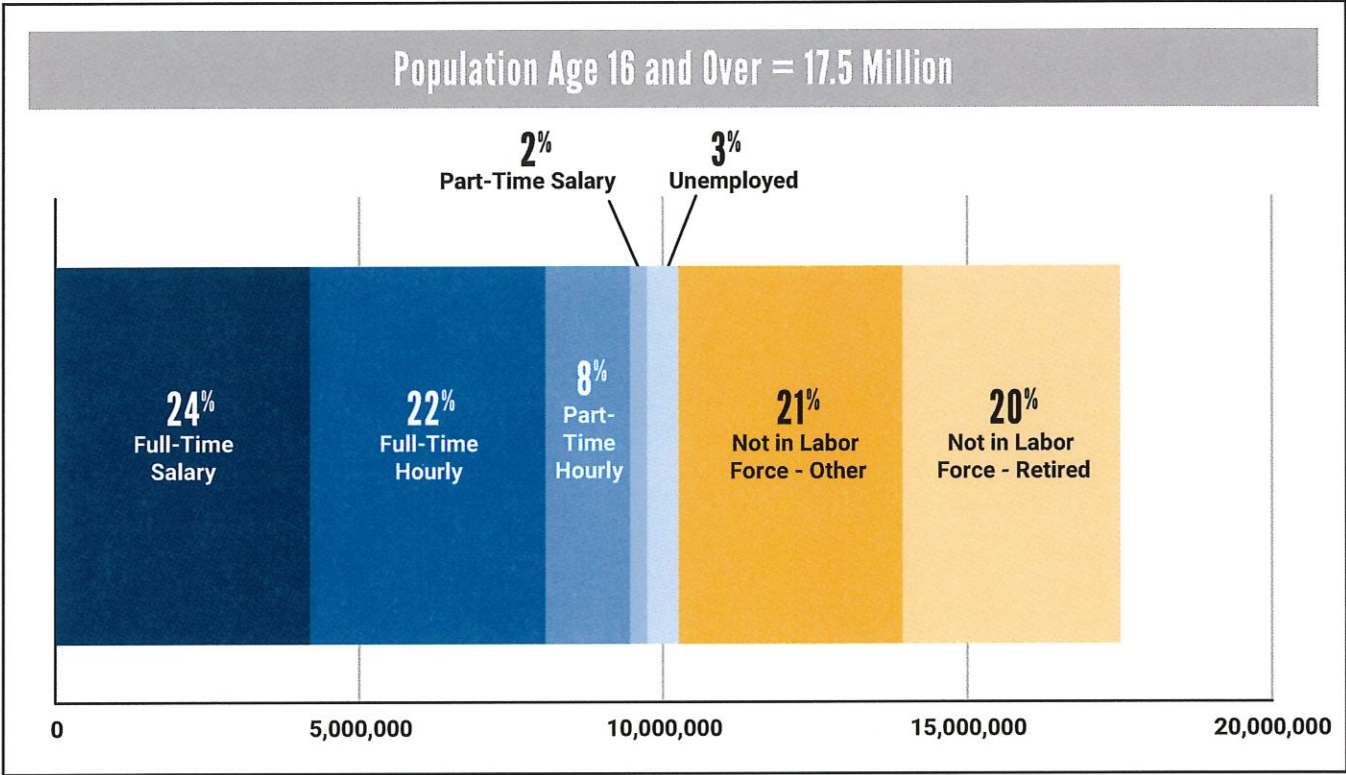
Note: Wage levels are defined by their relation to the Household Survival Budget. Dark blue = Job cannot support family Household Survival Budget with two earners. Medium blue = Job supports family Household Survival Budget with two earners. Light blue = Job supports family Household Survival Budget with one earner.

Sources: ALICE Household Survival Budget, 2007-2018; Bureau of Labor Statistics, Labor Force Statistics, 2007-2018—Occupational Employment Statistics

THE NEW LABOR FORCE

A 2018 overview of the labor status of Florida’s 17.5 million working-age adults (people age 16 and over) shows that 59% of adults were in the labor force (blue bars in Figure 7), yet more than half of them were workers who were paid hourly. In addition, 41% of adults were outside the labor force (gold bars), the largest number since 1984²⁸ (Figure 7).

Figure 7.
Labor Status, Population Age 16 and Over, Florida, 2018



Note: Data for full- and part-time jobs is only available at the national level; these national rates (51% of full-time workers and 75% of part-time workers paid hourly) have been applied to the total Florida workforce to calculate the breakdown shown in this figure. Full-time represents a minimum of 35 hours per week at one or more jobs for 48 weeks per year.

Sources: American Community Survey, 2018; Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, 2018

Though the majority of adults in Florida were working in 2018 and most households had at least one worker, only 24% of working-age adults had the security of a full-time job with a salary. The rest were paid hourly and/or worked part time.²⁹

Hourly Work and the Gig Economy

Employers’ increasing reliance on hourly workers is typically associated with freelance “gig economy” jobs (like rideshare driving or on-demand delivery), but even traditional jobs are now more likely to be paid by the hour, especially in retail, health care, food service, and construction.³⁰ These workers are more likely to have fluctuations in income, with frequent schedule changes and variation in the number of hours available for work each week/month. They are also less likely to receive benefits, such as health insurance, paid time off, family leave, or retirement benefits, especially if they work fewer than 30 hours per week at a single job.³¹

Hourly workers are more likely to have multiple sources of income. Traditional measures of employment have focused on the number of jobs held by a worker; for example, BLS estimates that only 5% of workers held two or more jobs in 2018.³² However, in the modern economy, where many workers have their own small business, are consultants, or are contingent, temporary, freelance, or contract workers, a worker may have many sources of income that are not necessarily considered a “job.” In 2019, nearly half (45%) of working adults reported having a side gig outside of their primary job.³³

In comparison with hourly workers, salaried workers are paid an annual amount at regular pay periods, and usually receive benefits. Nationally, employers spent an average of 31% of compensation on benefits in 2018; not providing these represents significant savings to the employer. As a result, even traditional jobs are morphing as employers shift the financial risk of changes in supply and demand to employees.³⁴ While this is true throughout the economy, it is especially concentrated in lower-wage positions — the jobs most accessible to ALICE.

Who is Out of the Labor Force?

Of adults 16 years and older in Florida, 20% were out of the labor force in 2018 because they were retired and another 21% were out of the labor force for other reasons (gold bars in Figure 7). This totals 41% of adults outside the labor force, one of the highest rates in the country.³⁵

Many of those out of the labor force had stopped looking for work for a variety of reasons, such as scheduling, transportation, or child care issues. They were not included in the state’s low unemployment rate, which only counts adults actively looking for work. In the 2018 economy, those out of the labor force had proven to be a large reserve of potential workers able to be drawn back into the labor force with only slightly higher wages — in effect, keeping wages low. In previous periods of low unemployment, employers have had to offer much higher wages to attract workers back into the labor force or away from other businesses.³⁶

One of the largest groups of adults traditionally out of the labor force is retirees (age 65 and over and not working). In Florida in 2018, they accounted for 20% of the population over age 16 — an unusually high percentage, in part due to the baby boomer generation aging into retirement. This number does not include the increasing number of seniors who are still working; in 2018, 18% of seniors in Florida were still in the labor force.³⁷

Those under 65 and not working accounted for another 21% of the population over age 16, and they were out of the labor force for a variety of reasons, the two most common being:

- **School:** Nationally, 77% of high school students and 52% of college students did not work in 2018. At these rates, non-working students in Florida would account for one-third (33%) of the state’s working-age adults out of the workforce.³⁸
- **Health:** Adults with one or more health issues — an illness or disability that makes it difficult to get to work, perform some job functions, or work long hours — accounted for 20% of those out of the labor force in Florida in 2018.³⁹

The remainder of adults were out of the labor force for other reasons, including family caregiving responsibilities or limited access to transportation or child care.⁴⁰ For women 25 to 54 years old, the most common reason for not working in 2018 was in-home responsibilities — caring for children, but also, as the population of Florida ages, caring for an aging parent or a family member with a disability or chronic health issue.⁴¹

ALICE JOBS: MAINTAINING THE ECONOMY

While national conversations about work often focus on the economic importance of the “innovation” sector and its high-paying jobs, the reality is that the smooth functioning of the national and Florida economies relies on a much larger number of occupations that build and repair the infrastructure and educate and care for the past, current, and future workforce. The workers in these jobs are described as “Maintainers” by technology scholars Lee Vinsel and Andrew Russell, and they are primarily ALICE.⁴² To better understand where ALICE works, we elaborate on Vinsel and Russell’s concept by breaking down all occupations in Florida into two occupational categories, each with two job types: the lower-paying Maintainer occupations, composed of Infrastructor and Nurturer jobs; and the higher-paying Innovator occupations, composed of Adaptor and Inventor jobs.

DEFINITIONS

Maintainer Occupations:

Infrastructors build and maintain the physical economy (construction, maintenance, management, administration, manufacturing, agriculture, mining, transportation, retail).

Nurturers care for and educate the workforce (health and education, food service, arts, tourism, hospitality).

Innovator Occupations:

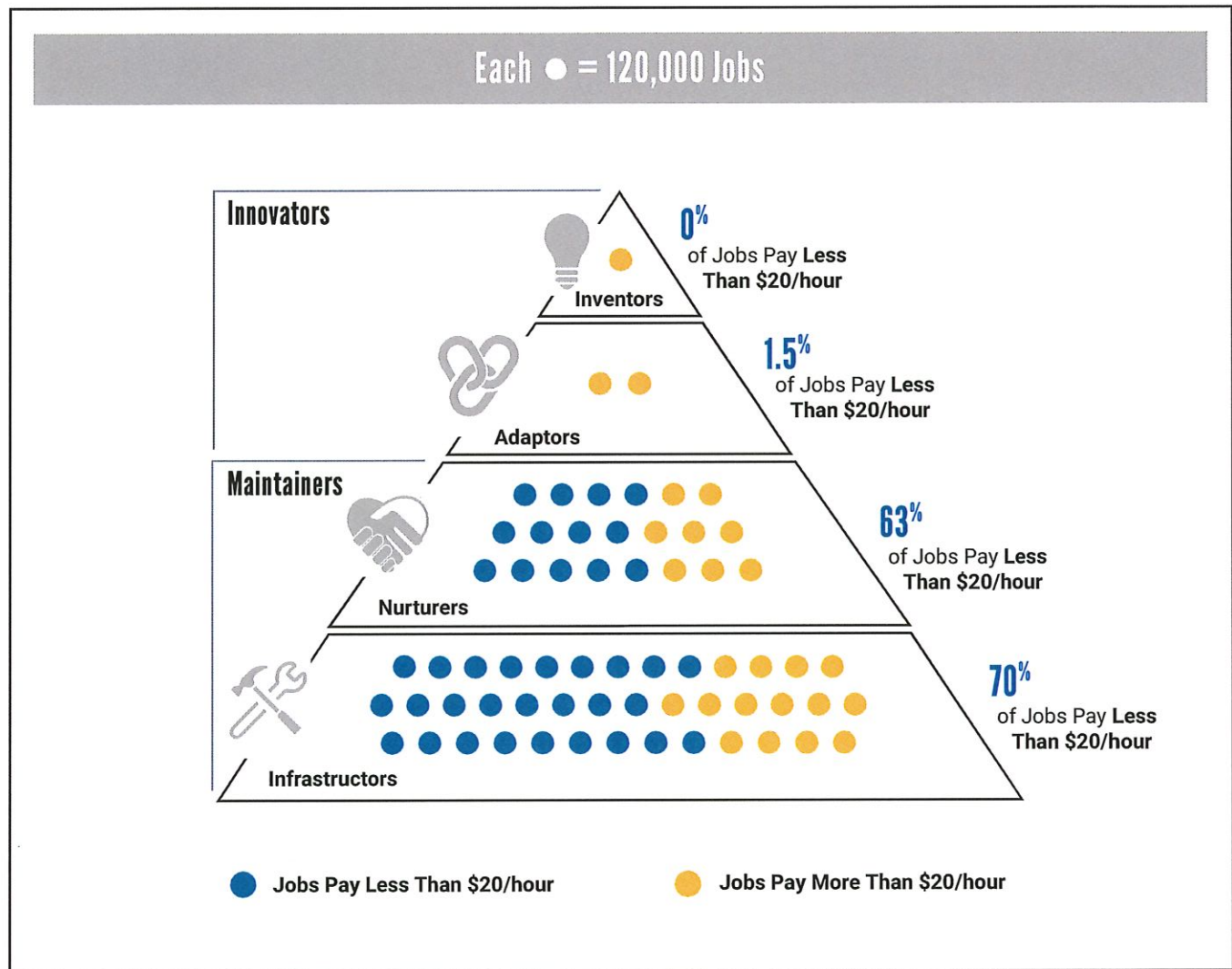
Adaptors implement existing tools or processes in new ways, responding to opportunities and changing circumstances (managers, industrial and organizational psychologists, analysts, designers, technicians, and even policymakers).

Inventors devise new processes, appliances, machines, or ideas. Before World War II, most inventors were independent entrepreneurs. Today, they are most likely engineers and scientists working in research & development, and, in some cases, higher education.

The largest employment sectors in Florida are Maintainer occupations. The single largest industry in 2018, with 1.8 million employees, was trade, transportation, and utilities, which is comprised of Infrastructor jobs. The next largest — professional and business services and education and health services, with 1.4 million employees each — are primarily comprised of Nurturer jobs. All these industries have large shares of ALICE workers.⁴³ There are far fewer jobs in Innovator occupations (Adaptors and Inventors).

When stacked together, Florida’s occupations form a pyramid that reveals the critical role of Maintainer jobs — the jobs most accessible to ALICE — in the state economy (Figure 8). The majority of Maintainer jobs (70% of Infrastructor jobs and 63% of Nurturer jobs) pay less than \$20 per hour — a wage that, if full time, year-round, provides an annual salary of less than \$40,000, which is \$29,516 less than the family Household Survival Budget of \$69,516. By comparison, almost all Adaptor and Inventor occupations pay more than \$20 per hour.

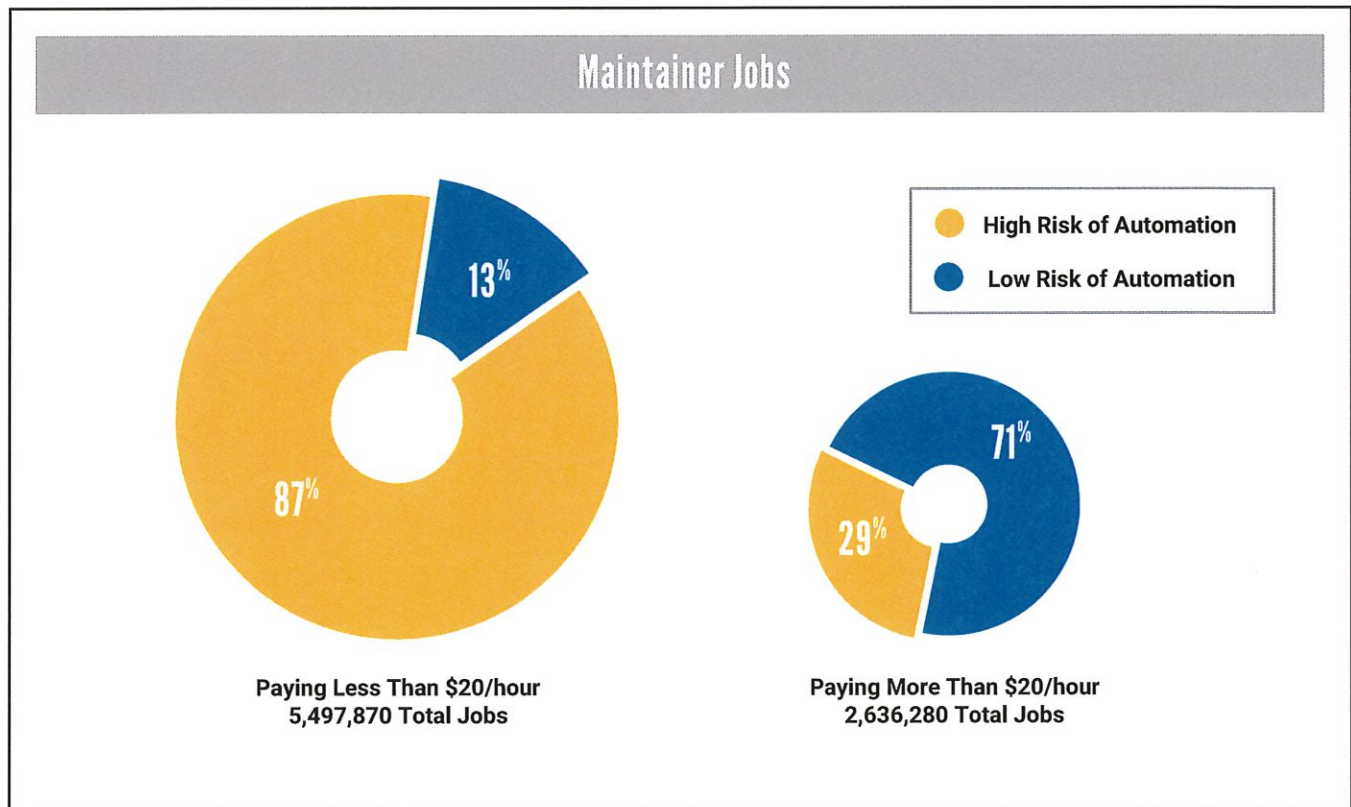
Figure 8.
Occupations by Wage and Type, Florida, 2018



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Labor Force Statistics, 2018—Occupational Employment Statistics

The precarious nature of ALICE workers' jobs is reinforced by the powerful relationship between low wages and the high risk of jobs becoming automated (defined as having a greater than 50% chance of being replaced by technology in the next decade). Jobs that pay less than \$20 per hour are more likely to be replaced by technology compared to higher-paying jobs. This is especially true for Maintainer occupations, where most jobs pay less than \$20 per hour and 87% of these low-paying jobs are at a high risk of automation. By comparison, only 29% of Maintainer jobs that pay more than \$20 per hour are at that level of risk (Figure 9).

Figure 9.
Occupations by Type and Risk of Automation, Florida, 2018



Sources: Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2018—Occupational Employment Statistics; Frey & Osborne, 2013

There are also differences in salary and risk of automation based on the type of Maintainer job. Among Nurturer jobs, 63% of jobs that pay less than \$20 per hour are at risk of automation, while only 37% of those that pay more than \$20 per hour are at risk. Among Infrastructor jobs, the discrepancy is even greater: 70% of jobs that pay less than \$20 per hour are at risk of automation, compared with 30% of those that pay more than \$20 per hour.⁴⁴ Education level also impacts risk of automation; nationally, the risk for jobs that require only a high school diploma (55%) is more than double the risk for jobs that require a bachelor's degree (24%).⁴⁵

TRENDS: THE LANDSCAPE OF WORK

Economic growth will be led by the non-traditional work and small businesses of the gig economy. As much as 94% of U.S. net employment growth in the last decade has come from alternative or contingent labor, according to a National Bureau of Economic Research report.⁴⁶ With an increasing number of workers who are contractors, work in small businesses, or rely on a combination of side gigs, the number of people experiencing gaps in income and going without benefits will also rise. Millennials are leading the way in this trend, with 48% nationally saying they earn income on the side (i.e., in addition to what they consider their primary employment), compared to 28% of baby boomers.⁴⁷ These arrangements are more volatile than traditional jobs, and workers bear the brunt of changes in demand, the price of materials, and transportation costs, as well as impacts related to cyberattacks, natural and human-made disasters, and economic downturns.⁴⁸

The rise of automation will require a workforce with more digital skills. Rather than being replaced outright, many jobs, across all job types, will require an increasing ability to incorporate new technologies, work with data, and make data-based decisions.⁴⁹ ALICE workers will need to gain new skills rapidly, and that will require more on-the-job training, more flexibility to change career paths, and different kinds of education providers.⁵⁰ The benefits of increased technology will include improved accuracy in areas like pharmaceutical pill dispensing, and reduced risk of injury for workers such as warehouse packers and long-distance drivers.⁵¹

The number of low-wage jobs will continue to increase, despite automation. Even though most jobs will change and evolve, a large portion will remain low-wage. For example, the wages in many Maintainer jobs are so low that it would be more expensive to automate them. Other low-wage jobs in areas like education and health care require employees to be on-site and are difficult to fully automate (although these workers will still have to learn to work with technology). From 2018 to 2026, the occupation projected to have the largest number of new jobs in Florida will be food preparation and serving workers; the median wage for these jobs in 2018 was \$9.42 per hour, which was not enough to support the single-adult or family Survival Budgets. Of the state's top 20 growth occupations, two-thirds (63%) will pay less than \$15 per hour, half (52%) will not require any formal educational credential at all, and one-quarter (25%) will require only a high school diploma.⁵²

Students will continue to be a significant part of the labor force. As more families face financial hardship and the cost of college continues to rise, more students will have to work while in school. Nationally, 20% of high school students, 41% of full-time college students, and 82% of part-time college students had a job in 2017.⁵³ What's more, despite many students being employed, 45% of college students who completed the largest annual survey of basic college needs reported having experienced food insecurity in the previous month, and 56% had experienced housing insecurity in the prior year.⁵⁴ And even with more students working, student debt will continue to increase as more students from lower-income families attend college and costs continue to rise. In Florida, 44% of college students who graduated in 2018 were in debt with an average loan of \$24,428, a 15% increase from 2010.⁵⁵

NEXT STEPS: DATA FOR ACTION

The ALICE data highlights significant problems in the Florida economy in 2018: stagnant wages, a rising cost of living, and 46% of the state's households unable to afford even the most basic budget. However, this data can also be used to generate solutions to these problems that help ALICE households and create equity across communities. The measures of cost of living, financial hardship, and changes in the labor force presented in this Report can help stakeholders ask the right questions and make data-driven decisions. This data can help policymakers and community organizations identify gaps in community resources, and it can guide businesses in finding additional ways to assist their workforce and increase productivity — both in times of economic growth and during periods of economic recovery.

This section of the Report maps the 2018 ALICE data, showing gaps in resources to help direct assistance and fill immediate needs. When analyzed in relation to broader data on health, education, and social factors, these maps help focus solutions on underlying causes of hardship, and they also highlight areas of success.

IDENTIFYING GAPS

ALICE households often live in areas with limited community resources, making it even more difficult to make ends meet. The lack of some resources has immediate and direct costs. For example, without public transportation or nearby publicly funded preschools, ALICE families pay more for transportation and child care. Other costs, such as the consequences of limited access to health care providers, open space, or libraries, accumulate over time.

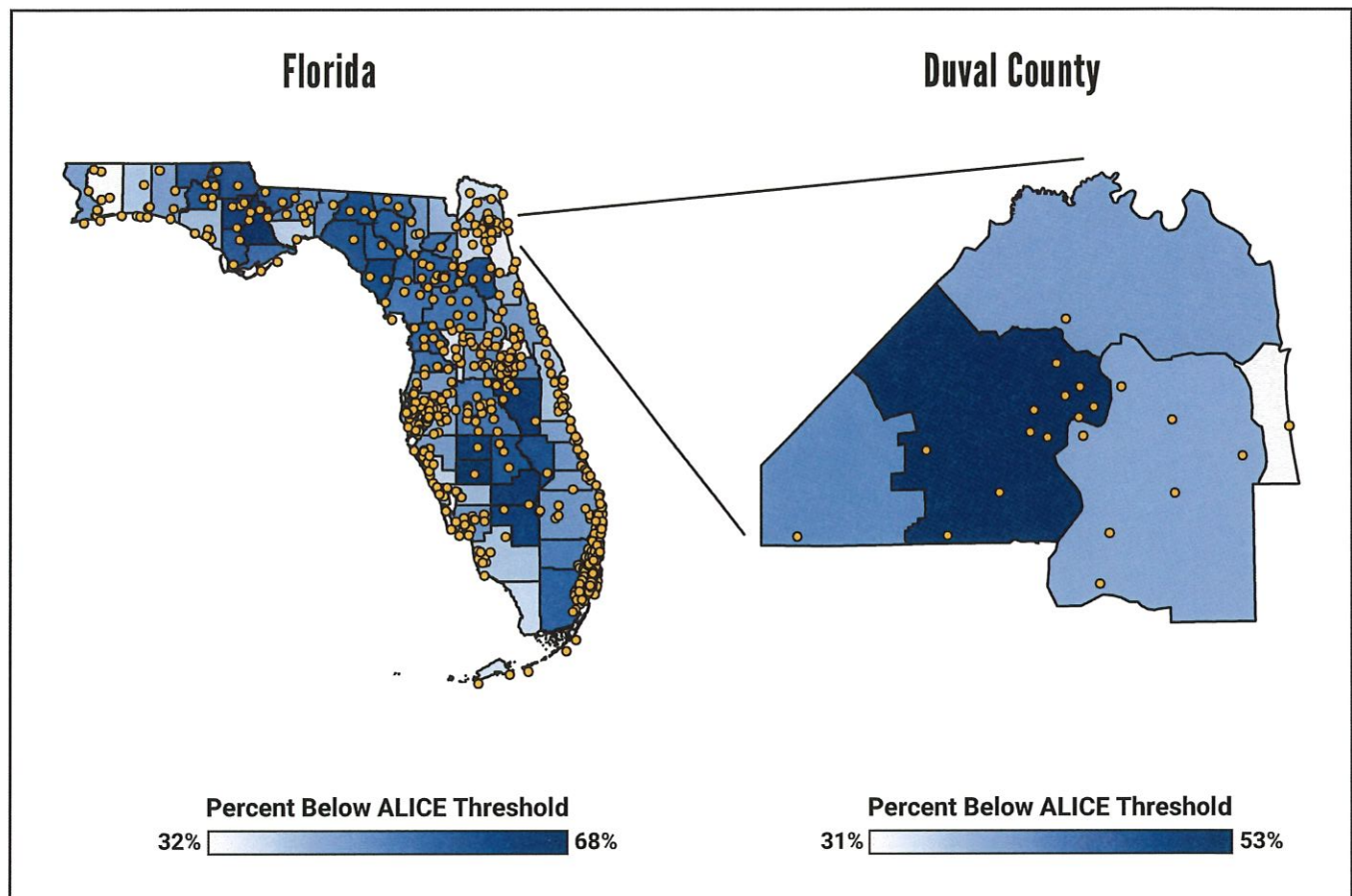
With the ALICE data tools, stakeholders can map where ALICE lives along with the location of community resources — such as public libraries or disaster-relief services — to identify gaps by town, ZIP code, or county (Figure 10). This data can help stakeholders answer targeted questions, including the following:

Do ALICE households have access to libraries?

Access to public libraries is especially important for ALICE families because libraries provide information on social services and job opportunities, free internet and computer access, and a range of free programs, community meetings, and even 3-D printers. After a natural disaster, libraries serve as second responders, providing electricity, internet access, charging stations, heat or air conditioning, and current information on recovery efforts.⁵⁶ In lower-income communities, the library can provide a safe and inclusive place for individuals and families. A 2019 Gallup Poll found that lower-income households (earning less than \$40,000 per year) visit the library more frequently than average- and higher-income households.⁵⁷

There are 545 libraries across Florida's 67 counties, shown in gold dots in Figure 10 (and in an interactive feature on UnitedForALICE.org/Florida).⁵⁸ This data can help stakeholders identify where there are gaps in needed services (such as in areas with a high percentage of ALICE households but few or no libraries) and what type of intervention might be most helpful. For example, areas with a small population but a high percentage of ALICE households may benefit more from mobile library services than a new brick-and-mortar building, or library services (like free computers) could be offered in other public buildings.

Figure 10.
Library Locations and Households Below ALICE Threshold, Florida, 2018



Sources: ALICE Threshold, 2018; American Community Survey, 2018; The Institute of Museum and Library Services, 2019

Are the needs of ALICE households met after a natural disaster?

Mapping where ALICE households live in relation to the impact of natural disasters such as floods, hurricanes, or wildfires can help first and second responders meet critical needs. Disasters directly threaten the homes of ALICE families since more affordable housing is often located in vulnerable areas. The jobs where ALICE works are also more at risk, since low-wage and hourly paid jobs are more likely to be interrupted or lost. For example, Hurricane Irma had a significant impact on ALICE families: Those who lived in flood-prone areas suffered the financial cost of flood damage to their homes and cars, and ALICE workers (especially in tourism, hospitality, and agriculture) suffered lost wages.⁵⁹

Knowing where ALICE households live can help federal, state, and local governments target preparation, response, and assistance for natural disasters, and help companies plan where to deploy their workforce and support. Because ALICE households and communities do not have the same resources as their wealthier counterparts, namely insurance or savings, they will need more assistance over a longer period of time to recover. Strategies will vary by rural or urban context, the quality of the housing stock, and the age composition of the community (with the young and the elderly more dependent on care).⁶⁰

UNDERSTANDING ALICE: HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND SOCIAL FACTORS

In most contexts, having a low income is associated with lower levels of education, higher rates of unemployment, and poorer health.⁶¹ Communities that have been able to disrupt that association can provide important insights on how to change environments or policy to support ALICE households. By tracking where ALICE lives with other indicators, it is possible to identify counties that have overcome a challenge or bucked a trend. Stakeholders can then learn from these examples and adapt those solutions to their own areas.

Tracking relationships between ALICE households and other variables at the county level — in areas such as technology or health — can also help stakeholders ask important questions and target resources where they can have the greatest impact. To see interactive maps of socioeconomic indicators in Florida, visit our website: UnitedForALICE.org/Florida

Here are two possible questions:

Is internet access related to income?

Access to digital technology has exploded over the last three decades: By 2017, 91% of U.S. adults owned a computing device and 81% had a broadband internet subscription. In Florida, 81% of households had access to the internet at home in 2018.⁶² Technology has also become more important for work, community participation, and, crucially, disaster response and recovery.

But access to technology still varies by income and geography. For many families, that lack of access translates directly to reduced job opportunities, educational opportunities, health care access, and financial tools. For example, low-income adults are more likely to use their phones to search and apply for jobs; nationally, 32% of smartphone users with income below \$30,000 have applied for a job on their phone, compared with 7% of smartphone users with income above \$75,000. Although smartphone technology is constantly improving, many tasks are still more difficult to complete on the small screen of a smartphone as opposed to a computer (e.g., word processing, filling out applications, editing spreadsheets), and many websites still do not have a mobile version, making navigation time-consuming and difficult, or sometimes impossible.⁶³ Households without internet access are also at greater risk of being undercounted in the 2020 Census, when they may need government programs and services the most.

This high usage of smartphones for a critical task indicates that many low-income households have limited access to the internet at home. In Florida, 27% of households with income below the ALICE Threshold do not have an internet subscription, compared with only 8% for households above the ALICE Threshold. Rates also vary widely by location: The counties with the lowest access rates and lowest income are in rural areas, where as many as half of households below the ALICE Threshold do not have an internet subscription.⁶⁴ Identifying these gaps can help businesses and government provide more resources to libraries, establish training centers, or target low-cost internet plans.⁶⁵

Are drug overdoses driven by income?

Florida, like many states across the country, has experienced an increase in drug overdose deaths over the last decade, largely due to an increase in deaths from opioid use. Several national studies have suggested that counties with the worst economic prospects have the highest rates of substance use disorders and drug overdose hospitalizations and deaths. Yet that relationship varies across states, as people of all incomes, geographies, ages, and races/ethnicities suffer from substance use disorders.⁶⁶ Opioid and other drug use has increased in Florida over the last decade. But in 2018, while some of the highest numbers of overdose deaths occurred in counties that also had a high percentage of households below the ALICE Threshold, overall there was not a significant relationship between income (defined by the percentage of households below the ALICE Threshold) and drug overdose deaths across Florida's counties.⁶⁷

Understanding which communities have been hardest hit by substance use disorders can help planners and stakeholders see the complex ways in which addiction and financial hardship interact. Although economic standing is not always a risk factor for drug addiction in Florida, the consequences of addiction hit low-income families harder. The impact of addiction and substance use disorders on families often means a decline in their financial position, causing many families to become or remain ALICE. A family's income may be reduced if addiction reduces an adult's ability to work, and these families often have substantial health care costs. For example, addiction treatment ranges from \$1,176 to \$6,552 per month nationally. And lower-income families may not have access to such treatment programs, which only prolongs and compounds the outcomes of addiction. Substance use disorders take a toll on the stability of families and marriages, on parenting, and on the physical and mental health of family members.⁶⁸ For all of these reasons, there can be huge value for community stakeholders in mapping where ALICE lives with drug overdose deaths to identify communities that have the greatest need but the fewest resources to address addiction-related problems.⁶⁹

THE BENEFITS OF MOVING TOWARD EQUITY IN FLORIDA

The strength of the Florida economy is inextricably tied to the financial stability of its residents. The more people who participate in a state's economy, the stronger it will be. In 2018, when the national economy was often described as "strong," the reality was that 3.6 million Florida households — almost half of all households in the state — struggled to support themselves. If all households earned enough to meet their basic needs, not only would each family's hardship be eased, but the Florida economy would also benefit substantially. This is true in times of economic growth, and it becomes even more important during a period of crisis and recovery.

To better understand the extent to which financial hardship is a drain on a state's economy, this section provides an estimate of the benefits of raising the income of all households to the ALICE Threshold. While lifting family income would be an enormous undertaking, the statewide benefits of doing so make a compelling case for pointing both policy and investment toward that goal.

Based on 2018 data, the economic benefit to Florida of bringing all households to the ALICE Threshold would be approximately \$244 billion, meaning that the state GDP would grow by 23% (Figure 11). This is based on two categories of economic enhancement:

Earnings: Florida's 2018 GDP reflected earnings of \$89 billion by the state's households below the ALICE Threshold. Bringing all households to the ALICE Threshold would have a two-fold impact:

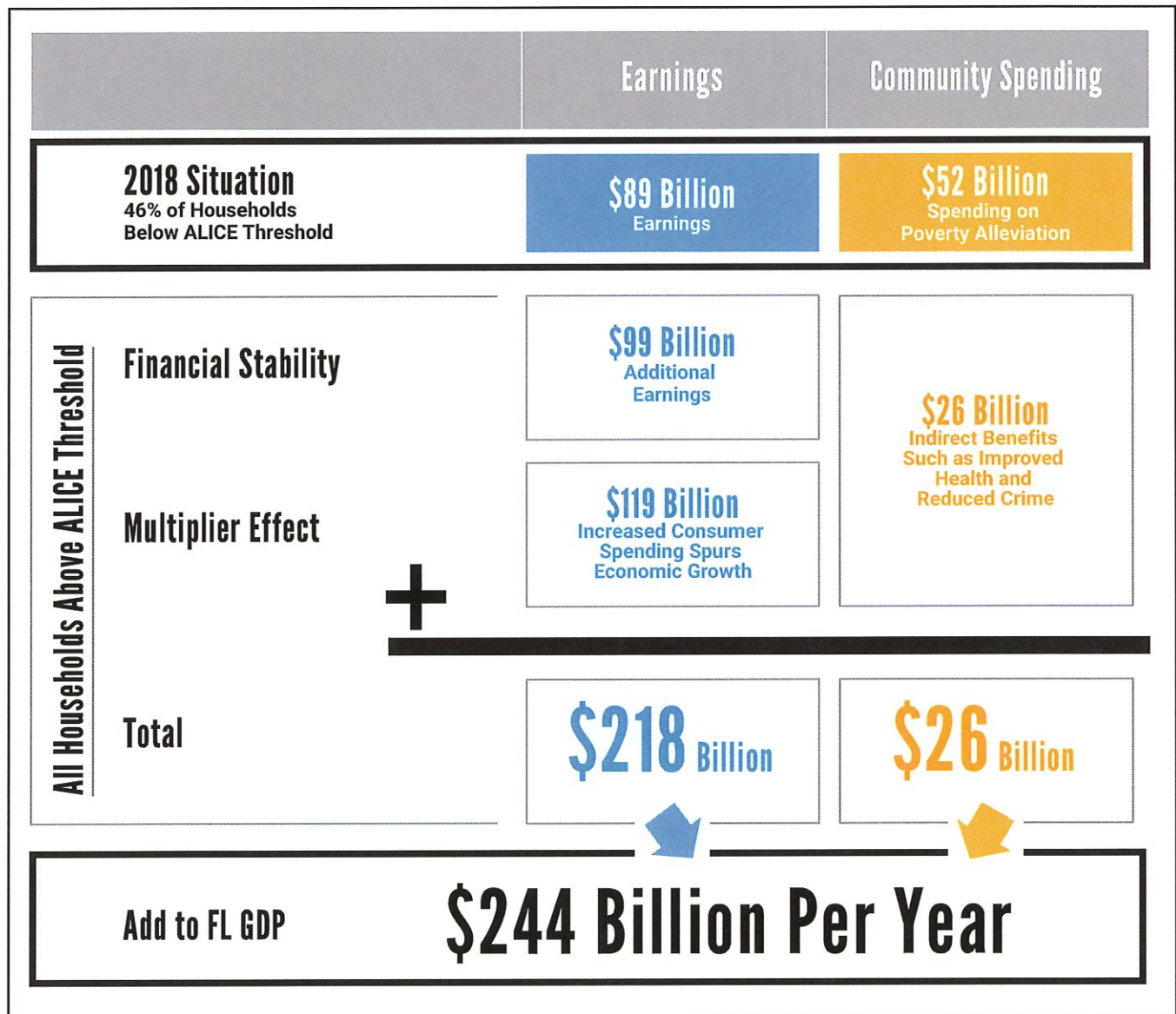
- **Additional earnings:** \$99 billion statewide.
- **Multiplier effect:** Studies show that almost all additional wages earned by low-wage workers are put back into the economy through increased consumer spending, which in turn spurs business growth.⁷⁰ Building on economic calculations used by Moody's Analytics, this estimate assumes an economic multiplier of 1.2, meaning that a \$1 increase in compensation to low-wage workers leads to a \$1.20 increase in economic activity. In Florida, this increased economic activity would be valued at \$119 billion.⁷¹

Community spending: Florida's 2018 GDP reflected community spending of \$52 billion on assistance to the state's households below the ALICE Threshold.⁷² When all households can meet their basic needs, this spending can be reallocated to projects and programs that help families and communities thrive, not just survive.

- **Indirect benefits:** Added value to the state GDP would come in the form of indirect benefits associated with increased financial stability. These benefits include improved health (and reduced health care expenditures), reduced crime and homelessness, and greater community engagement. Figure 11 uses the very conservative estimate of an added \$26 billion (or 2.5% of the state GDP, which is the estimated cost of childhood poverty alone).⁷³ This is still far short of the total indirect benefits of bringing all households to the ALICE Threshold, as it does not include benefits for adults or the direct impact of redeploying private and nonprofit spending currently used to alleviate poverty.⁷⁴

Figure 11.

Economic Benefits of Raising All Households to the ALICE Threshold, Florida, 2018



Note: In states with income tax, additional tax revenues are included in this analysis. Florida does not have a state income tax and the items in the ALICE Household Survival Budget are not subject to sales tax.

Sources: ALICE Threshold, 2018; American Community Survey, 2018; National Association of State Budget Officers, 2019; Office of Management and Budget, 2019; U.S. Department of Agriculture—SNAP, 2019; Urban Institute, 2018

Benefits for Households and Local Communities

In addition to the economic benefits to the state if all households had income above the ALICE Threshold, there would be a significant number of positive changes for families and their communities. Our 2019 companion Report, *The Consequences of Insufficient Household Income*, outlines the tough choices ALICE and poverty-level families make when they do not have enough income to afford basic necessities, and how those decisions affect their broader communities. By contrast, Figure 12 outlines the improvements that all Florida families and their communities would experience if policies were implemented that moved all households above the ALICE Threshold.⁷⁵

Figure 12.
The Benefits of Sufficient Income

If households have sufficient income for...		Impact on ALICE	Impact on the Community
	Safe, Affordable Housing	Improved health through safer environments and decreased stress, improved educational performance and outcomes for children, greater stability for household members, a means to build wealth for homeowners	Less traffic, lower health care costs, better maintained housing stock, lower crime rates, less spending on homelessness/social services
	Quality Child Care and Education	Improved academic performance, higher lifetime earnings, higher graduation rates, improved job stability/access for parents, better health	Decreased racial/ethnic and socioeconomic performance gaps, decreased income disparities, high return on investment (especially for early childhood education)
	Adequate Food	Decreased food insecurity, improved health (especially for children and seniors), decreased likelihood of developmental delays and behavioral problems in school	Lower health care costs, improved workplace productivity, less spending on emergency food services
	Reliable Transportation	Improved access to job opportunities, school and child care, health care, retail markets, social services, and support systems (friends, family, faith communities)	Fewer high-emissions vehicles on the road, more diverse labor market, decreased income disparities
	Quality Health Care	Better mental and physical health (including increased life expectancy), improved access to preventative care, fewer missed days of work/school, decreased need for emergency services	Decreased health care spending, fewer communicable diseases, improved workplace productivity, decreased wealth-health gap
	Reliable Technology	Improved access to job opportunities, expanded access to health information and tele-health services, increased job and academic performance	Decreased “digital divide” in access to technology by income, increased opportunities for civic participation
	Savings	Ability to withstand emergencies without impacting long-term financial stability and greater asset accumulation over time (e.g., interest on savings; ability to invest in education, property, or finance a secure retirement)	Greater charitable contributions; less spending on emergency health, food, and senior services

Note: For sources, see Figure 12: Sources, following the Endnotes for this Report.

In addition to the benefits listed above, greater financial stability and having basic needs met can reduce the anxiety that comes from struggling to survive, or not having a cushion for emergencies. It also leaves more time to spend with loved ones and to give back to the community — all of which contribute to happiness and improved life satisfaction.⁷⁶

Having money saves money: Having enough income means that households can build their credit scores and avoid late fees, predatory lending, and higher interest rates.⁷⁷ That, in turn, means that ALICE families have more resources to use to reduce risks (e.g., by purchasing insurance), stay healthy (e.g., by getting preventative health care), or save and invest in education or assets that could grow over time (e.g., buying a home or opening a small business). Instead of a downward cycle of accumulating fees, debt, and stress, families can have an upward cycle of savings and health that makes them even better able to be engaged in their communities and, in turn, enjoy a reasonable quality of life.

For communities, this leads to greater economic activity, greater tax revenue, lower levels of crime, and fewer demands on the social safety net, allowing more investment in vital infrastructure, schools, and health care.⁷⁸ Strengthening communities by strengthening ALICE families means a higher quality of life for all.

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FIGURE 12: SOURCES

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CITY OF ST. AUGUSTINE

MEMORANDUM

TO: John P. Regan, City Manager

DATE: September 12, 2022

RE: **RESOLUTION 2022-34: SUSPENDING VEHICLE FOR HIRE METERED RATES**

Enclosed please find Resolution 2022-34 that temporarily suspends the metered rates for vehicles for hire.

Please place Resolution 2022-34 on the agenda for adoption at the September 12, 2022 City Commission meeting.

Thank you.



Richard K. Thibault
Assistant City Attorney

/sl
Attachment

xc: Meredith Breidenstein, Assistant City Manager
David Birchim, Assistant City Manager
Reuben Franklin, Public Works Director
Darlene Galambos, City Clerk
Isabelle C. Lopez, City Attorney

Agenda Title:

Resolution 2022-34 temporarily suspends metered rates for vehicles for hire.

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-34

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF ST. AUGUSTINE, FLORIDA REPEALING RESOLUTIONS 2001-05, 2005-07, AND 2009-07 RELATING TO GEOGRAPHICAL ZONES AND METERED RATES FOR TRANSPORTATION OF PERSONS AND THEIR BAGGAGE WITHIN THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF THE CITY IN FOR HIRE PASSENGER TRANSPORTATION VEHICLES.

WHEREAS, section 27-76 of the Code of the City of St. Augustine provides that the City Commission, by resolution, from time to time shall fix and establish reasonable rates and charges for the transportation of persons and their baggage within the corporate limits of the City in for hire passenger transportation vehicles; and

WHEREAS, several resolutions between 1959 through 1993 periodically set reasonable rates and established geographical zones for transportation with for hire passenger transportation vehicles, but were never repealed; and

WHEREAS, Resolution 2001-05 established new geographical zones, but did not repeal other prior resolutions setting previous geographical zones for transportation of persons in for hire passenger transportation vehicles; and

WHEREAS, Resolutions 2005-09, and 2009-07 are the most recent resolutions that established the newest rates and charges for transportation of persons in for hire passenger transportation vehicles for trips within established geographical zones and for trips from one zone to another; and

WHEREAS, with the rise of Transportation Network Companies ("TNC") within the last decade, rates pertaining to for hire passenger transportation vehicles, specifically taxi services, have drastically changed to stay competitive and the rates increase in Resolution 2009-07 are now antiquated and obsolete; and

WHEREAS, the marketplace has spawned alternative methods of transit, including micro-mobility and vehicle for hire models that are not easily categorized into traditional zone metering payment methods; and

WHEREAS, the City Commission finds that the established metered rates and geographical zones are no longer fair and reasonable based on current gas prices and inflation and should be temporarily suspended until further review by the City Commission; and

WHEREAS, the City Commission finds that the public health, safety, and welfare are better served by allowing operators of for hire passenger transportation vehicles to determine their own rates as TNCs have done, thereby permitting the public to enjoy a clear choice in selecting fares for transportation with for hire passenger transportation vehicles.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COMMISSION FOR THE CITY OF ST. AUGUSTINE, FLORIDA, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Repeal of Previous Resolutions. The City Commission hereby repeals Resolutions 2001-05, 2005-09, and 2009-07 and any previous resolutions that established geographical zones and metered rates for transportation of persons in for hire passenger transportation vehicles.

Section 2. Temporary Suspension of Metered Rates. Metered rates pertaining to for hire passenger transportation vehicles operating within the corporate limits of St. Augustine are hereby suspended on a temporary basis until further review by the City Commission.

Section 3. Option to Employ Metered or Flat Fee Rates. Any operator of a for hire passenger transportation vehicle licensed by the City of St. Augustine may continue to employ either a metered rate system or a flat fee rate system for charging passengers. Rates shall be set by the marketplace as agreed to by the operator and the passenger.

Section 4. Suspension of Display of Rate Structure. The requirement to display metered or zone rates on the exterior of and in the interior of the for hire passenger transportation vehicle under Resolutions 2001-05, 2005-09, and 2009-07 is hereby suspended until further review by the City Commission.

ADOPTED by the City Commission of St. Augustine, Florida in regular session,
this 12th day of September, 2022.

ATTEST:

Tracy Upchurch Mayor-Commissioner

Darlene Galambos, CMC, City Clerk
(SEAL)

RESOLUTION NO. 2009-07

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF ST. AUGUSTINE, FLORIDA ESTABLISHING METERED RATES FOR TRANSPORTATION OF PERSONS AND THEIR BAGGAGE WITHIN THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF THE CITY IN MOTOR DRIVEN PASSENGER VEHICLES FOR HIRE.

WHEREAS, Section 27-76 of the Code of the City of St. Augustine provides that the City Commission, by resolution, from time to time shall fix and establish reasonable rates and charges for the transportation of persons and their baggage within the corporate limits of the City in motor driven passenger vehicles for hire; and

WHEREAS, the City Commission, by the passage of Resolutions 2001-05 and 2005-09 established geographic service zones and the rates and charges for transportation of persons for trips within such zones and for trips from one zone to another; and

WHEREAS, Checker Cab of Saint Augustine, Florida has requested a change from rates and charges determined by zone to rates determined by meters incorporating a base drop rate, a per minute rate and an idling rate; and

WHEREAS, the City Commission finds such metered rate method fair and reasonable; and

WHEREAS, the City Commission finds further that the public health, safety and welfare are better served by allowing operators of motor driven passenger

vehicles for hire to determine whether to employ the rates and charges determined by zone or the rates determined by meters; and

WHEREAS, the City Commission finds further that the public health, safety and welfare are better served if the public enjoys a clear choice in selecting fares for motor driven passenger vehicle for hire transportation;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COMMISSION FOR THE CITY OF ST. AUGUSTINE, FLORIDA, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Establishing Metered Rates. Strictly metered rates for motor driven passenger vehicles for hire operating within the corporate limits of St. Augustine shall be as follows:

- A. \$1.50 base drop rate.
- B. \$1.50 per mile, one mile minimum, in addition to the base drop rate.
- C. \$0.35 per minute idling charge in addition to the base drop rate and the per mile rate.
- D. This rate structure is based on a per trip charge regardless of number of passengers carried in the vehicle.

Section 2. Option to Employ Metered or By Zone Rates. Any operator of a motor driven passenger vehicle for hire licensed by the City of St. Augustine must adopt either the metered rate established by this Resolution or the zone rate structure established by Resolution No. 2001-05 as amended by Resolution No. 2005-09.

Section 3. Display of Rate Structure. Regardless of rate method employed, each motor driven passenger vehicle for hire must display clearly the rate method on the exterior of and in the interior of the motor vehicle. The exterior vehicle display shall be placed on both the driver's side and passenger's side of the vehicle and the interior vehicle display must be placed in clear view of each vehicle passenger for hire. For motor vehicles hired using the metered rate, the exterior and interior displays shall include the rate information established by Section 1 of this Resolution.

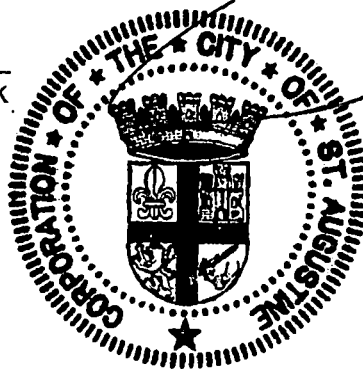
Section 4. Visibility of Meters. The display on each meter showing the accumulated rate charged for each passenger trip shall be clearly visible to each vehicle passenger for hire.

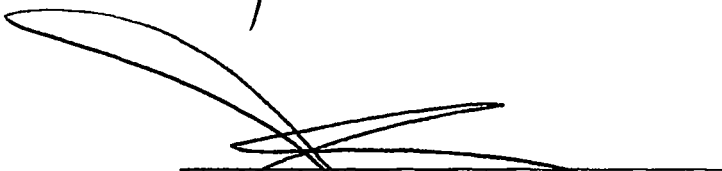
ADOPTED by the City Commission of the City of St. Augustine, Florida in regular session, this 23rd day of FEBRUARY, 2009.

ATTEST:


Karen Rogers, CMC, City Clerk

(SEAL)




Joe Boles, Mayor-Commissioner

CITY OF ST. AUGUSTINE

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and City Commissioners

DATE: September 1, 2022

RE: Request for appointment of the CITY OF ST. AUGUSTINE POET
LAUREATE

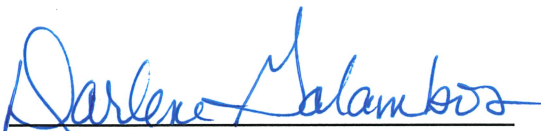
During the regular commission meeting of June 27, 2022, the City Commission approved Resolution 2022-18 creating the official Poet Laureate position.

Advertisements requesting applications were placed in the St. Augustine Record and posted on the City's website.

As of the application deadline, seven applications were received from the following:

- Lester M. Goode
- Paul E. Risner
- Chris Bodor
- Catherine Avery St. Jean
- Norma Sherry Rappa
- Richard Rumrell
- Joseph Mellott

Attached are copies of the applications and Resolution 2022-18 for your consideration.



Darlene Galambos
City Clerk

Xc: City Clerk Files

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-18

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF ST. AUGUSTINE, FLORIDA CREATING THE CITY OF ST. AUGUSTINE POET LAUREATE PROGRAM.

WHEREAS, the City of St. Augustine's Strategic Plan includes an objective for Arts, Education and Community to be a more integral part of the community's rich arts and cultural scene, and to play a more active role in the development of art and cultural programs that will educate both our residents and our visitors; and

WHEREAS, poetry tells the history of human feeling and can sustain the emotional memory of a community; and

WHEREAS, poetry allows us to perceive our experience with greater richness and complexity and can carry us to the frontiers of linguistic imagination so that we can articulate our vision of the future; and

WHEREAS, knowledge of poetic traditions allows us to know more about our own culture and can serve as a passport to the cultures of others; and

WHEREAS, the City of St. Augustine has an interest in sharing its government viewpoint on topics of interest to the City by the use of poetry; and

WHEREAS, the City of St. Augustine intends to be the government speaker for works created, presented, or published as a St. Augustine Poet Laureate Work; and

WHEREAS, the City Commission of the City of St. Augustine desires to establish a City of St. Augustine Poet Laureate program and to develop terms and conditions of the program.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF ST. AUGUSTINE, FLORIDA, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. That the City of St. Augustine hereby creates a City of St. Augustine Poet Laureate program.

Section 2. The following are the terms and conditions of the City of St. Augustine Poet Laureate program:

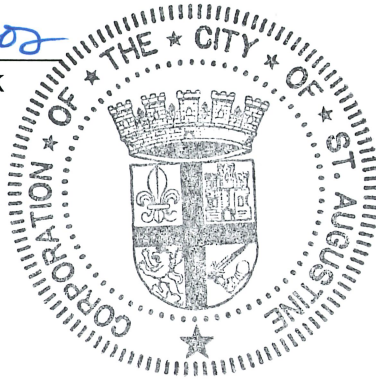
- a. The City of St. Augustine's Poet Laureate is a volunteer opportunity for interested St. Augustine residents or others having a connection to, and an interest in, the City of St. Augustine.
- b. The City Commission of the City of St. Augustine may designate one volunteer Poet Laureate every two years in January, or as soon thereafter as may be practicable. The Poet Laureate is appointed at the discretion of the City Commission and serves at the will of the City Commission.
- c. St. Augustine Poet Laureate Work: Any original poem specifically designated as a St. Augustine Poet Laureate Work ("Work") is intended to represent the City of St. Augustine Poet Laureate program. All other works of authorship of the Poet Laureate during their tenure are not intended to come under the regulations of this program. Poems identified as a St. Augustine Poet Laureate Work, are encouraged to be inspired by the history, culture, architecture, archeology, streetscape, environment, or people of the City of St. Augustine.
- d. The Poet Laureate is encouraged to share the love of poetry with the community through participation in City sponsored events, poetry readings, workshops, school outreach, or other civic holidays or cultural events. The City Commission may provide for small cultural or community grants available to reimburse out-of-pocket costs incurred by the Poet Laureate. This is not intended to create an employer-employee relationship, nor is it intended to create an expectation of funding beyond what may be approved through the City Commission's annual City budget, at the discretion of the City Commission.
- e. By participating as the designated City of St. Augustine's Poet Laureate, the Poet Laureate authorizes the City of St. Augustine to publish and reproduce, in various media formats, any poem identified as a St. Augustine Poet Laureate Work. The City of St. Augustine will not have exclusive use of the St. Augustine Poet Laureate Work nor own the copyright to a St. Augustine Poet Laureate Work; however, the author, on their behalf and on behalf of their successors, specifically authorizes the City of St. Augustine to use their St. Augustine Poet Laureate Work without fee or other compensation due to the author or successor of the copyright.
- f. Any poem identified as a St. Augustine Poet Laureate Work is intended to be the government speech of the City of St. Augustine, and the City may reject any such Work if it deems the Work unsuitable for this designation, at the City's discretion.
- g. The City of St. Augustine may end an individual's designation as City of St. Augustine Poet Laureate or may end the program of Poet Laureate at any time as determined by the City Commission.
- h. Applications for Poet Laureate will be available from the City Clerk's office and a Poet Laureate will be selected by the City Commission. If selected, the Poet Laureate agrees to complete the Volunteer/Intern Application and Agreement Form, comply with City policies and procedures, and comply with the terms and conditions of the City of St. Augustine Poet Laureate program.

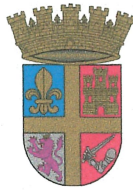
ADOPTED by the City Commission of the City of St. Augustine, Florida in regular session, this 27th day of June, 2022.

ATTEST:

Darlene Galambos
Darlene Galambos, City Clerk
(SEAL)

T. L. Upchurch
Tracy Upchurch, Mayor-Commissioner





CITY OF
ST AUGUSTINE
EST. 1565

APPLICATION:

- Name: Lester M. Goode
- Street: 591 Hazel
- City, State, Zip Code: St. Augustine, FL 32084
- Phone: 904 835-2145 cell# 501-1393
- Alt. Phone: _____
- E-Mail: _____

Are you 18 or older?

- ☒ Yes
☐ No

WORK SAMPLES

Include a Submission List and copies of 5 to 10 poems that represent your best artistic achievements (Not to exceed 20 pages).

Submit no more than 1 poem per page. All pages must include the title of poem, your name and page number if appropriate, on each page. Include citation if work has been published (including self-published). All work samples must be typewritten, or computer generated. Handwritten submissions will not be accepted. Please provide copyright information where appropriate.

The City of St. Augustine will take general care in the handling of all submitted materials but is not responsible for damage or loss. Submitted material will not be returned.

SPOKEN WORD: Performance Spoken Word poets should also include link(s) to online work.

I certify that the representations made in this application are true and complete, and that the work sample submitted is my own work. The City of St. Augustine has my permission to use my work, or a portion thereof, for publicity or educational purposes.

Applicant's Signature and Date: Lester M. Goode 3/4/22

The City of St. Augustine reserves the right to revoke the tenure of the Poet Laureate if he/she fails to fulfill his/her duties.

Thursday august4,2022

I am a 76 year old man who was disabled in the service of his country and being 100% disabled

i can only write poetry,that can be understood by everyone who reads the verses.I can trace my

my history back to the american indian nation (cherokee) was born in St. augustine, Fl.

and i am related to the Sanchez and pellicer families and grew up with all of the other

Minorcan,Spanish decendants that settled here over 400 plus years ago.I have written three

books of poetry that are on the market today and can be purchased at barnes&noble or any

other book store or over the internet. The names of the books are,flowers of words,florida

folk homestyle poetry,racing winds of mind poetry, by sam raven(sam raven is my pen name)

Two other books are florida folk poetry, florida homestyle poetry, by lester goode published by OnLineBinding.com Jacksonville, Fl.32206 .My other 3 books were published by

Xlibris,orders@Xlibris.com. If i am chosen to represent the "oldest city" in poetry i will do my best to represent St. augustine,much like Jimmy Ponce did or when i traveled

with the royal family, the Genovar family knowes me. My cousin was the queen of the royal

family one year.



Lester Goode

Lester Goode, born at F.E.C. hospital -august 10,1946 in St Augustine, Fl., graduated from S.a.h.s
1964, attended University of Washington, graduated with bachalors degree in business
managment.

entered military Special Forces mos 18c was wounded in Co Co Solo CZ during overthrow of
Panama

dictator Manuel Noriega. Lives and resides in St. Augustine and writes ,publishes, poetry books.

Editor's Choice Award

Presented to

Lester Goode

December 2003

For Outstanding Achievement in Poetry
Presented by
poetry.com and the International Library of Poetry



Howard Ely
Howard Ely
Managing Editor

care free time.

The days go by, like when the utmost thought was of being happy through a glorious sunshine day, when the greatest thought would be if the surf was big today? The greatest thing was where

to find good surf and which break was the biggest. Time was spent traveling from break to break

trying to find the best surf. The biggest surf safari was on the east coast, when we traveled from florida to maine, surfing all of the breaks and sleeping on the beach at night, except when we were

in virginia beach, where we stayed with a pro surfer and his family, only to return home for a contest.

Those were the younger days when football was the biggest thing and surfing was not. Then the surfing

craze started on the west coast "where the best surf was located" and hobie surfboards were on the

market. Surfing was a original thing in hawaii and all of the locals laughed at the howlies when they

would try to surf in hawaii. Once a sport now a money making enterprise, funny how the money

factor changes a person's outlook on things and sports. much like life today, am i right or wrong?

Sam Raven

Old Spanish trail

A two lane wagon road through the pine woods of florida, outside of the city of St. Augustine, that with time has been passed by and just a short remnant still remains, on which private school

Saint Joseph Academy, as well as numerous family homes , businesses, now encompass. This is where

i was raised. As i remember a horse drawn wagon, and an old black woman traveling down that way,

as time progressed i notice that the owner of the horse, has replaced it with another smaller horse. Later

i find that the bigger horse died from old age, and the smaller horse was used untill it was to old and

had become blind. Today in modern america and with the influx of humans, the old spanish trail is

now a paved road, used by a few as a short-cut in their journey, or simply to travel to homes. Progress

is the relevant, reality is the outcome, good or bad. I still live here after 76 years and now try to write

about the past times as i remember them.

Sam Raven

writing stories

The story telling tales of past is but a dream away when people love to hear stories coming from someone that has lived in the era, when population was not yet abundant and freedom of movement was through swamps and prairie grass. Not like today when you must venture through subdivisions, golf courses, condos, etc., when hunting, fishing was a way to provide family food or just for sport. Today laws have been passed to stop such things, or you must purchase a license and adhere to type or size limit before keeping each fish, fowl, or animal taken. The stories that I try to write excerpts from are part of the life that I have lived to this point, you see that most of the others that I mentioned are dead or too old to, "like me" participate in life's daily throng of trying to succeed. With the influx of people into the oldest city brings change. Take for instance King Street and San Sebastian River, that once was where shrimp docks and railroad offices, R.R. mill shops, hospital, railroad terminal, were. Now city police headquarters, winery, Flagler College dormitories, fire station, etc., is this progress?

Now instead of shrimp boats lining the river there are multi-story hotels and pleasure craft, sail boats, that line this once (edge of the city). Progress is either you go with, or you just are swallowed-up, so people pass by and say "I remember when"!

Sam Raven

Giving back to school's

This day started like the rest but i ventured into the unknown, by donating my books that i have written to senior schools, for the pleasure of students to read. The first school was Saint Joseph academy, a catholic private school. The other was Saint Augustine High, a public school. Perhaps in doing so i might bring forth some hope in a young human's brain! Activity of which is a glimmer in the world today. The future is aglow for those that aspire to become something great, no matter which trail they choose to follow, "hard or soft", they all lead to the same end and if, by using one as an example they can say (if he did it, then i can do it to) Hard mental work is at times more taxing then physical labor! So doing something to support life while trying to become what you desire is often found to be the case, you still cannot give-up your dream, and press on through. Later in life when you look back, you smile and say "I did it the hard way" or "It just came easy" like choosing which trail to follow. When at the intersection, on lifes highway.

Sam Raven

Conservation

The thought of catch and release or keeping according to length is actions used today. When as a younger person, " fishing for food", you kept what you caught. The same goes for hunting, only animals of certain size and type can be harvested. The same of which are being raised on farms and ranches, for humans to purchase (already cleaned and packaged). The times of hunting for food

are passed, with the onslaught of humanity in North America, the act of conservation is all mandatory

today. Food consumption is offered to those who can not provide for, or are new to the act of democracy.

Helping these people until they can change and become self sufficient. Conservation is used today

to prolong the life of certain species, and to extend the livelihood of man, who has only the greedy

to blame for the eroding of plants and animals.

Sam Raven

wounded

Causing a disabled person to proceed towards a projected image in thought, only able to do with what they have in their wounded body, either mental or physical or both. This projection

is derived from the brain, but what if that muscle is damaged or a portion is killed, then what?

Today people adjust to a given situation and some are permitted to achieve rather than to be left in the rear. Those of us who suffer long-term disability try new things and are left alone to gather the rewards, "if any"! Some people take advantage of the disabled person simply because

they are unable to defend themselves or, are no longer looking for conflict. These things are looked

upon by others and at times help comes from someone that disapproves of seeing a disabled soldier being taken advantage of simply for the sake of money. Thank you, and welcome home!

are the words spoken to veteran's who gave their time and some gave their all in a conflict in South East Asia. Today we are losing veterans every day from past world wars to present day conflicts.

Give credence to the wounded warrior or perhaps help them on their way, by trying to progress in today's society simply with, "what they have".

Sam Raven

5

sky so blue

over the bay looking east from which the sun emerges each morning over anastasia island, the sky with its vast arch or dome which seems to spread over the earth appears, bright in the sun light, ever so alive and present with bellowing white fluffy clouds drifting lazely on. This to is another blistful beginning day here in the "oldest city" of St. Augustine, Florida. What is it like when the sky emerges or disappears in the ocean so blue when looking at the horizon? As depected on a sea scape painting, only the emagination in the mind can tell what is on the other side, as seen through the painters eyes. To capture a moment in time thru the art of painting is a given talent bequeathed to few who live to paint and are subject to shame by those who cannot think openly.

Sam Raven

4

Old Grist Mill

The old grist mill still stands today with the turning of the water wheel, that provided power to grind the corn or maze into flower, to supply the population with food to eat, or powering machinery to work with. The mill was a focal point back in the day, and is still a major place of terminology in discussing the town. Now it is a greeting and resting place for tourist that visit the "old city". still the magic of the temperment and flow of the water wheel is still alive, casting out unseen shadowy shrouds of light, that engulf the multitude that pass by, always emitting the calm continuous musical sound of cascading water, falling from the ever so porous wheel. The mist coming from above and drifting down holds the sun's rays found in a wonderful "Rain Bow", emitting life's holy grail!

Sam Raven

Hello!

If writing was the only thing that i had to do and that being published was the reality, then HOW COULD I LIVE? Being able to let the people or public know that the books that are written are just memories of mind, not thoughts projected for future. Causes you to seek a publisher that will publish as well as distribute your work. How many people read what is said and not live in a fantasy world? Trying to be something that they are not, yet trying to escape the confines of society. I was told that people are like a bunch of crabs crawling around in a bucket, when one tries to crawl out another will reach up and pull them back down. Does society do the same thing? You as an individual have the right to live, the right to choose between right or wrong not to do what you must to stay alive. People today are not living in a third world country and have the process of being able to better ones self through knowledge and work and to raise a family.

Sam Raven

HOW ARE YOU GOING TO ACT NOW?

This phrase was brought about in VIET NAM when wounded soldiers were about to return to the United States. The phrase is used today in basic ways and terminology, concerning life. As if when you lose your job, or your lights are turned off, or even when you break off a long term relationship with your lover. Waiting for the vegetable seed to germinate and grow that you planted in your back yard garden, time is of the essence and waiting can take its toll in a person who is not able to relax. The study of poetry can cause different strokes for different folks, in reading or understanding the verse or verse's. One person can interpret a verse in a way that is meant for them and their life style while another can be completely different. The prime and utmost book of verses that people read, but understand in their own way is the BIBLE.

This book is written to help and enlighten those who choose to read and to believe, "or not"! The writing and thoughts of a mortal man who lived to help, and died to forgive man of his SIN, Short Comings, Trials and Tribulations. Here to "not judge" but to "forgive"! Poetry, can be like in statue and verse but different to each one who reads the verse. A poet can be wholesome and pure, to nature and mankind in verse, but handicapped in body function. Only able to express what they see in their mind's eye, for future and prosperity.

Sam Raven

Recommendation

Vaughn Cochran <blackfly.v Vaughn@gmail.com>
To: <lesliegoode41@gmail.com>

Mon, Aug 15, 3:36 PM

Sirs: My longtime friend Mr Lester Goode asked me to write a letter of recommendation for him. I am honored to write this as he has surprised me every time he has issued a new book of poems. I've known a few writers and poets over the years in my travels throughout the Keys and Caribbean and I put Lester right up there, unfortunately he hasn't gotten the recognition he deserves. I'm thrilled to advance his reputation as a poet and a poet laureate and I highly recommend Mr. Goode for this honor.

I've known Lester since we were in High School, we were surfers together here in St. Augustine, we roamed the woods and made sure we covered the beaches with our girlfriends on weekend nights. We both served in the military and eventually made our way back to the little town that made us who we are today. We're both very thankful for that experience.

Lester did something with his experiences that escape most people, he could write, he could write poetry, he could write really good poetry and he could visualize what he wanted to say and get it down on paper. His writings covered the local things that most people wouldn't even recognize as important, he sees poetic recognition where others miss the point.

Lester is a very special person for many reasons but to be honored as Poet Laureate is a great call by the city and one you will be glad you made. He so deserves to be given that title.

Vaughn Cochran, Pres.



www.blackflyoutfitter.com
www.vaughncochranart.com
www.blackflylodge.com
www.blackflytherestaurant.com

904 540 3183 cell

PAUL E. RISNER

400 North Lombardy Loop

St. Johns, Florida

904-477-9000

perisner@gmail.com

www.linkedin.com/pub/paul-e-risner-esq/7/589/868/

August 11, 2022

Hon. Darlene Galambos, Clerk

PO Box 210

St. Augustine, FL 32085

Re: APPLICATION FOR POET LAUREATE

Dear Ms. Galambos:

Please accept this as my application for the position of Poet Laureate of St. Augustine.

I have enclosed the required documents, and in answer to the question of my connection to St. Augustine, I can say that I am a lawyer by training and vocation and have served as the General Attorney of the Florida East Coast Railway in the '80s. I live in St. Augustine for 5 years, and met my wife there, who was born in St. Augustine. I currently reside in NW St. Johns County, but for many years we owned and operated a consignment shop in the City, on US 1. My connections, particularly in the legal community are fairly extensive.

I am a poet by avocation, and have been writing since my college days, at Jacksonville University. I have enclosed some of my latest work, much of which is published, and all of which has been reviewed favorably by those who read it. I compose poems to mark occasions, to celebrate and to mourn, and to explain to myself and the readers the significance of an event or a person. I can compose a poem quickly and have been asked on short notice to "write some words" to mark an occasion. As a lawyer, I am accustomed to speaking to large and small groups. I believe that these skills and experience will serve well if I am selected for the position of Poet Laureate.

You asked for a resume, but since most of my formal resume is law-related and not applicable, I would give the pertinent facts as follows:

High School: DU Fletcher High School (Neptune Beach)

College: Jacksonville University (Full academic scholarship)

Law School: University of Florida

Bar Admissions: Florida and Tennessee

Extra honors: Board Certified in Health Law. Former Champion on *Jeopardy!* TV game show, Member of Boards of directors for Jacksonville Speech and Hearing Center, We Care, P.A.C.E Schools (Bradenton), Chair of the Health Sciences Advisory Board at Jacksonville University, and Boss of the Year (Jacksonville Legal Secretaries).

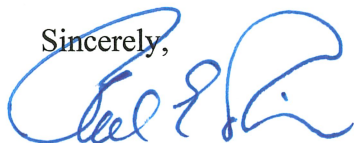
I have served as General Counsel to several large Health and Hospital Companies, and currently work with physicians and medical practices all over Florida.

My works attached include:

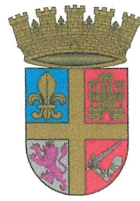
1. The Aquarian poems: 5 poems published by Jacksonville University after being selected by a juried selection process.
2. **She Was More Than That**: a poem about my mother.
3. **Last Best Love**: a poem written just last week for a friend's wedding.
4. **We Who Do The Work**: written to honor the retiring Board Members of Jacksonville Speech and Hearing Center, in August 2022.
and
5. **A Lion Passes**; written to mark the passing of a lawyer colleague in Jacksonville, earlier this year.

I am interested in the position for the potential to express a poetic view on current events, history, people and how St. Augustine finds its place, past and present, in a world that continues to pay more attention to today, than to yesterday or tomorrow. I believe I can help people feel, and perhaps think, reflectively. I'd welcome the opportunity to represent the City.

Sincerely,



Paul E. Risner



CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

The City of St. Augustine Poet Laureate serves as a herald for poets and their work. The Poet Laureate is dedicated to building a literary community through poetry and encouraging a love of poetry among people of all ages.

MISSION

The mission of the Poet Laureate is to promote the influence of poetry and enrich the lives of citizens by sharing and encouraging the gift of poetry.

EXPECTATIONS

- Represent the City of St. Augustine and the art of poetry through outreach related to poetry
- Participate in at least three selected City-sponsored events, dedications, or memorials per year by selecting and presenting original or appropriate works
- Act as a resource for the City of St. Augustine's poetry and literary activities
- Lead and participate in National Poetry Month events and activities
- Contribute to the creation of a poetic identity for the City of St. Augustine

REQUIREMENTS

- The Poet Laureate will be available to serve a two-year term
- The individual will be 18 years or older, a current City of St. Augustine resident, or have connections to the City through, family or community involvement
- The individual has demonstrated a commitment to and passion for poetry
- The individual must be comfortable with public recitation
- Poet Laureates may serve more than one term at the discretion of the City of St. Augustine City Commission

RECOGNITION

- The City Commission may provide for small cultural or community grants available to reimburse out-of-pocket costs incurred by the Poet Laureate
- Press coverage related to performances and special projects

TERM

The term of service is two years.

APPLICATION PROCESS

A general call for applications is made. The application will be available on www.citystaug.com and in the City Clerk's Office.

APPLICATIONS MUST INCLUDE:

1. Resume.
2. List of publications, if any.
3. Samples of their poetry.
4. Letters of support or recommendation, if any.
5. Statement of interest and connection to St. Augustine



CITY OF
ST AUGUSTINE
EST. 1565

APPLICATION:

- Name: Paul E. Risner
- Street: 400 N. Lombardy Loop
- City, State, Zip Code: St. Johns, FL 32259
- Phone: 904-477-9000
- Alt. Phone: _____
- E-Mail: perisner@gmail.com

Are you 18 or older?

- ☒ Yes
☐ No

WORK SAMPLES

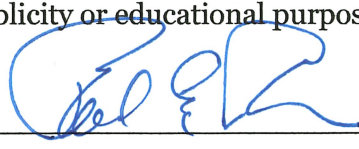
Include a Submission List and copies of 5 to 10 poems that represent your best artistic achievements (Not to exceed 20 pages).

Submit no more than 1 poem per page. All pages must include the title of poem, your name and page number if appropriate, on each page. Include citation if work has been published (including self-published). All work samples must be typewritten, or computer generated. Handwritten submissions will not be accepted. Please provide copyright information where appropriate.

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SPOKEN WORD: Performance Spoken Word poets should also include link(s) to online work.

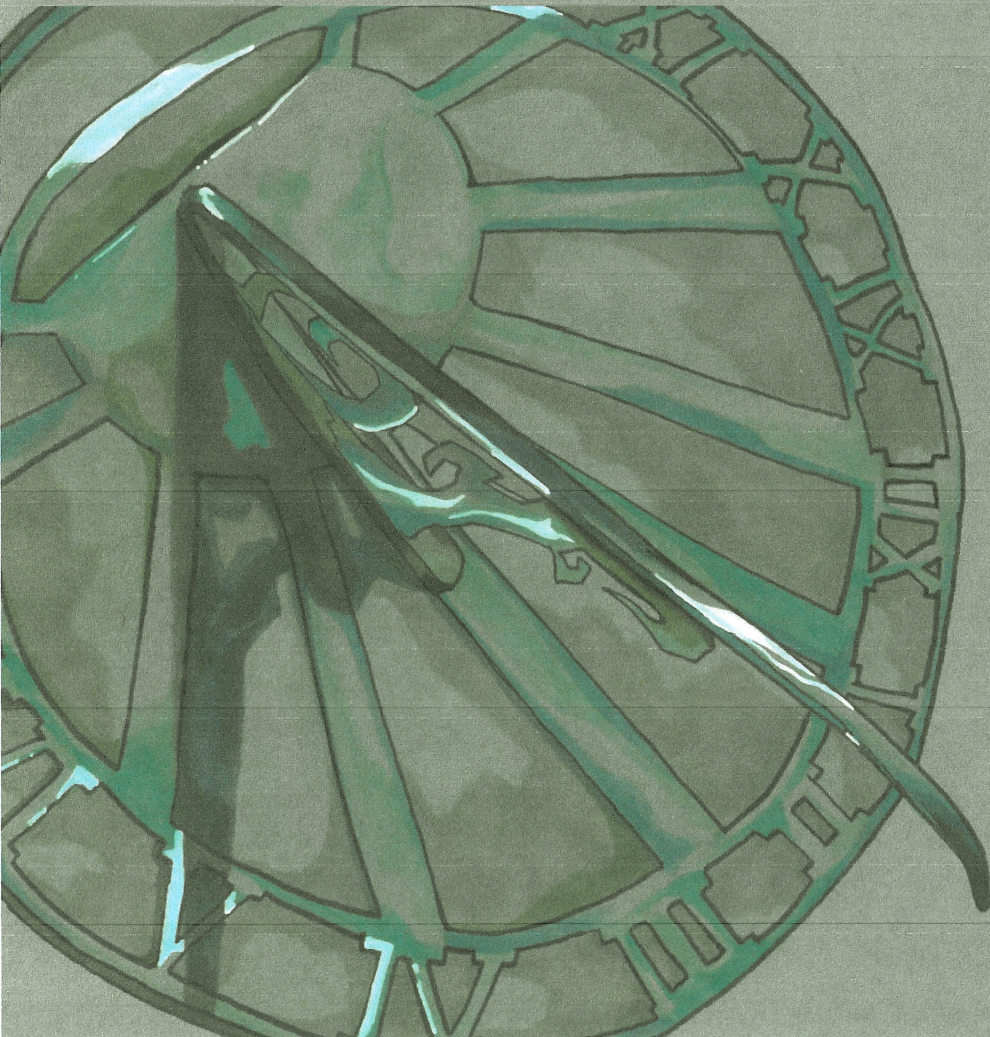
I certify that the representations made in this application are true and complete, and that the work sample submitted is my own work. The City of St. Augustine has my permission to use my work, or a portion thereof, for publicity or educational purposes.

Applicant's Signature and Date: 

The City of St. Augustine reserves the right to revoke the tenure of the Poet Laureate of he/she fails to fulfill his/her duties.

Aquarian

Literature and Visual Arts Review



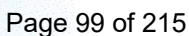
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Into The Unknown
Bianca Rodriguez



The Five

Paul Risner

The bloody moon
Ksenya Lazar

We lost C.P. Lee in the winter-

His Athenian Odyssey had led him around the world twice and to our little school
Only to die far from home, but for his colleagues and students.

When he orated, when he pro-nounced and dramatically presented
Paradise Lost, in all its glory

You believed that this was what Milton had in mind
When he wrote the damned thing.

C.P. Lee, we missed, as soon as he was gone.

Of the four remaining, Duchovnay, Hallam, McLeod and Tifford,
Tifford and Hallam have slipped the surly bonds,

Duchovnay left, to seek the future that only he knew.
Only McLeod abides.

These five, these thinkers

Formed the basis of my literary union

And one by one, they left me.

Tifford published a reading list of fifteen books,

And when we arrived at class

He said to set twelve on the left side of the desk,

And three on the right.

These three books would be our works for this class
And the other twelve you must read in your lifetime.

We were puzzled, and a little angry—

We had just spent more than fifty dollars

On books we did not need and might not read,

But he knew: he was making a bet with us.

If we would take the challenge and read those books in our lifetime
Our education in the word would never end.

And by the time we finished those books

We would understand those books.

Tifford knew.

Hallam stirred the Bard in us and made us believe

That Shakespeare was more contemporary than we

And language, much of it invented by him

Was ever our friend and trusty Falstaff.

We studied Shakespeare, read aloud Shakespeare,

Learned the music, food, and habits of Shakespeare's time.



And learned to appreciate the beauty of language and the spoken word.

Hallam knew.

McLeod showed us films and persuaded us

That literature and art could be cinematic.

He loved foreign films and loved Wertmüller

Riefenstahl, De Sica, Derry, Hitchcock, Fellini and more...

And the fact that I can tell you their names

And why they are essential to all of us,

Is credit to McLeod, because

McLeod knew.

I write today for a living.

I write for amusement, and I write to explain, to persuade,

To tell stories, to command, and

I write to unburden myself of the thoughts

And feelings that have accumulated over time,

But I write well because I know the value of spare and concise passages.

I know the difference between writing to fill the page,

And writing to fill the mind.

I know because Duchovnay taught me how to write.

Duchovnay knew.

The five men of my literary world knew

That I would not realize who I was until I was their age,

And that the books I read when I was twenty

Would not be the last books I would read,

And the thoughts they gave me,

Would come back to a fuller life, and better understanding

As I approached their age.

They knew.

I won the bet with Tifford; I read all of those books, even though it took me 25
years.

I can quote Shakespeare when required, and I know why Hamlet hesitated.

I can intelligently discuss the difference between post-war Italian cinema

And the new wave of the French, and I have a transferred appreciation for

Catherine Deneuve

That may only be described as "learned," from McLeod.

I am a product of all of these men, all of this learning.

I hope that, looking at me 45 years ago,

They knew.



Gaze
Shahrazad Dadgar

For Keith and Karen

Paul Risner

My friend is sad today—

His best friend, his wife, he fears, is leaving him
Not by choice, but in the way most mortals do.

He has faith, and he believes in grace

But his heart is still heavy—

He knows the answer to his question, "why?"

But he still whispers it in the dark.

And when he looks down at the face he knows, but knows not him,

He allows himself to feel all the emotions

His heart wants, but his head denies.

When comes the day, as days come

That she must go on without him,

He will hold her hand once more,

And with all the faith and love he has,

Whisper to her: "We will meet again, my love, my wife,

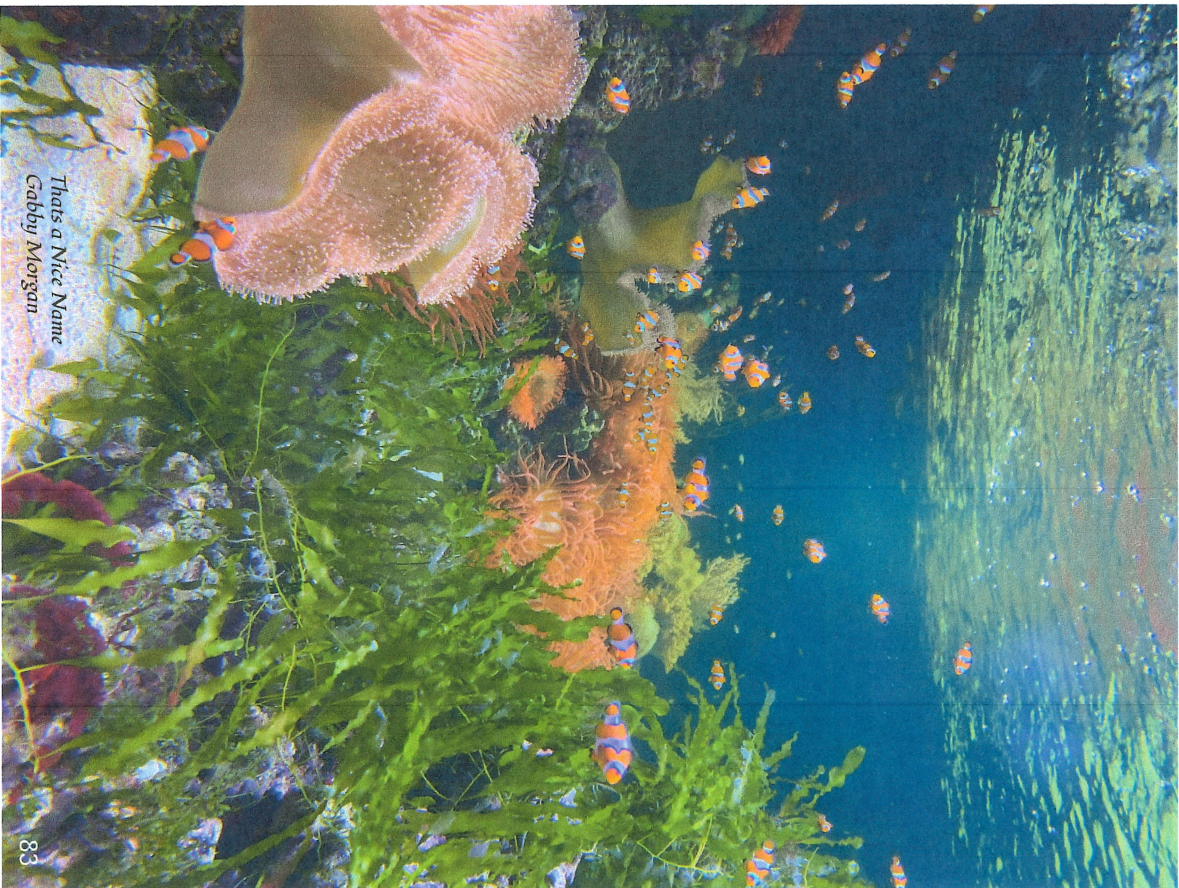
We will meet again."

The Grain

Paul Risner

In the biggest hole in the ground in the world,
Next to the oldest rock I had ever seen or touched,
Beside a magnificent river that had carved two grand canyons,
Holding my wife's hand and staring at a billion stars,
I was as far-far away, and as far-far down as I have ever been.
I was suddenly...insignificant...and happy about it.
I felt as if I was a grain of sand, in a mighty river.
I understood the relevance and context for my life.
Later I described this experience to a park ranger, after the trip.
The ranger was a Hopi native, who listened intently to me
And watched me as I told of my realization.
When I told him I felt as if I were a grain of sand he said quietly,
"You are a grain of sand,
But every grain of sand alters the course of the river in which it
lies.
You are here to alter the course of the great river.
It is not up to you as to how it is altered, nor to understand it.
You must be the sand-grain, and let the river decide."
At last I understood.

Wrath and Beauty
Ian Freese



That's a Nice Name
Gabby Morgan



Elegy for Pity Mike

Paul Risner

I was in Hendersonville, TN, recently, and
Thinking to stir a memory
Rode out Old Shackelford Road, seeking a place
I had not seen in 50 years.
When we moved to Tennessee, in my youth,
We lived for about 8 months in Hendersonville,
This was back when Johnny Cash lived there,
But no one else did.
A few months after we moved there, our Boston Bull Terrier "Pity Mike,"
A pet we had loved for longer than I had been alive, suddenly died.
My Mother was heart-broken, and asked me and my Dad,
The men of the house,
To find him a spot for him to rest in, for all eternity.
We wrapped him in his blanket and put in a few toys,
We carried him down to the bank of a stream, and
Buried him, with the few flowers I could gather, beneath a towering shade tree.
He is there, still, I expect.
I went to Hendersonville to find this spot again,
And to remember a long-gone pet,
And to hope he enjoyed his life with us, while he was here.
This is what pets do for you...they give you a past, and a reason to remember.
I found the spot.
The stream still runs and the trees are still tall and shady.
We picked a good spot.
He could not possibly know that, all these years later
I would be standing there, thinking of him,
But I am glad I got the chance to do so.
He was a good dog; he loved my Mother beyond compare, and he deserved to
be remembered.
For those of you with pets, you understand—
This is part of the bargain.

My Little Girl

Paul Risner

My little girl is gone far away.
She took her makeup and some clothes
And six pairs of shoes and
A few trinkets to remind her
That she has a home
Even though she is not here.
I sat in her room, alone
And looked at her pictures.
I put away her books and
Made her bed, and
Put her necklace on her dresser,
Just to remind myself that
I have a little girl
Gone far away, and this is her home,
Even though she is not here.



Portrait of Emily
Emi Kimbrough

Emi

She was More Than That

When my mother was young,
She piled her red hair on top of her head,
In an elegant chignon,
And when she went out with my father,
Which was often,
She wore jeweled clip-on earrings,
A faint but pleasing floral perfume,
And sometimes very red lipstick because
She could.
She wore Jonathan Logan dresses
And heels to make her 4'11" stature
Seem more like 5'3"
Because she did not like to be looked down upon.

When she talked with people at dinner
It was about books and art,
Koestler, Miller, and deKooning, Vidal and Renoir,
And when she learned that they had not read much or ever considered art,
She was kind to them.
She talked politics with ferocity and
Could not understand anyone who was indifferent
To people and their conditions,
And she talked about music,
Because that was the business they were in.

Once upon a time, my mother was elegant, and witty, and well-read
And people listened to her with respect.
That was before.
That was before the ravages of time, illness, divorce, unfair poverty
And the pitying glances of people who regarded her

As less, became her life.
That was before her teeth failed her, her eyesight lessened,
Her shining red hair turned to white straw,
And no one cared about anything, anymore,
Including everything she cared about or wanted to talk about.
That was before she became what you see now.
That was before time took everything away from her
But her memories,
And before all that she appeared to be
Is what you see now.
But, I am here to tell you--
She was more than that.

Paul Risner © 2021

Last Best Love

When we are young,
We live for Summer...
Summer is fast, unplanned,
And exciting in ways we cannot expect.
It is hot days, warm nights
The thrill of a first love
The rush to find the future
The touch of a hand,
And when summer leaves us,
It leaves us breathless.
When look forward in our lives, we look for Autumn
And the hope for cooler days to come.
Autumn is a time to reflect, to gather, to plan...
Autumn is a look, a feel
A closeness,
The expectation of future days,
That bring not just heat, but warmth,
It is the season of cool reflection,
The presence of a love we have waited for
And with them, the exchange of knowing glances,
And the touch of a hand.
It is the sudden smile, like the blazing sunset
That means everything.
Our Autumn is a season,
And a reason for all that has come.
It is not Summer,
And we take our time to appreciate
When we fell in love for the first time,
And now, when we fall in love for the last, best time.

Paul Risner © 2022

We who do the work

We who do the work

That no one sees but us

Take our pride in other's success

In other's joy and

In the knowledge that we have helped.

We do what we do

With our friends and fellow helpers

And our reward is

The smile of a child who hears for the first time

Or is able to speak with confidence,

And in the appreciation of those who

Now hear better than they have

Since they were young.

Yes, we who do the work that no one sees

Do it for them, and also for ourselves,

Because it speaks to us and makes us happy.

PER ©2022

A Lion Passes

We bid farewell to Bill Sheppard today-
The lions of law came in
Regal, white-maned, sometimes slow with age
And each took a moment to recognize the others-
Ancient adversaries, ancient friends,
Gray-suited, quiet and solemn-faced-
Here was their friend,
A lawyer revered by all, loved by all,
And now, but for memories and his impact on the law,
He was no more.
The woman beside me swore she would not cry-
But she cried.
A young man, in a hat
Kneeled at the communion rail,
Turned and took a deep pull
On a hidden bottle,
Then resumed his place in line-
A man near me made a comment and laughed,
But I thought "Bill would not have minded."
And, besides, we each cope in our own way-
Perhaps the depth of his grief
Required more of the holy spirit
Than the priest was offering...
I did not judge.
We sang, we prayed, listed, and appreciated,
Or, at least they did-
I listed and thought back

To a day fifty-years before,
When the force that was Bill Sheppard first
Hammered my memory.
Bill was strong, and persuasive
And made us care about inmates, and the poor,
And the people no one cared about,
And who suffered from the weight of the system of law
We did not know.
Bill was profane, and in such a commanding voice
Argued in such ways
That it made us feel that he must be right,
And it made his arguments all the more passionate.
Here was a lawyer.
For fifty years, I have moved
In and out of Bill's orbit-
The one constant in law was that
There was always Bill Sheppard,
And if the forces of injustice and oppression went too far,
Well, then they'd have to answer to Bill.
There was always Bill Sheppard.
But today, we had to bid farewell,
To the one lawyer in the room that everyone knew,
That everyone respected,
And everyone loved.
As the morning ended
And the lions of law filed out
They were likely reminded as I was that
Although they are forces in their own right,
They will never be Bill Sheppard-

None of us will.

Peace to all who loved Bill, and were loved by him.

© Paul Risner 2022

Print**Poet Laureate Application - Submission #28446****Date Submitted: 7/22/2022****Name***

Chris Bodor

Email Address*

chrisbodor@yahoo.com

Address*

471 San Bruno Street

City

St. Augustine

State

FL

Zip Code*

32086

Phone Number*

9045010043

Alternate Number**Work Samples***

Chris_Bodor_Poet.pdf

Include a Submission List and copies of 5 to 10 poems that represent your best artistic achievements (Not to exceed 20 pages).

Submit no more than 1 poem per page. All pages must include the title of poem, your name and page number if appropriate, on each page. Include citation if work has been published (including self-published). All work samples must be typewritten, or computer generated. Handwritten submissions will not be accepted. Please provide copyright information where appropriate.

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Spoken Word

ROMANZA (May 2021)
https://youtu.be/CqLjYw_6Lil

SJC COMMISSIONER MEETING (April 2021)
<https://youtu.be/eHRffmVLRLs>

GATHERING PLACE (April 2021 National Poetry Month event)
<https://youtu.be/dnbqTFAUxEs>

LAST MAN ON EARTH (March 2020)
<https://youtu.be/lbnQENp-ZxA>

MY SIDE OF THE STREET (October 2012)
<https://youtu.be/Lhoiq1lv3Gg>

Performance Spoken Word poets should also include link(s) to online work.

Are you 18 or older?*

☒ Yes

☐ No

Electronic Signature Agreement*

I certify that the representations made in this application are true and complete, and that the work sample submitted is my own work. The City of St. Augustine has my permission to use my work, or a portion thereof, for publicity or educational purposes.

☒ I agree.

Electronic Signature*

Christopher C. Bodor

Note:

The City of St. Augustine reserves the right to revoke the tenure of the Poet Laureate of he/she fails to fulfill his/her duties.

Performed at St. Johns County Commissioner Meeting in April of 2021

Second Growing Season
by Chris Bodor

Outside our cafe windows
and our souvenir shop doors,
April reveals days of new growth
St. Johns County's second season of growing.

A knowing
that soon jasmine blooms will burst
like an expensive broken perfume bottle.
A garden will flourish,
in the nursery,
in the neighborhood,
in the Nation.

New plantings protected underground
during the stretch of
unpredictable winter weather.

Our second growing season.

Collaboration with fine artist Laura O'Neal for PAM Jam 2020 project

Present Moment Bliss
by Chris Bodor

Never a worry
of how hours were spent
when days were young
and quite innocent.

Heartbreak burned life
down to the ground
a broken timepiece
tightly overwound.

I want to know
if the custodian cares
about the accumulation
of unanswered prayers.

Trapped in a cage
wasting countless hours
traveling down the same road
speeding past the wildflowers.

Barricades were built
consumed by shame and guilt
suddenly I smile like an adopted dog
sunlight blasting through the fog.

A giddy show of teeth
instantaneous and brief
present moment bliss
an invitation not to miss.

To reach freedom
I had to admit my wrong.

I discovered the solution
it was inside me all along.

#

Unpublished Jan 01, 2022

Embrace
by Chris Bodor

When I hold you carefully
and tight, in my arms and
I want you to whisper that
you feel safe in my embrace
open your eyes and stare at my face
because that is what you used to do
when we first started life together
as newlyweds and young parents.

Your words would make me feel like
the strongest man in the world, but
the truth is that you are a changed woman
as the direct result of being a mother
of strong daughters
and you feel safe in your own shoes
and your own embrace.

Over tears and time, I have become content
to lie naked next to you,
walking through life with you, knowing
that I must lead when you are broken
and let you lead when I am paralyzed
and crippled with analysis.

Now, in our overstuffed armchairs,
there is a spark when our outstretched fingers touch
and I have come to love that just as much as
the feeling I used to get when I used to hold
you tight in my embrace,
staring intently at your face,
thinking that I was a superhero,
protecting you from the universe.

###

Unpublished (January 2013)

January Journey
by Chris Bodor

January is like an open road
Resolutions made in this new year
Reflect in the review mirror
Strait ahead I steer
Stop smoking, maybe
More exercise, perhaps
Consult the calendar
Unfold the road maps
When driving through the neighborhood
Treat each neighbor the way we should
During our travel
On days when nothing goes well
Flat tire, wrong turn, fan belt slip
I will remember
Life is not a destination
It is all about the trip.

#

Unpublished (July 2021)

Masterpiece
by Chris Bodor

If I ever paint a masterpiece
it will be because of you
Inspired by your beauty
and everything you do.

If I ever write a best seller
It will be because of you
Motivated by our story
every word is true.

I would like to build a castle
each corner featuring a different turret and spire
Instead of electric heat
we would stay warm with candlelight and fire.

Together we built a life each day
prepared for however the story may play
at bedside, on our knees, together we pray
until nightfall when we return to bed and lay.

With prayer for paint,
our life is a masterpiece.

#

June 9, 2022

To Whom it May Concern,

I have known Chris Bodor for many years. When I was the Programing Coordinator for the Saint Johns Cultural Council in 2009, Chris came to me for an idea he had to celebrate National Poetry Month. It sounded like a great idea and he immediately made arrangements to mark the occasion. He placed a display of poetry in our storefront windows and then organized a poetry reading with various local poets. It was one of my favorite events that we held in our space on San Marco Avenue.

Since that humble beginning, Chris has continued to advance and celebrate poetry in our city. Since that first reading, he has held monthly poetry readings at various locations around town engaging our local poets and audience members. My husband and I were honored to be part of one of his ventures called PAM Jam. (Poetry, Art, and Music) Chris wrote a poem inspired by a painting by Laura O'Neil and we wrote original music inspired by the poem. There were numerous local poets, painters, and musicians involved in this creative event that culminated in a showing at The Butterfield Garage Gallery on King Street. It was an amazing collaboration of the arts and one of the most creative processes I have participated in.

Chris is the perfect poet to inaugurate a City of Saint Augustine Poet Laureate position. His dedication to his craft and his commitment to encourage and inspire others in our community is reason alone to advance this proposal to have a official City Poet Laureate.

Poetry can inspire, give hope and affirm that words and art matter in our lives. Chris has been a mover and shaker in the poetry community of Saint Augustine for many years. I fully support Chris Bodor in his pursuit to have the City of Saint Augustine to inaugurate a Poet Laureate program and I hope you will respond positively to his proposal.

Sincerely,

Joy D'Elia

Joy D'Elia

3161 Country Creek Lane, Saint Augustine, FL 32086

Former Programming Coordinator of the Saint Johns Cultural Council

Nancy Quatrano
147 Patriot Lane
Elkton, FL 32145



June 3, 2022

Mr. Chris Bodor

PoetPlantPress@yahoo.com

Dear Chris,

As co-leader of the Ancient City Chapter of the Florida Writers Association, I just wanted to tell you how proud we are of the wonderful platform you've provided for Florida poets, artists, and authors in St. Augustine. As you know, the local FWA group was unable to provide the structure our local poet attendees needed. But you have.

Neither weather, lack of a venue, or the pandemic dissuaded you from not only hosting readings and even virtual ways to celebrate and share one another's talents, but you also completed the design and production of the beautiful Ancient City Poets, Authors, Photographers, and Artists (AC PAPA) Volume 3 that released last December. It's a beautiful literary magazine.

Your dedication to creativity in its many forms is appreciated and treasured, but especially your love, respect, and promotion of poetry and art in all its variety and beauty.

I hope to hear that St. Augustine will soon have its very own City Poet Laureate – you!

Looking forward to seeing what's next for our wonderful writing community.

Sincerely yours,
Nancy Quatrano
ACC-FWA

P.O. Box 3289
St. Augustine, Florida 32085
June 10, 2022

Board of City Commissioners
of Saint Augustine, Florida
P.O. Box 210
St. Augustine, Florida 32085

Dear City Commissioners:

I am writing to support the nomination of Chris Bodor for Poet Laureate of St. Augustine. Chris and I were among the founders of Ancient City Poets in 2009. Since then, he has been an active supporter of poetry in St. Augustine, faithfully organizing the Open Mic program each month and initiating the recent PoetFest held at Flagler College.

Chris brings much heart and spirit to his poetry. I feel that he would admirably fulfill the duties of St. Augustine Poet Laureate, and highly recommend him for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Ann Browning Masters, Ph.D.
Poet and Independent Scholar
Recipient of 2015 St. Augustine Easter Festival Knighting
Unofficial Poet Laureate of St. Augustine Menorcans



DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

June 19, 2022

City Commission
St. Augustine City Hall
75 King Street
St. Augustine, FL 32084

Re: Chris Bodor Poet Laureate Application

Dear Commissioners:

I am writing in support of Chris Bodor's application for the City of St. Augustine Poet Laureate, should the resolution be adopted to establish the program. I know Chris, and have worked with him in a number of capacities, and can say with certainty that I believe him to be the best candidate for the position.

Chris's work with Ancient City Poets is well-known, as is his extensive background in creating, organizing, promoting, and hosting several poetry-related events within the community. He works tirelessly to bring poetry to the people, and has been quite successful in building the arts scene here in St. Augustine. Among other things, he is a natural at generating enthusiasm for poetry; he has countless contacts in the field both here at home and nationwide; he has no shortage of original ideas; he has the determination to bring these ideas to fruition; and he has a sociable character—all qualities which would make him perfect for such an esteemed and publicly-active role.

It is Chris's management in bringing the inaugural PoetFest 2022 to Flagler College that I would specifically like to address, however, as it should be noted how instrumental he was in coordinating the many moving parts involved in producing such a large festival. For months, Chris labored over every detail of the event, and met and corresponded repeatedly with me (representing the Flagler College English Department), and Christina Parrish Stone (of St. Johns Cultural Council), to fully realize the vision he had for an annual poetry festival to be held in St. Augustine. The plans, from the substantial down to the minutiae, would not have been successful without Chris at the helm, and he handled all tasks with composure, even in the face of unforeseen modifications. He was not paid for any of his time, yet he offered all his energies in launching the event, which is sure to grow in renown over the coming years. This was a remarkable achievement, and speaks to Chris's passion for the art, and for building bridges within our community, and afar, and I know this is the same conviction Chris would bring to the role of St. Augustine Poet Laureate.

Please feel free to contact me with any further questions.

Kind Regards,

Lauren Tivey, MFA
Visiting Lecturer, English Department
Ltivey@flagler.edu

June 2022

To Whom This May Concern –

I can't think of anyone who deserves the distinction of Poet Laureate of the City of Saint Augustine more than Chris Bodor. Chris has worked tirelessly to promote the spoken word in Saint Augustine since at least 2009 with the founding of the Ancient City Poets Open Mic Series. This series has run continuously on the last Sunday of the month at various locations around the city and draws local and visiting poets. Even during the pandemic, the ACP events continued on Zoom, broadening the range to include poets from across the country. Through Chris' leadership, the Ancient City Poets are now recognized as the Local Chapter of the Florida State Poets Association.

Chris's work with the St. Johns County Cultural Council includes two years of haiku poetry contests as well as the inaugural "PoetFest 2022" in April, National Poetry Month. The SJCC and ACP partnership has also brought about a great venue for the monthly Open Mic series to begin this month at the newly remodeled Waterworks building.

Aside from all the above, Chris Bodor is a well-respected, award winning, internationally published poet in his own right. Chris has numerous poetry books to his credit, both his own words as well as acting as publisher for several literary journals and anthologies. His words inspire, intrigue, and invite all to appreciate and embrace the spoken word.

Michael Henry Lee

Haiku Society of America – South East Region Coordinator

Print**Poet Laureate Application - Submission #29106****Date Submitted: 8/11/2022****Name***

Catherine Avery St. Jean

Email Address*

c10stjean@gmail.com

Address*

2293 Commodores Club Blvd

City

St Augustine

State

FL

Zip Code*

32080

Phone Number*

917-359-6751

Alternate Number

904-342-7211

Work Samples*

poet-laureate STA.pdf

Include a Submission List and copies of 5 to 10 poems that represent your best artistic achievements (Not to exceed 20 pages).

Submit no more than 1 poem per page. All pages must include the title of poem, your name and page number if appropriate, on each page. Include citation if work has been published (including self-published). All work samples must be typewritten, or computer generated. Handwritten submissions will not be accepted. Please provide copyright information where appropriate.

The City of St. Augustine will take general care in the handling of all submitted materials but is not responsible for damage or loss. Submitted material will not be returned.

Spoken Word

Performance Spoken Word poets should also include link(s) to online work.

Are you 18 or older?*☒ Yes☐ No**Electronic Signature Agreement***

I certify that the representations made in this application are true and complete, and that the work sample submitted is my own work. The City of St. Augustine has my permission to use my work, or a portion thereof, for publicity or educational purposes.

☒ I agree.**Electronic Signature***

Catherine Avery St. Jean

Note:

The City of St. Augustine reserves the right to revoke the tenure of the Poet Laureate of he/she fails to fulfill his/her duties.

CATHERINE AVERY ST. JEAN

DARLENE GALAMBOS

City Clerk | City of St. Augustine
75 King Street | PO Box 210
St, Augustine, FL 32085



2293 Commodores Club Blvd
St. Augustine, FL 32080
C10stjean@gmamil.com
917/359-6751

August 22, 2022

To whom it may concern:

Enclosed please find my application for Poet Laureate of St. Augustine. This application includes my resume, Statement of Interest, ten samples of my poetry, and four letters of recommendation.

Poems included are: St Augustine, Nights of Lights, Lightner Museum, The Beaches, Lincolville, Martin Luther King, Jr., John Lennon, Charlie Chaplin, Coco Chanel and The Beach,

Sincerely,

Catherine Avery St. Jean

CATHERINE AVERY ST. JEAN

St. Augustine, FL 32080 • c10stjean@gmail.com

Professional Experience

Marcus St. Jean, New York, NY

1998 – 2010

MARCUS ST. JEAN conducts executive searches worldwide for creative opportunities in advertising, communications and marketing at all levels.

PARTNER, CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER

Achieved a competitive edge and highly profitable operations for this leading global executive recruiting and consulting firm. Built on a successful career in the creative disciplines to grow the company into a worldwide leader, placing advertising, marketing, and other creative executives in highly coveted positions across four continents. Worked closely with clients in creating the strategies, systems, and tools to evaluate and select effective hires. Combined breakthrough leadership with industry acumen to direct the seamless execution of day-to-day activities, ensuring robust, long-term growth.

Screenvision Cinema Network, New York, NY

1994 – 1998

The innovation leader in cinema advertising and U.S. sponsor of the Cannes Intl. Advertising Festival.

VICE PRESIDENT, DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS/FESTIVALS

Enhanced the effectiveness of the creative cinema advertising solutions through expert management of all corporate identity and public relations activities.

Additional Experience

Senior Vice President, Director of Creative Services, Lintas New York

1991-1994

Vice President, Director of Creative Services, DDB New York

1977-1991

Education & Professional Development

MS, Childhood Education, College of Staten Island, CUNY

2010

BA, Communication Arts (specialization in TV Production), Loyola University, Chicago, IL

1977

Professional Affiliations

Advertising Women of New York Board of Directors (1984 – 2000)

Life Member of St. Augustine Art Association, Chair of Shows Receiving, facilitator of Plein Air Week. (Since 2015)

St. Johns County Library Board Advisor, (Since 2016)

Publications

A Staten Island Ferry Tale, Xlibris, October 2006

- Part of the permanent collection at the John Noble Museum on Staten Island.

Caleb Takes a Ride on the Ferry, Amazon, ASIN: 1466391588, October 2011

Haikus for St. Augustine, Amazon, ISBN 9798839236981, ASIN: B0B5KV4D14, July 5, 2022

Haiku Odes to Artists, Amazon, ISBN 9798836624927, ASIN: B0B47LMTBY, June 16, 2022

George Washington, the Road to the Presidency, Work in progress.

- <http://georgewashingtonroadtopresidency.blogspot.com/2010/09/1st-draft-unfinished.htm>

St. Jean Statement of Interest

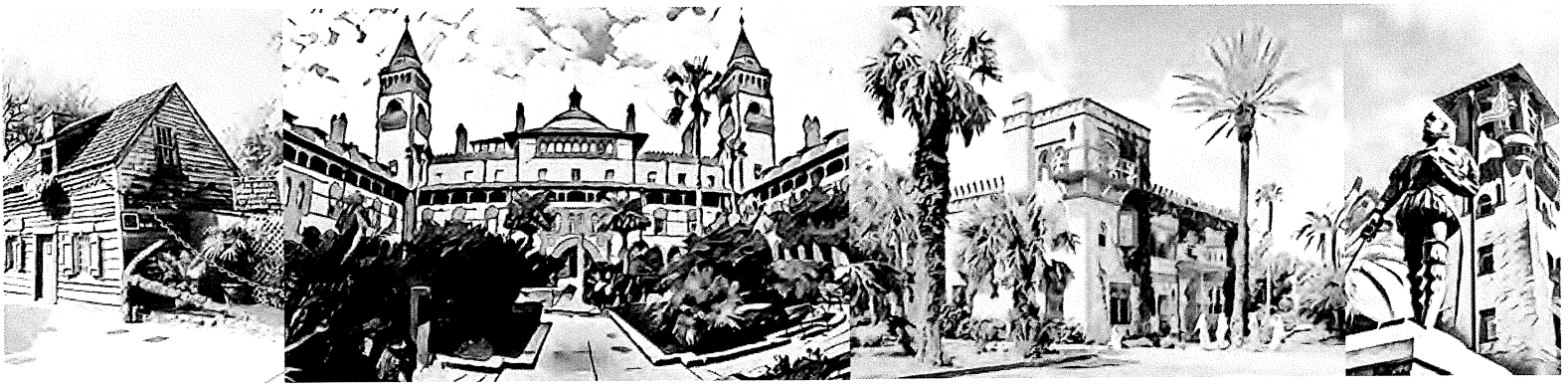
I moved to St. Augustine in 2012 from New York City. We retired from the rat race and moved here because of what we saw and felt when we drove through the city, on our way to somewhere else, in November of 2011. We came down here January 1, 2012 and bought our house around Valentines Day 2012. We fell in love with a beautiful town surrounded by water and looking very European. Once we got here the real beauty showed itself, the culture and opportunities had endless possibilities.

Once settled in, enjoying the biking on the beach, kayaking in Salt Run and starting to paint again, I was in heaven. I did four paintings, all of which sold, for the Ancient City Mosaic benefiting the St. Johns County Education Foundation Arts Alive Program. ("Flagler's Lion", "Castillo De San Marco", "Lifeguard" and "Beach Toes" were 4 of the 487 paintings donated.) This encouraged me to check out the St Augustine Art Association and participate in their monthly shows. I became a Life Member in 2015.

In 2016 I applied to the County Board of Commissioners to join the Library Advisory Board, I was accepted and continue to serve on this vital board, looking forward to breaking the ground for the new libraries coming soon.

I have to credit the annual Poetry contest put on by the Cultural Council for inspiring me to write Haikus. I participated in the first and Second Annual Haiku Contest. I got obsessed with Odes in Haiku. I did Odes instead of the required subject of Spring, I had a mission. In June I self-published *Haiku Odes to Artists*, on Amazon, ISBN 9798836624927. (My definition of Artist, a person whose work exhibits exceptional skill, an artisan, composer, expert, inventor, painter, artiste, authority, creator, virtuoso, whiz or craftsperson.)

This then led to *Haikus for St. Augustine*, Amazon, ISBN 9798839236981. This is a small book of Haikus about St. Augustine, the oldest city in America. The Haikus can help tourists and remind natives to understand our beautiful town, with each poem pointing out something special here to seek out.



ST. AUGUSTINE

Gem of the First Coast

Like a tiara, it is the crown jewel.

In the Summer the enchanted nights

Are filled with music in

The Plaza de la Constitution

Under the pearl moon.

In the Fall she floats

On a sea of dazzling sapphires

As the topaz sun shines down

And waters sparkle at her shores.

Her beauty shines like diamonds

During the festive holidays

As many seek her lights.

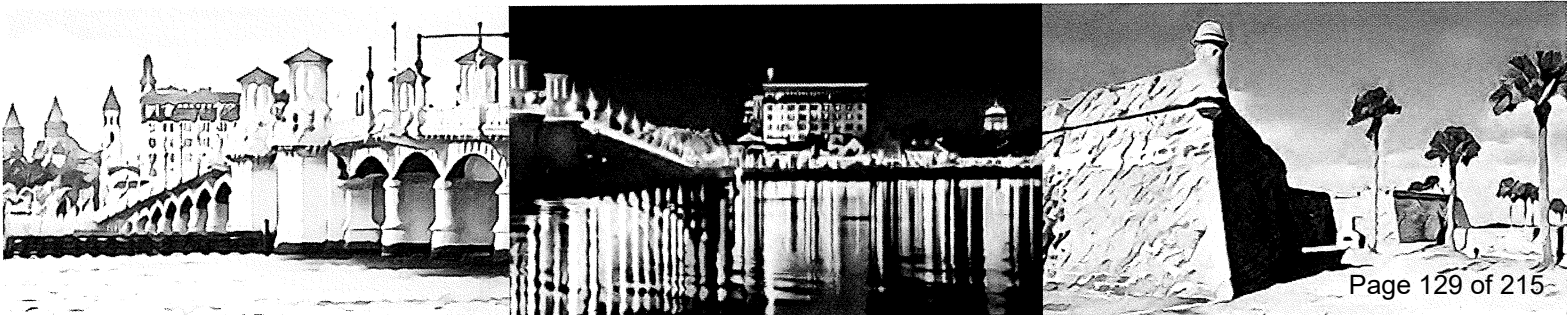
In the Spring she blooms again

As her gardens flower

With magnificent rubies and emeralds.

She is the first, but never the last.

by Catherine Avery St. Jean





Nights of Lights

A Tour by trolley,
The city glows with magic,
Beams from the water.

*Haikus for St Augustine
by Catherine Avery St. Jean
page 21*



Lightner Museum

Flagler's Alcazar
Hotel, baths and casino
Morphed to museum.

*Haikus for St Augustine
by Catherine Avery St. Jean
page 25*



The Beaches

Shells sprinkle the dunes,
Wide beaches you can drive on,
Waves you can surf on.

*Haikus for St Augustine
by Catherine Avery St. Jean
page 23*



Lincolnvile

Founded by freedmen
Following the Civil War.
“Little Africa.”

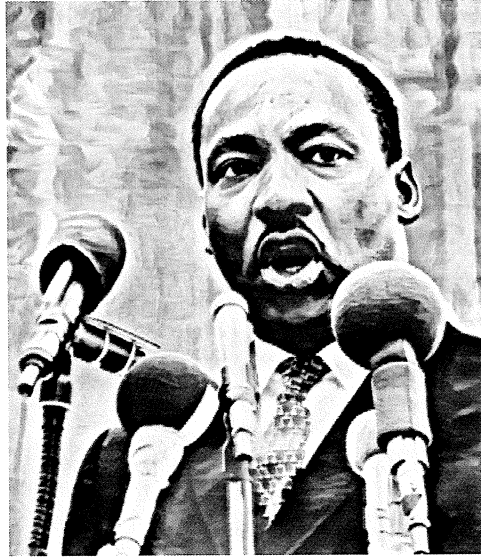
*Haikus for St Augustine
by Catherine Avery St. Jean
page 23*



John Lennon

Famed as a Beatle,
Artist, lyricist, song man,
Imagine all that.

Haiku Odes to Artists
by Catherine Avery St. Jean
page 19



Martin Luther King, Jr.

He had a real dream.
Martin was a peaceful man.
Assassinated.

Haiku Odes to Artists
by Catherine Avery St. Jean
page 105



Charlie Chaplin

He talked with his eyes,
Make us laugh when we were sad,
Without any words.

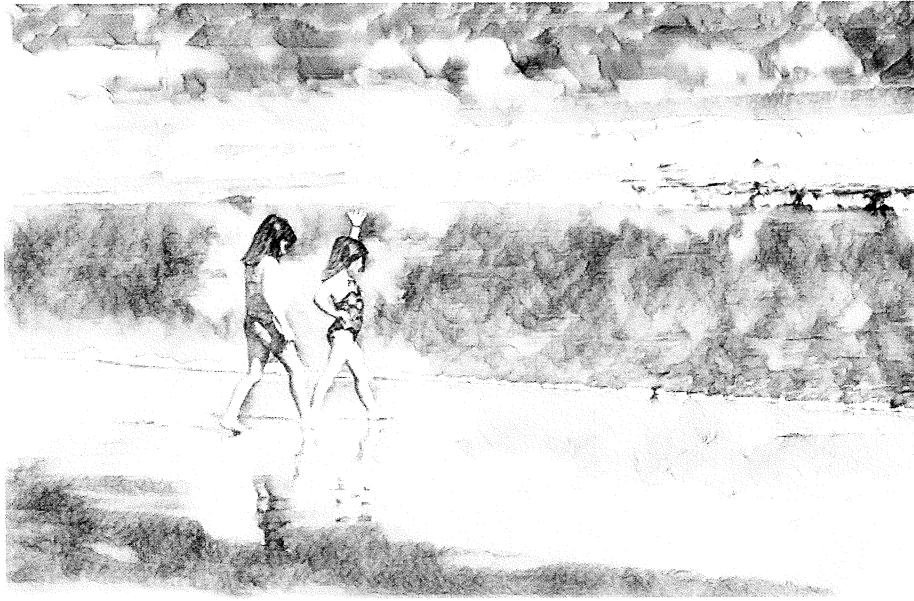
*Haiku Odes to Artists
by Catherine Avery St. Jean
page 77*



Coco Chanel

The little black dress
With sun glasses, hat and pearls
Made simple gorgeous.

*Haiku Odes to Artists
by Catherine Avery St. Jean
page 55*



The Beach

Hot summer days we are inclined,
To put on sunscreen as mothers teach,
Leaving the heat and our cares behind,
With best friend going to the sunny beach.
Refreshing our listless body and weary mind,
Our toes anxious for the rushing waves to reach,
As it lowers our temps as we blissfully unwind,
Water reaches our ankles with laughter we screech.

by Catherine Avery St. Jean

Harold H. George

1220 Francis Street
St. Augustine, FL 32084
904.501.5632
haroldgeorgeis@gmail.com

Greetings!

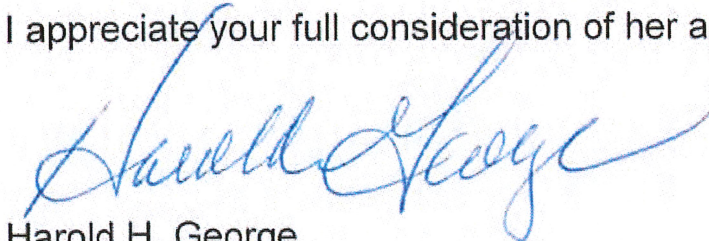
I am writing in support of Catherine Avery St. Jean's application to become Poet Laureate of the City St. Augustine. I believe Catherine is the perfect candidate to serve in this new role.

As the Extension Services Manager for our Library System, I have the fortunate position of knowing and visiting multiple communities all around the town. To say St. Augustine is unique is to say the sky is blue. Except Catherine would find the many shades of blue, as well as how the sky reflects our history, culture, and personality.

She is a wonderful visual artist who brings the painter's eye to her poetry, and has created many wonderful pieces that conjure the many images and emotions that are part of the human experience. Catherine Avery St. Jean would inspire and represent the citizens of St. Augustine, offering both a beacon and a mirror for all of us to see our city with all the heart we know it holds.

She is a writer that knows that truth and beauty are synonymous, while humor and charm come in many packages. I would be so proud to see her work as an expression of what makes St. Augustine wonderful.

I appreciate your full consideration of her application—thank you!



Harold H. George

August 15, 2022

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in support of Catherine Avery St. Jean's application for Poet Laureate of the City of St. Augustine. Catherine would make an excellent Poet Laureate with her creative flair and ability to say so much with just a few words.



Having read many of her poems, creativity with words, and images, comes naturally to Catherine. Her series of Haikus captures the subjects perfectly and the St. Augustine Art Association proudly carries two of her Haiku books—*Haikus for St. Augustine* and *Haiku Odes to Artists*.

She is not only a Life Member of the St. Augustine Art Association, but an artist and volunteer coordinator for artwork receiving for our monthly exhibits. Catherine has also been invaluable to me with her ability to research works in our Permanent Collection. She puts her heart and soul into everything she does and I know she will do just that as Poet Laureate.

To quote her haiku on Coco Chanel, "Made simple gorgeous."

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jennifer Flynt", is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Jennifer Flynt, Administrator

22 Marine Street
St. Augustine
Florida 32084-4438

TEL: (904) 824-2310
FAX: (904) 824-0716

info@staaa.org
www.staaa.org



77 BRIDGE STREET
ST AUGUSTINE, FL 32084

August 17, 2022

To whom it may concern,

It is my pleasure to recommend Ms. Catherine Avery St. Jean for the esteemed position of Poet Laureate of St. Augustine. I have had the pleasure of knowing Catherine for several years, both personally and professionally. Her dedication to art and our community alike are not only commendable, but singular in true heartfelt passion.

Catherine has spent her entire professional career creating. Creating successful businesses, innovative marketing strategies and art. Though Catherine's professional achievements are impressive, and stand firmly on their own, they pale in contrast to her civic and artistic accomplishments in St. Augustine. She donates time, and seemingly endless energy, selflessly to the St. Augustine Art Association and the St. Johns County Library Advisory Board all while finding time and energy to write and paint. Her most recent body of work, "Haikus for St. Augustine" perfectly reflect both her love and devotion to St. Augustine, and her deft talent of painting a vivid portrait and relaying true passion in a mere 17 syllables!

As an active member in the community and a twenty plus year resident, I would be more than proud to have Catherine bring us all a little closer to all things art and serve as our Poet Laureate. After you give this matter fair consideration, I feel comfortable knowing you will find yourself sharing my opinion on Catherine's capabilities apposite for this position. Thank you for your time and I wish you a wonderful rest of your day.

Douglas Murr II
President/CEO
Dog Rose Brewing Co.



St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners

Public Library System | Administration

22 August 2022

Dear Commissioners –

It gives me great pleasure to write a letter of support for the nomination of Catherine St. Jean as the Poet Laureate of The City of St. Augustine.

Catherine has been a member on our Library Advisory Board since 2016. I have great respect for Catherine as an individual and as an artist. She has excellent communication skills and has demonstrated the ability to articulate her passion for our libraries through both the written word and through her art. She recently participated in art events with the St. Johns Cultural Council as well as through our local Friends of the Anastasia Island Branch Library. She has offered training on social media PR opportunities as well as critiqued websites for our various Friends of the Library groups. She is well versed in multiple “message” outlets and formats, both visual and aural.

Catherine has very positive relationships with the library staff and other Board members. I am confident that she will establish productive relationships with City staff and citizens as well. I have no doubt that she would be a valuable asset to the City.

Catherine has made an inordinate difference in the St. Johns County library community. I cannot imagine anyone more deserving of this new opportunity than Catherine St. Jean.

If I can provide any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully,

Debra Rhodes Gibson
Library Director

August 26, 2022

Ms. Darlene Galambos, City Clerk of St. Augustine
75 King Street
P.O. Box 210
St. Augustine, FL 32085

Dear Ms, Galenbos,

This is a letter of support for Catherine Avery St. Jean's application to become Poet Laureate of St. Augustine. She will serve honorably in this role and will bring with her a background of service and knowledge.

I served with Catherine on the Library Advisory Board for many years. She was a faithful board member and her contribution to the success of the board and to the success and growth of the local libraries was beyond measure. She also attended many County Commission Board Meetings as a representative of the board. She was always willing to give of her time and her talents in an effort to support the local patrons who needed and required our libraries.

Catherine's art work is known by me since she was a generous contributor to Library events by giving a rendering of her own work as a gift. She is indeed a talented artist and writer and she has gifted me personally with her work of poetry. As Poet Laureate she will be an amazing representative of St. Augustine.

Your consideration of her application is very much appreciated

Yours truly,

Mary F. Geer, MBA
1165 County Road 13 South
St. Augustine FL 32092



CITY OF
ST AUGUSTINE
EST. 1565

APPLICATION:

- Name: Norma Sherry Rapp
- Street: 504 Boxwood Place
- City, State, Zip Code: St. Augustine, FL 32086
- Phone: 904-669-7666
- Alt. Phone: _____
- E-Mail: normasherry@icloud.com

Are you 18 or older?

- ☒ Yes
☐ No

WORK SAMPLES

Include a Submission List and copies of 5 to 10 poems that represent your best artistic achievements (Not to exceed 20 pages).

Submit no more than 1 poem per page. All pages must include the title of poem, your name and page number if appropriate, on each page. Include citation if work has been published (including self-published). All work samples must be typewritten, or computer generated. Handwritten submissions will not be accepted. Please provide copyright information where appropriate.

The City of St. Augustine will take general care in the handling of all submitted materials but is not responsible for damage or loss. Submitted material will not be returned.

SPOKEN WORD: Performance Spoken Word poets should also include link(s) to online work.

I certify that the representations made in this application are true and complete, and that the work sample submitted is my own work. The City of St. Augustine has my permission to use my work, or a portion thereof, for publicity or educational purposes.

Applicant's Signature and Date: Norma Sherry 8-15-22

The City of St. Augustine reserves the right to revoke the tenure of the Poet Laureate of he/she fails to fulfill his/her duties.

Norma Sherry Rappa

Bio

Norma Sherry writes about the universal human condition. She s a recipient of an Emmy Award, a Clarion Award for Women in Communications, five Telly Awards and numerous other notable accommodations.

She has written her entire life. As she likes to tell it “since she was old enough to put pen to paper”. She’s been told that the only way she wouldn’t cry in the playpen was if her mother gave her the yellow pages and a pencil. Norma believes she was born to write.

504 Boxwood Place St. Augustine, Fl. 32086

Norma Sherry Rappa

Statement of Interest and Connection to Saint Augustine

The year was 1985. Philip, my beloved, was excited to be back in St. Augustine; the home of his memorable college years. In 1988, I opened my first spa: Norma Sherry.

St. Augustine was now our home. I sold my spa in 1995 with the intent to live and enjoy our beautiful little town. As writers, Philip and I wrote passionately about the times and our mutual concerns. A few years later a local television station reached out to me offering me carte blanche freedom to write, produce and host my own talk show.

After much consideration and great support, I decided to give it a whirl. I invited guests from all walks of life and all worldly endeavors. After five years and five Telly Awards later, I left to work more seriously on my writing.

On September 18, 2011, my Philip succumbed to his Cancer riddled body. Graciously, Dr. Proctor opened the Flagler auditorium for Philip's memorial. I think it was the first such happening since or after at the college. St. Augustine surely was home!

I reinvented myself one more time opening Norma Sherry & Co. No longer having enough time to be the storyteller I fashioned myself, I began seriously writing poetry. I learned that I could write quickly and in a very short space of time and words, I was able to relay a feeling, a caring, and a story of sorts.

Before long I had a regular following of well over three thousand readers. With the advent of social media, writing was no longer a solitary undertaking. Expressions of delight and praise were immediately forthcoming and I was inspired to write more.

So, here I am, encouraged by a few dozen St. Augustine fans of my writing, to apply for the much coveted position of our first Poet Laureate. I have no

556 Boxwood Place St. Augustine, Fl. 32086

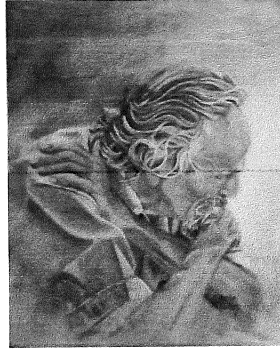
Page Two

illusion that this position will be awarded me, although that would be wonderful. We are supremely blessed in our little metropolis to have an abundant array of talented poets any number of whom would elevate our poetic awareness. I am excited for the encouragement and the exercise in presenting a very small portion of my voluminous poetry writings.

I thank you for taking the time to read my submission and for the consideration.

Respectfully yours,


Norma Sherry



The Face of...

With my heart that encompasses the world
I feel your pain.
The winds that turn the tides
swath me in the tumultuous waves
that surrounds you.
With my arms
I wrap you in tenderness and love
it's true that you may not feel me
but if you close your eyes
and inhale deeply
and exhale intentionally
you will know me
for I am there
I am always there
in the good times
and in the days
that are not so good
I am a part of your sinew
my blood runs through you
The universe knows us
for we are all one
conjoined in this experiment
called life

©Norma Sherry
August 12, 2022
Painting by Joanne McConkey

Norma Sherry
904-669-7666
504 Boxwood Place
St. Augustine, FL 32086



To Dream

I have dreamt of you
a thousand times before there was a you
before you were the loins
of my loins
before I breathed love
into your lungs I dreamt
of you
I dreamt of you and dreamed dreams for you
with my eyes opened or closed
I see all that you can be
I see love in your eyes
and passion in your eyes
and I see strength and wisdom in your eyes
I see success and happiness in your eyes
son, born from my seed
I dreamt of you long before there was a you
and I shall forever dream dreams for you
because you are of me
forevermore a part of me

©Norma Sherry
May 29, 2022
Photographic art by Dors bien

Norma Sherry
904-669-7666
504 Boxwood Place
St. Augustine, FL 32086



Unfinished

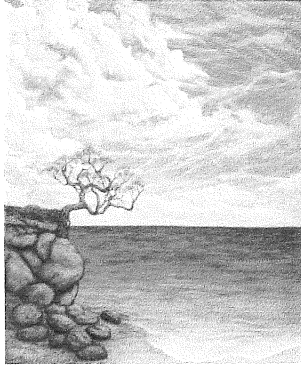
He left the world before he was finished
all the dreams and plans went with him
we always think we have tomorrow
but what if tomorrow doesn't come
the emptiness left behind
is as if the ether was
sucked out of the earth
as if all the balloons
were deflated
the pounding breathlessness
that he brought to life is gone
it's a different kind of sadness
it hasn't a name or a moniker
because there's nothing else comparable
the regrets; there are many
Even in the happiness and the joy
there were those moments
that I wish could be relived
but of course they cannot
He left a legacy even without trying
his words reverberate
in my ears
I'm wiser for having
known him
blessed in so many ways
by this man that was not godly
yet he was the most spirited human
I have ever known
He touched lives without a scintilla of trying
he touched mine profoundly

Page Two
Unfinished

but he left so much undone
there must be more than just
this one time around
he was an unfinished work of art;
he left too early before he was finished...

©Norma Sherry
June 23, 2022
Art by Shawn Jacobs

Norma Sherry
904-669-7666
504 Boxwood Place
St. Augustine, FL 32086

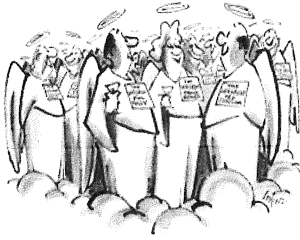


On the Brink of a Cliff

On the precipice overlooking the deep blue sea
the world flows by in all its serenity and drama
leaving me always cogent
of what could have beens and what has been
I'm reminded of times of peace and times of war
of childbirth and demise
of joy and grief
celebration and sorrow
I stand here for all to see
as a post to what can be
of resilience and strength
of fortitude and tenacity
of a willingness to survive
I sway with the wind
I soar with the almighty eagle
and the delicate bluebird
I'm a symbol to emulate
be it man or beast
stand tall be true and diligent
to all that resides within you
for within you flows goodness
and mercy for all

©Norma Sherry
July 21, 2022
Art by Anthony Bennett

Norma Sherry
904-669-7666
504 Boxwood Place
St. Augustine, FL 32086



Life after Life

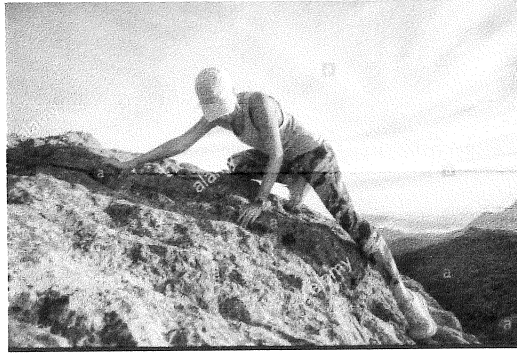
So here's the dilemma....
I'm dead!
No, that's not the dilemma!
The dilemma is
there's been more than
one man that I've loved
in my life and who
have also loved me....
...are you figuring out my dilemma?
So now I'm in heaven...
and so are they
What is a girl to do?
Is there a heavenly retreat for women such as I?
It's not that I was a floozy
or harlot or
a loose femme fatale
Of course not.
In fact, I was far too
prim and proper
in my living form
but I was a woman
who loved to love
and loved even more
being loved.
So, after the demise
of the love I thought
could be my only love...
As amazed as one
could be especially me
I fell in love again!
Now, pray tell,

Page Two
Life after Life

We're all dead!
All three of us
and here we are
in heaven....
...So what is a girl to do?
I implore you
someone
help me please
what is a girl to do?

©Norma Sherry
April 3, 2012
Art by Lee Lorenz
New Yorker June 22, 1987

Norma Sherry
904-669-7666
504 Boxwood Pl
St. Augustine, FL 32086



One Step

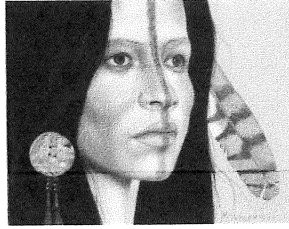
She struggles for
peace of mind
her disquieted self
fights the tumult
around her
try as she might
to disengage the
softness of her
heart fights her
she feels betrayed
by those she loved
threatened by
those she
doesn't know
The unknown
torments her
she twists and turns
at every curve
of the road
The uncharted
pathway frightens her
the undiscovered
bewilders her
her unsteady gait
confuses her
when did she
become overcome
in senseless fear
this is new to her
it crept upon her
as if an unwelcomed

Page Two
One Step

sheath of prickly thorns
she didn't fight
this unknown assailant
for she never saw
it coming
it just appeared
like a thief in
the night
now she feels
strangled and her
sensibilities crippled
fight she must
she knows this with
great certainty
but it's easier said
than done
for now
she will begin with
one foot in front
of the other until
at long last
she will climb
the mountain and
reach for the
glittering stars
one step at a time

©Norma Sherry
May 15, 2021
Art by unknown

Norma Sherry
904-669-7666
504 Boxwood Pl
St. Augustine, FL 32086



Half and Half

Confusion plagues me
I'm half here
and half not
I'm half my mother
and half my father
I'm half of an old world
and half of a new
I'm half blinded
by what I see
and I'm half crystalline
clear of what's before me
I'm half loved
and I'm half hated
I'm half judged
and I'm half confirmed
I am half free
and I'm half enslaved
I'm half beautiful
and I'm half scarred
I'm half the daughter
of my mother
and I'm half
the daughter
of my father
and I'm half white
and I'm half red
I am half native American
and I'm half Ingin
I am half indigenous
and I'm half intruder
I am half brilliant
and half primitive
I am half white
and half Redskin
I am half my
father's daughter
and I am half my mothers'

Page Two
Half and Half

I am half an interloper
and I am half a Native
I am whole the
history of you
you cannot erase me
I am your tears
and your laughter
your freedom and
your enslavement
I am your salvation
and I am your gratitude
I am your blessing
and if not for me
there wouldn't be a you
I withstood the flagellation
and the torture upon my womanhood
I braved the insults
and the contemptuous spit
I'm the whole of us
I complete us
I am the first
and I am the last
I am the flesh and blood
of my father
and his father
and his father before him
and I am the blood
and the flesh of my mother
and my mother's mother
and her mother before her
I am wholly
Indigenous
and I am wholly
American

©Norma Sherry
April 23, 2022
Art sadly by unknown

Norma Sherry
904-669-7666
504 Boxwood Place
St. Augustine, Fl 32086

Broken

She broke his heart
splintered it to smithereens
she didn't think about his heart
only hers
maybe she didn't think
he really had a heart
we women sometimes
think that way
men are so different
we lie to ourselves
Truth is some men
never fully recover
when their heart is so broken
they're left wounded
and scarred and
never good for another woman
loving or otherwise
they see women differently
as if they are a beast-like
demonic succubus
they're ruined for life
It becomes a self-fulfilling prophecy
every woman henceforth
becomes his wanton toy
and she becomes his slaughter
she then treats all men
within reach of her heart thusly
and so on and so forth
and the spinning wheel goes round
and round
broken hearted
heartbreaking
breaking hearts to smithereens

©Norma Sherry
April 21, 2022
Art by Sandrine Pagnoux

Norma Sherry
904-669-7666
504 Boxwood Place
St. Augustine, FL 32086



It Is as It Was Written

It Is as It Was Written

If the sun should rise on the morrow
and leave me in its wake
mourn me not for it is as it was written

If a thunderous storm shakes my home
from its very rooted roots
yet stirs me not have no fear
for it is as it was written

If my breath is eclipsed
by my obstructionist bosom
delight in its whimsy
and have no regrets
for it is as it was written

If I shall sleep beyond my dream
and curiously wonder
why my slumber captivated
me so give no thought of concern
for it is as it was written

If my breathlessness
steals away my heart

and the beat of which
is forever gone worry not
for it is as it was written....

...and so it shall be

©Norma Sherry
May 7, 2022
Art by Abantu Benshi

Norma Sherry
904-669-7666
504 Boxwood Place
St. Augustine, FL 32086



'Tis Love

Love is a funny thing.
Or a not so funny thing!
It comes often
when you least expect it.
It borrows in
and finds a home
deep within.
And when the love
is hurt it's not an
easy thing to release.
Is the answer to
eradicate it;
Stomp on it;
destroy it by
any means?
Or let it be?
Let it dissolve into
a million little pieces
until it's liquefied.
Or can it be healed?
Can the hurt be undone?
It's a conundrum.
This question that
plagues the multitudes.
Ahh, to love and to
be loved;
the quest of human kind.
Man. Woman.
It matters not.
The heart wants
what the heart
seeks most: love.
Without love we whirl
round and round
looking here and there....

Page Two
'Tis Love

Above and below;
behind and under.
For some, the quest
is never ending.
Others are lucky
the first time around
or the second
or the third....
Perhaps the flaw
is in the looking.
So don a pair of
shades and you
might just bump
into it...

©Norma Sherry
April 8, 2021
Photo by Pixabay

Norma Sherry
904-669-7666
504 Boxwood Place
St. Augustine, FL 32086



August 5, 2022

To Whom it may concern:

I am writing you to nominate Miss Norma Sherry for Poet Laureate of St. Augustine. Norma writes daily, sometimes all day, and blogs the most beautiful and poignant verses.

As an author myself, I am very impressed with Miss Sherry's writing skills. Her poetry is not only impactful and poignant but encompasses an air of sophistication that sometimes lead right to your heart.

Thank you for your consideration. I believe having Miss Norma Sherry for Poet Laureate of St. Augustine would bring additional honor to our fair city with her written words of distinction and merit.

Sincerely,

Linda M. Brandt

Linda M. Brandt

Author, Artist, Illustrator

LMB PRODUCTIONS, L.L.C. 309B ANASTASIA BLVD, PMB 157, ST. AUGUSTINE, FL 32080

Karen Ball



68 Spring Street
Saint Augustine, Florida 32084
904.553.4067
karen.ball@me.com

To Whom It May Concern:

I wish to add my name in support of Norma Sherry for Poet Laureate of the City of Saint Augustine.

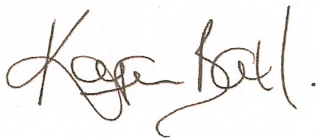
Norma Sherry is a longtime resident of Saint Augustine, having opened her first business here in 1988. Her contributions to Saint Augustine have been in the customer service industry as well as ongoing community project support. Her business and community endeavors have given her numerous opportunities to display her leadership and speaking abilities.

Although Norma writes primarily for her own benefit, she has never held back in sharing her work, because she so strongly believes in the value that poetry brings to people's lives. She has taken it upon herself to build awareness and appreciation for the art with hundreds of people, both locally and internationally, through electronic digital means:

Most days she shares an original poem with her nearly 900 followers on her personal Facebook page, and more recently as well on the group Facebook page she started entitled 'Just Artists' (over 900 members). In that group, Norma selects a visual piece of art posted by one of the curated members and pairs it with exquisite poetry she was inspired to create from the art.

Since I first met Norma many years ago, I don't think there has been a day gone by that she hasn't written poetry. She lives and breathes poetry; it is her finest mode of expression. I believe that her love of poetry, her prolific talent in creating, and her genuine desire to touch others through the gift of poetry qualify Norma Sherry to serve as the City of Saint Augustine Poet Laureate.

Sincerely,



Karen Ball

August 6, 2022

City of St. Augustine Poet Laureate,

I am a woman of fine taste... Loving poetry, books and the written word. Lady Norma, as I address this beautiful woman, is a most prolific talent of the finest works on the planet. Norma has a stellar, genuine, impeccable God given gift... The words and thoughts from her glorious mind, soul and spirit flow fervently and effortlessly ... an effervescent source of unmatched beauty and awe. Norma's heartfelt writings supernaturally touch every part of our lives and deepest senses and emotions... our inner most thoughts and desires... she taps into our feelings and souls in ways we would deem impossible and beyond all things imaginable. Her netherworld talents are grounded in the most banal truths of our beings. One gets the feeling this woman and her gift is of another dimension. Her writings powerfully resound us and tap into memories of timeless treasures.

Lynn Richardson

August 9, 2022

Subject: Poet Laureate

To Whom it may concern,

I am writing to you regarding the poet laureate position now open for applications.

I have known Norma for approximately five years. During that time, I have read numerous of her postings on Facebook and they never fail to touch me in some way. They have taken me to the heights of burning romances to the heartbreaking depths of a soul wrenching lost.

During the time that I have known Norma we have formed a close friendship that has allowed me to share many of her poems, short stories, and part of a book she is working on. Her busy schedule as operator of her spa and salon doesn't allow her the time to do what she wants to do and that is to write and be around the already written.

I cannot close this recommendation without giving the person or persons making the final decision a look at the Norma that I, and those she will be interacting. She is first and foremost honest. Her integrity is without fault. As a client I have seen her in action and I have yet to see a situation when it was always the employees or the clients that was given respect and dignity. She is a jewel to have around. Business is always first, but Norma never fails to tug a smile to your face when appropriate.

If further information is needed, please feel free to contact me at:

Marilyn Schallern
A1A S Unit 14
St. Augustine, FL 32080

August 9, 2022

To Whom it may concern,

I would very much like to nominate Norma Sherry Rappa for the awesome post of poet laureate. Her poetry is absolutely amazing and uplifting. So many of us are dealing with different trials in our lives and reading her words lifts us all on so many levels that I think she would be perfect in that position. Spend five minutes with her and you will know exactly what I mean. Her friendship, in addition to her words are vital in my life because of who she is and how she responds to all of us who love her. I so hope you will give her serious consideration because you will not be disappointed. Thank you so much for your time.

Marilynn Giddens-Batell

August 7, 2022

City of St. Augustine Poet Laureate,

I think Norma Sherry is an excellent choice for poet of St. Augustine. She is creative in her words that are used to expand photos she uses as her muse. Her poems are elegant and timeless, just like St. Augustine is. Whenever I encounter one of her newest poems I often get extremely reflective. This is what art is for, is it not?

My name is Barbie Quinn and I vote for Norma Sherry.

August 7, 2022

To: City of St. Augustine Poet Laureate

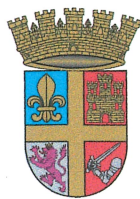
I am writing today to recommend Norma Sherry for consideration as your fine city's first Poet Laureate.

Norma brings to her prose not only an exquisite sensitivity to our inner world's musings, but also her exploration of the open heart's yearnings. As one of the many readers and huge admirers, I have happily noted how her words have been resonating with many, many others who read her work regularly. Norma displays in her poetry a breath-taking vulnerability in her long ongoing examination of love from multiple vantage points, always allowing us the safety to share in her discovery and surprise, as well as to be often humbled in so doing.

I mention here only a sampling of Norma's wide repertoire of inquiry. Here is a woman who has written and commented widely and articulately (in the media) on a host of topics through the years. She is at her very core an optimist, as well as a woman of remarkable inner beauty and charity who shares with the ease and grace of a true artist. I hope you will give Norma great consideration when choosing the recipient of this wonderful honor.

Warmest Regards,

Elyse Phillips



APPLICATION:

- Name: Richard Rumrell
- Street: 3736 Harbor Drive; office 162 San Marco,
Avenue
- City, State, Zip Code: St. Augustine, Fl 32084
- Phone: (904) 591-6428
- Alt. Phone:
- E-Mail: rumrell@rumrelllaw.com

Are you 18 or older?

- ☒ Yes
☐ No

WORK SAMPLES

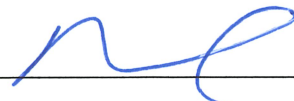
Include a Submission List and copies of 5 to 10 poems that represent your best artistic achievements (Not to exceed 20 pages).

Submit no more than 1 poem per page. All pages must include the title of poem, your name and page number if appropriate, on each page. Include citation if work has been published (including self-published). All work samples must be typewritten, or computer generated. Handwritten submissions will not be accepted. Please provide copyright information where appropriate.

The City of St. Augustine will take general care in the handling of all submitted materials but is not responsible for damage or loss. Submitted material will not be returned.

SPOKEN WORD: Performance Spoken Word poets should also include link(s) to online work.

I certify that the representations made in this application are true and complete, and that the work sample submitted is my own work. The City of St. Augustine has my permission to use my work, or a portion thereof, for publicity or educational purposes.

Applicant's Signature and Date:  August 26, 2022

The City of St. Augustine reserves the right to revoke the tenure of the Poet Laureate of he/she fails to fulfill his/her duties.

St. Augustine Shrines

Visitors to the oldest city
may miss the very best in history.
It's not the Spanish Fort
made from coquina shells
that told the story of the City well.
Or even all the historical events
that happened with many people
living through it.

Governments from countries overseas
ran the city as they pleased.

Sometimes wars and conflicts broke out
and those who remained
continued to live and shout.

But the spiritual changes happened
by the spirit bringing in religion
because people of faith always knew
God's eternal love would carry
St. Augustine and His people through.

Shrines became national places
because God's love touched the souls who needed spiritual
spaces.

Prayers began for those of the here and now and for those
who passed long ago.

The spiritual desires were satisfied
by the God Most High
for St. Augustine, the City that survived.

Shrines for Orthodox
followed the one for Mary
without any trouble or any worry.

Giant cross was constructed

and reminded those who suffered.

Oldest houses including the Avero House were built before the USA was founded.

The spiritual changes for those in the past and for the living in the now, at last.

But even every religious shrine depended on God to make them shine.

So many people found their way to the oldest city to stay and pray.

Even as we remember their past it is in the now we must not pass.

People suffered just to insure that the love they received from God was what was needed for you and me.

Yes, indeed! He is risen!

The Camino Way

Travelers go greater distances
to find themselves
sharing love to others
as they walk with feet so sore
either walking alone
or with many more,
seeking love so deep.
There is joy and happiness,
as well as sadness,
wherever one life ends and a new soul begins as they meet
others going toward
Santiago on the Camino Way,
continually praying to fill
their spiritual emptiness
or some other complete transcendence.
Nothing makes the soul feel so pleased
but listening to God so silently.
Each town or village
or a farming house,
stay or pass
as their thoughts belong
to God at last.
Evenings end with dreams
and sleep awakened once again,
while mornings begin another day
of walking on the Camino Way.
Some days it's raining or even freezing.
Nothing makes the heart glow
except the spiritual fire
from the Spirit to the soul.

Some who walk the Camino Way
are afraid what others may do or say
as the confusion changes
what Man finally learned
while accepting God's spiritual role,
as many miracles occurred
that the pilgrimage understood
and shared with others.

Since Gods love was always meant
for Man to share with so many others
especially those with no mothers or even fathers.
But sometimes the savior of the land desecrates
something's strange but powerful advantage.
Each person walking the Camino Way is looking for love of
another.

One exciting dilemma
is thinking of something other.

The oldest European settlement began from the
considerable practical thoughts.

How important are the open wounds facing someone's own
blue moon.

Time to close early morning claims as the soul continues
on the newest Camino Way
beginning in the oldest city of the USA.

Welcome St Augustine to the growth and grace
given by God for the spiritual place.

As the Hubble telescope shows
there's more to see than what we know.

God's love reaches deep into the soul
as the fishers of men began
to reach the soul
so love

is with Man and God
forever.

Saint Gerard Majella

Powerful intercession of fertility
to God for those whose womb
is touched for human existence.
Forgetting that love begins
and surpasses all insistence.
Children without the knowledge
that welcomes those women
whose pregnancy dependence
can be of the soul without fear
or negative questions.
Disgrace can be raised
by those so young that their assistance
is indispensable to young women
who never knew the consequences.
Healing deep within the soul
that a living life will reach the edge
where only God can make the difference.
Prayers are needed to insure
that everything of life is protected.
Asking more than desire
while love erupts in the fire.
Feeding Lambs who understand
but not the ones carrying
a soon to be another life
whose existence challenges so deep that spiritual support
must be available so the new child lives a life worth living.
Was the decision something made
from the Spirit's place?
O'GOD hear our prayers
may the world protect the babe cuddled and loved

so the child always knows
they were never abandoned
as the Mother begins a path
so difficult but trusts the hope and joy that will forever find its
place.

Thanks be joined with help by others who care for the living
even though the young Mother
may be the only one
who relies on God's perfect answers.

Thank you for forgiveness
but not agony or resistance.

Dancing Trees at Water's Edge

On a warm afternoon
sitting by the river flowing past
the dancing trees
and the heavenly music
that could not be heard
but were absorbed
by wooden branches,
proudly exposing fresh grown leaves
listening to angelic melodies
coming from God's own lips.
Marshmallow clouds flowed past
the pleasing oaks, elms and beech trees growing in a
canopy
of dancing trees
moving gracefully,
dancing back and forth
with gobblers on farm land
less than a mile away.
Before clicks from a twelve gauge
could be heard
echoing a story of history past,
a dancing line of ballerina
flowing with the breeze
continued to dance.
Watching with teared up eyes
while God provides His generous gift of a glorious surprise.
Even with a loved one's loss
the joy of God's presence
reminds the soul that all is never lost
especially love that survives

even with tears
from loved one's cries
watching the celebration
of His wonderful works
that cannot be fully explained
but clearly reminded
life to continue to survive
and remember that
God's love is always everywhere,
even where dancing trees
give their best
so the soul can enjoy
God's peace and rest.

Laurel Leaves and Poetry

Crowned with laurels from ancient times
of written poems with pleasing rhymes,
gave the poet Olympic wreaths
as the poet reached the soul's needs.
From the moment the words and voices
were shared and heard
while spectacular lightning bolts
created the excitement
missing in the universe.
Years of growing pains
finally made a significant change
as cities throughout the world
created a special place
for a poet to say
courageous words of truth
that could make the difference
between bad and good
and not be indifferent to anyone.
The ideas and imagination
brought the head and heart
directly to the center
where the soul grasped
the right hand of God
to prevent from ever being apart.
Poems of life and love in oldest cities
were mystical moments
signaling something greater
than ordinary favors,
like rainbows appearing
in the turquoise sky
awaiting for the words that sigh.
Cities from around the world
understand that Man cannot survive
without God's amazing grace
giving hope to all
as the poet creates in written words,
smiles and laughter
longing for even more

as the laurel reminds the soul
of the importance of a poet's role.

A November Remembered

It was a November Saturday.
College football games would begin at noon.
For a November day it was an early fall day
instead of a soon to be
Florida winter.
The trees were just beginning to drop their leaves.
I arrived shortly after the the funeral director arrived in the
quiet cemetery
surrounded by other family markers
of their loved ones.
A blue tent covered the fold up chairs, still empty and
waiting
for those lasting moments.
A photo used for her obituary continued to fall as the
eastward wind and I waited for those
who knew my life mate,
and our family soon began to arrive.
It was not a solemn time
but a time for remembrance of a moment in the lives of
friends who knew her.
When the service began,
the waiting crowd stood
as the God giver reminded them
of a death that occurred
that gave us life forever.
There was no mourning
as the amazing reggae singer a cappella sang
to their hearts, and to mine.
Her sons gave their eulogies and feelings about their loss.

And I felt their pain before I spoke.
It was not my turn, but God's.
I knew she was there
trying to console us for her leaving so soon.
But there were those in the listening crowd, I know,
bringing joy to her as she saw their eyes so bright.
After the service ended, I went home and prayed again
in the silence of the empty home wishing for my love once
more.
I watched a play on YouTube about CS Lewis, My Life's
Journey, that reminded me
of the loss that occurred.
And then the day
ended
thinking
about
her.

Time Travel Memories

Time travel begins
when moments of memories
appear to end.
Photos are found while searching for something
that had no meaning
except to the mind always forgetting.
Clouds outside became part of the traveling sky,
making my mind understand that the soul always knew the
plan.
But there was something I should have seen
as time traveled beyond my thoughts and dreams.
Finally reaching for things to say and do
as my mind was like being in a children's zoo.
Animals searching just to be found
even as the zoo keepers hustled around
feeding the sheep as the words proclaimed.
Heavenly days were only moments away
as the time traveled while my soul prayed.
Nothing but loneliness was so plain
that my soul could really explain.
Baskets of kindness were handed out
by a friendly One who had no faults
like five fishes and five loaves of bread
were what it was all about.
In the distance were empty crosses
waiting for answers that were unseen.
Soon I was stepping on board a sailing ship
that circumvented my time travel trip.
Once aboard there was no captain or crew,
only a peaceful voice I thought I knew.
Remember the moments and not the time
were the words that became the purpose
of the journey of mine.
Waves of memories then returned
as I settled down and heard whispers
from friends and family who had passed
while wondering how long it would last.
With my head bowed and somber too
I listened for what I should do.
Eventually the whispers ended
and the ship returned to shore
as my soul surrendered,

still without a captain or crew on board.
Finally as I disembarked I realized
that the travel I thought was only memories
of those who were lost.
But the ending of the trip
was still on my mind
and I prayed that it would be God I would find.
But as the time travel came to a close,
my soul realized that was only the beginning
of coming home, I supposed,
but believing the soul would forever stay alive
in a perfect place where God and His eternal love
would always survive.

Chasing Rainbows

The pot of gold we seek
that's hiding below
the multi- colored rainbow
for just a peek.

The stories told were fantasies,
usually about the gold we never see.

But the truth hurries
before the rainbow fades
in the sky and disappears
right before your eyes.

Why does the soul seem to excite
each time it sees the rainbow
flying where my love
appeared to be,
even out of sight?

Could the rainbow be God's stairs
awaiting another soul to travel
through the Earthly sky
with streams of colors
of someone's eyes?

Or is the rainbow one of God's illusions
keeping those remaining
fully understanding
the lost true love is in waiting?

Or is the rainbow of many colors
the robe once worn
by many others?

Is the rainbow designed to insure
the soul that God is with you
every moment that you are here?

Finally the gold that's at the rainbow's end
has always been
and will always be,
a personal glimpse of the love
God gives
to those He loves
throughout eternity.

Valentine Love Poem

As the day gets near
looking for a special
Valentine card
becomes more difficult
than the gift to give
to the one you love.
But this year
it's harder to find
a card only for
the one above.
When rites of passage
travel to the head of time,
there are no limitations
on where one stands in line.
Looking around the universe
with only eyes that hide
subverts the search
for the special card to buy.
The more I think
of valentine's past,
I can only think
of the kindest words
that love does surpass.
The place above,
ignites a fire that lights the love.
But the fire that lights the love
does not burn or destroy,
the love created for God's children
on Valentines Day.
This poem is written

by a poet
who doesn't know
the meaning of love
without her smile and glow.
But as the search
for a card goes on,
The only card that matters
is the one
who shows my love
with the Son.

Print**Poet Laureate Application - Submission #29725****Date Submitted: 8/31/2022****Name***

Joseph Mellott

Email Address*

mellottj@gmail.com

Address*

880 A1A Beach Blvd, Unit 3104

City

St Augustine

State

FL

Zip Code*

32080

Phone Number*

(202) 436-4803

Alternate Number**Work Samples***

Poet Laureate - Mellott - St Augustine.pdf

Include a Submission List and copies of 5 to 10 poems that represent your best artistic achievements (Not to exceed 20 pages).

Submit no more than 1 poem per page. All pages must include the title of poem, your name and page number if appropriate, on each page. Include citation if work has been published (including self-published). All work samples must be typewritten, or computer generated. Handwritten submissions will not be accepted. Please provide copyright information where appropriate.

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Spoken Word

Performance Spoken Word poets should also include link(s) to online work.

Are you 18 or older?*

☒ Yes

☐ No

Electronic Signature Agreement*

I certify that the representations made in this application are true and complete, and that the work sample submitted is my own work. The City of St. Augustine has my permission to use my work, or a portion thereof, for publicity or educational purposes.

☒ I agree.

Electronic Signature*

Joseph B Mellott

Note:

The City of St. Augustine reserves the right to revoke the tenure of the Poet Laureate of he/she fails to fulfill his/her duties.

List of Poems

1. Anastasia
2. Downtown
3. Up on Monte Toro
4. Windy Day
5. Poetry

Anastasia

Flamingos are in the grass
pink on green on blue on brown
Matanzas winding away

Pelicans are flying high
over dunes and sea grass winds
high tide rolling right on in

Dolphins diving deep at sea
along the shore among waves
spray splashes amidst the play

Beach time brings them all to see
find a place and drift away
attuned to Anastasia

Downtown

Hot sauce!
Ice cream!
Coffee 'n beer!
Downtown old town!

Back in time
and all around
live it up
under shady trees

St Augustine
year 'round

Up on Monte Toro

I went to Menorca
Have you been?
High on Monte Toro
There's a place
That ties there to here

It's complicated though
Like so much
It's Father Pere Camps
Up there on Monte Toro
And down here in the Cathedral

The stories we tell
today
sometimes hide just what was
back then
and how things played out

Keep that in mind
because sometimes
it gets complicated

Windy Day

Ya gotta love a kite
It just goes!
Box or bird,
Plane or diamond,
Ya gotta love a kite

When the wind picks up
at the beach sometimes
And that kite just flies and flies
Nothing else you need to do
But hold on and watch it rise

Let the day roll along
on the beach
as the breeze blows by
Ya gotta love a kite.

Poetry

Bubbling
down
the
page

Like a bright stream in the woods
Words flow fast and slow
More feel than know

Poems just find their way in
flipping the switches
to turn lights on and off in spaces
you'd never even been to before

Let 'em in
See what you find

Joseph Mellott

Statement of Interest – Poet Laureate, City of St Augustine

I've been a resident of St Augustine for over ten years. During that time I've also been a diplomat with the U.S. Department of State and have lived overseas in Libya, Serbia, and Spain during that time. I have a long interest in poetry and have written poetry for as long as I can remember, though I have not sought to have any of my work published.

Now that I have finished my career as a diplomat, I'll spend far more time in St Augustine and I'm looking forward to finding new ways to contribute to the community. As a diplomat, I had 25 years of experience telling America's story to the world as a public diplomacy officer. That work involved public outreach, cultural affairs, media relations, and event and program management. I feel I can bring that expertise to the role of poet laureate by helping to establish links in the community based on poetry, art, and literature, that can then serve as the long-term basis for a vibrant poet laureate program.

St Augustine's history and natural beauty make it an ideal place for the arts to flourish and the commitment of the city of St Augustine to that spirit is the first vital part to making the poet laureate a success. The second part is the commitment and creativity of the poet laureate – something I feel I can bring to the position and to the community.

Joseph Mellott

Joseph B. Mellott

mellottj@gmail.com / +1 (202) 436-4803

Joe Mellott is a problem-solver with over 30 years of experience working for the U.S. Government and the private sector in management, public affairs, marketing, information technology, and communications. He has led diverse teams across sub-Saharan Africa and in Asia, Europe, Australia, and the United States. He is interested in project-based opportunities in mentoring, communications, problem-solving, entering international markets, and other creative ventures

Foreign Service Officer, United States Department of State

Counselor for Public Diplomacy, U.S. Embassy, Madrid, Spain, 2020-Present

Led 26 Spanish and American staff in Madrid and Barcelona with a local budget of nearly \$3 million, and a Washington-based budget of nearly \$8 million. Focusing on the Embassy's key strategic goals, employed existing public diplomacy programs and developed innovative, Spain-specific programs to advance U.S. policy interests. Served as Co-President of the Fulbright Board in Spain, and led a major restructuring of the Public Diplomacy section in line with the State Department's Public Diplomacy Staffing Initiative.

Deputy Head of Mission, OSCE Mission to Serbia, 2017-2020

Managed 150 local Serbian and international staff from across the Organization for Security and Cooperation's 57 participating states to implement programs focused on rule of law, media freedom, democratization, anti-discrimination and preventing hate crimes, police reform, and related topics. Oversaw a budget of approximately €11 million annually. Defended the budget to the OSCE's 57 participating states and reported on results annually. Led the Mission's Department Heads and field office managers in strategic planning and soliciting extra-budgetary support (approximately €20 million per year) from participating states to increase effectiveness beyond the allotted annual budget.

Senior Advisor, Bureau of African Affairs, 2014-2015

Managed and implemented policies and programs in the President's Young African Leadership Initiative (YALI), an investment of over \$500 million in U.S. and private sector funding for developing leadership among young African entrepreneurs, activists, and civil servants. Worked with the National Security Council, USAID, and other U.S. Government and private sector partners to establish YALI programs in Africa and expand opportunities in the United States. Ensured co-operation and integration of programmatic and administrative activities through sound procedures, practices, and tools to support the selection process in over 50 posts across Africa. Implemented plans to establish academic training centers at five universities across Africa with an interagency team, ensuring the results adhered to the mandate and objectives of the program, including negotiations with government and academic authorities in Senegal, Mozambique, South Africa, and Ethiopia. Oversaw the implementing partner for the program and its relationship with 20 universities across the United States.

Public Affairs Officer and Acting Deputy Chief of Mission, U.S. Embassy Tripoli, Libya, 2013-2014

Managed over 100 American and 275 local staff and an operating budget of \$25 million. Represented the Chief of Mission as necessary. Ensured integration of programmatic and administrative activities through sound procedures, practices, and tools in budget, human resources, and security. Prepared for crises including fuel shortages, protests, security threats, and medical emergencies. Provided strategic advice to senior leadership on Mission policies, programs, management, and administration. Served as the main Embassy media contact and managed all cultural and educational programs with a budget of nearly \$20 million. Managed the reintroduction of the Fulbright exchange program to Libya. Negotiated a bilateral agreement with the Ministry of Education and a revision of a large cooperative agreement between the U.S. Government, a U.S. institution, and the Ministry of Culture to restore and catalogue Libyan cultural heritage.

Joseph Mellott

Deputy Director, Bureau of African Affairs, 2011-2013

Directly managed allocation of more than \$32 million for public diplomacy and oversight of nearly \$35 million in exchange programs in Africa. Drafted budget-cycle documentation, prepared budget request justifications, and supported Bureau priorities in interagency and inter-Bureau discussions of budget decisions. Led efforts to create and grow the Young African Leadership Initiative (YALI) in its first years. Provided daily policy guidance and program support for 49 Public Affairs sections across Africa and managed all public diplomacy personnel assignments for Washington and Africa. Assisted public diplomacy sections across Africa manage relations with local governments and contacts on education, cultural exchanges, and public affairs, including on the ground in South Africa, Zimbabwe, Lesotho, Mozambique, Madagascar, Ethiopia, Senegal, Congo, and other locations. Represented the Director and Deputy Assistant Secretary as necessary in their absence.

Special Assistant for Public Diplomacy, 2009-2011

Provided strategic advice to the Under Secretary for Public Diplomacy on South and Central Asian Affairs, Western Hemisphere Affairs, and European Affairs and ensured programming adhered to the mandate and objectives of senior leadership. Developed implementation plans for a \$200 million budget for public diplomacy in Pakistan and Afghanistan. Managed the Secretary's initiative on the Bilateral Commission with Russia on Culture, Education, Sports, and Media. Liaised, negotiated, and maintained effective communication with external interlocutors including national authorities, non-government organization partners, and other executive structures.

Special Advisor for War Crimes Issues, 2007-2009

Managed the relationship between the U.S. Government and the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (ECCC). Negotiated and liaised with Cambodian and United Nations officials, and with U.S. legislative staff on U.S. funding for the ECCC. Served as the Public Affairs advisor to the Ambassador at Large for War Crimes Issues.

Spokesman, U.S. Embassy Kabul, Afghanistan, 2006-2007

Oversaw all international and local media contacts for the Embassy. Managed resources and staff for the section and implemented the expansion of the section from two to twelve local employees. Supported the Ambassador and other senior U.S. officials on all media engagements around Afghanistan. Coordinated public affairs and media outreach with international partners, including NATO, the United Nations, and other diplomatic missions. Negotiated with senior Afghan officials and international partners on the establishment of the Afghan National Communications Coordination Council.

Executive Officer/Political Officer, U.S. Mission to NATO, Brussels, Belgium, 2004-2006

Supported the U.S. Ambassador to NATO as executive officer and subsequently became the subject expert on Afghanistan for the U.S. Mission to NATO, representing the United States on Afghanistan issues as NATO took on full responsibility across Afghanistan for providing security under the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF).

Consular Officer/Economic Officer, U.S. Embassy, Dhaka, Bangladesh, 2002-2004

Managed the non-immigrant visa section and covered environment, technology, and communications issues in the economic section. Worked with local and national Bangladeshi authorities to establish a national forestry management program to protect unique environments. Coordinated efforts between the U.S. Department of Energy and the Government of Bangladesh to secure radioactive materials at research and medical facilities. Supported U.S. Government efforts to assist the Government of Bangladesh improve earthquake mitigation strategies.

Managing Director, mddWEB.com, Sydney, New South Wales, Australia, 2000-2001

Owned and managed an internet consulting firm with clients in the finance industry. Managed negotiations and contracts valued at over AU\$500,000 with subcontractors and partners to support large-scale projects with a variety of clients.

Joseph Mellott

Education:

Master of Science in National Resource Strategy, National Defense University, Washington, DC, USA

Postgraduate studies in management, Macquarie Graduate School of Management, Macquarie University, Sydney, Australia

Master of Arts in German and European Studies, Georgetown University, Washington, DC, USA

Bachelor of Science in Foreign Service, Georgetown University, Washington, DC, USA

Foreign Languages:

English, German, Serbian, French, Russian, Albanian, Spanish, Bengali

CITY OF ST. AUGUSTINE

Regular City Commission Meeting
Monday, August 8, 2022

The City Commission met in formal session Monday, August 8, 2022, at 5:00 P.M. in the Alcazar Room at City Hall. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Tracy Upchurch, and the following were present:

1. Roll Call: Tracy Upchurch, Mayor/City Commissioner
Nancy Sikes-Kline, Vice Mayor/City Commissioner
Roxanne Horvath, City Commissioner
John Valdes, City Commissioner
Barbara Blonder, City Commissioner

Also Present: Meredith Breidenstein, Assistant City Manager
Isabelle Lopez, City Attorney
Darlene Galambos, City Clerk
David Birchim, Assistant City Manager
Reuben Franklin, Director, Public Works
Todd Grant, Director, Utilities
Amy Skinner, Director, Planning and Building
Jennifer Michaux, Police Chief
Colleen Kuhn, Recording Secretary

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Reverend Wilcox from The Center for Spiritual Living, delivered the invocation, and Commissioner Sikes-Kline led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

2.A. Modification and Approval of Regular Agenda

MOTION

Commissioner Sikes-Kline **MOVED** to approve the Regular Agenda. The motion was **SECONDED** by Commissioner Horvath and **APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE.**

3. Special Presentations, Recognitions and Proclamations

3.A. Special Presentation of the

American flag to John Connor and the Connor family in recognition of former City Commissioner and Vice Mayor Raymond Connor. (T. Upchurch, Mayor)

Mayor Upchurch spoke of Colonel Connor's contributions and background.

The Commission presented the flag to the Connor family.

4. General Public Comments (3 minutes per individual)

The Commission heard from the following members of the public:

- Linda Hathorn
- Fred Hathorn
- Vicki Pepper
- Dwight Miller
- Lauren Giber
- BJ Kaladai

5. Consent Agenda

Meredith Breidenstein, Assistant City Manager, read the Consent Agenda.

CA.1. Preview of upcoming Commission meetings.

CA.2. THE FOLLOWING ORDINANCES ARE TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED FOR SECOND READING ON AUGUST 22, 2022:

(None)

CA.3. Reminder of Upcoming Meetings:

- August 18, 2022, 8:15am, CRA Special Meeting, discussion of fiscal year 2023 budget
- August 18, 2022, 9:00am, Special Meeting, discussion of fiscal year 2023 tentative budget
- August 19, 2022, 9:00am, (if needed) continuation of Special Meeting to approve 2023 tentative budget
- August 22, 2022, 5:00pm, Regular City Commission Meeting

CA.4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PRIOR COMMISSION MEETINGS:

- June 13, 2022, Regular City Commission Meeting
- June 27, 2022, Regular City Commission Meeting
- July 11, 2022, Special City Commission Meeting
- July 11, 2022, Regular City Commission Meeting

CA.5. RELEASES OF LIEN FOR UNIT CONNECTION FEE MORTGAGE(S):

(None)

CA.6. PROPOSED PROCLAMATIONS, CERTIFICATES OF APPRECIATION/RECOGNITION. (COMMISSION APPROVAL REQUIRED). (TO BE READ AT A SUBSEQUENT MEETING).

(None)

CA.7. NOTIFICATION OF PROCLAMATIONS/CERTIFICATES OF RECOGNITION ISSUED:

(None)

CA.8. Nomination of Gregory "Greg" B. White for the 2022 Order of La Florida award. (T. Upchurch, Mayor)

End Consent Agenda

5.A. Additions, deletions or modifications to Consent Agenda

(None)

5.B. Approval of Consent Agenda

MOTION

Commissioner Horvath MOVED to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion was SECONDED by Commissioner Sikes-Kline.

VOTE ON MOTION:

AYES: Horvath, Sikes-Kline, Valdes, Blonder, Upchurch

NAYES: None

MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

6. Appeals

(None)

7. General Public Presentations, Items of Great Public Importance, and Other Items Requiring Public Hearings

7.A. General Public Presentations

(None)

7.B. Items of Great Public Importance

(None)

7.C. Other Items Requiring Public Hearing

(None)

8. Ordinances and Resolutions – Public Hearing Required.

8.A. Ordinances – Second Reading

8.A.1. ORDINANCE 2022-12: Amends the St. Augustine Police Retirement Trust Fund to increase real estate investments to an allowable 25% of the fund. (I. Lopez, City Attorney)

Isabell Lopez, City Attorney reviewed the ordinance.

Public hearing was opened; however, there was no response.

MOTION

Mayor Upchurch MOVED to approve Ordinance 2022-12, read by title only and passed on second reading. The motion was SECONDED by Commissioner Horvath.

Ms. Lopez read the title as follows:

ORDINANCE NO. 2022-12

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ST. AUGUSTINE, FLORIDA, AMENDING PART I, ARTICLE IX OF THE CHARTER OF THE CITY OF ST. AUGUSTINE RELATING TO THE ST. AUGUSTINE POLICE OFFICER'S RETIREMENT TRUST FUND; AMENDING SECTION 9.05(2)(c), TO REVISE ALLOWABLE INVESTMENT LIMITS; PROVIDING FOR INCLUSION IN THE CHARTER OF THE CITY OF ST. AUGUSTINE, PROVIDING FOR REPEAL OF CONFLICTING ORDINANCES, PROVIDING FOR SEVERANCE OF INVALID PROVISIONS; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

VOTE ON MOTION:

AYES: Upchurch, Horvath, Valdes, Blonder, Sikes-Kline

NAYES: None

MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

8.A.2. ORDINANCE 2022-13: Amends the 1977 City Employees' Retirement System to increase real estate investments to an allowable 25% of the fund. (I. Lopez, City Attorney)

Ms. Lopez reviewed the ordinance.

Public hearing was opened; however, there was no response.

MOTION

Mayor Upchurch MOVED to approve Ordinance 2022-13, read by title only and passed on second reading. The motion was SECONDED by Commissioner Horvath.

Ms. Lopez read the title as follows:

ORDINANCE NO. 2022-13

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ST. AUGUSTINE, FLORIDA, AMENDING THE CODE OF THE CITY OF ST. AUGUSTINE RELATING TO THE 1977 CITY EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM OF THE CITY OF ST. AUGUSTINE, FLORIDA; AMENDING SECTION 20-124(2)(c), TO REVISE ALLOWABLE INVESTMENT LIMITS; PROVIDING FOR INCLUSION IN THE CODE OF THE CITY OF ST. AUGUSTINE, PROVIDING FOR REPEAL OF CONFLICTING ORDINANCES, PROVIDING FOR SEVERANCE OF INVALID PROVISIONS; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

VOTE ON MOTION:

AYES: Upchurch, Horvath, Valdes, Blonder, Sikes-Kline

NAYES: None

MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

8.A.3. ORDINANCE 2022-24: Prohibits smoking in public parks including the Willie Galimore Public Pool at Eddie Vickers Park. (I. Lopez, City Attorney)

Ms. Lopez reviewed the ordinance and confirmed that it would not apply to community gardens, as they were governed under lease agreements.

Public hearing was opened, and Commissioners heard comments from the following member of the public:

Charles Pappas

Public Hearing closed.

Ms. Lopez responded to Mr. Pappas' question regarding application of the Ordinance to City owned or leased parks and said by statute, the parks must be City owned to be covered.

MOTION

Mayor Upchurch MOVED to approve Ordinance 2022-24, read by title only and passed on second reading. The motion was SECONDED by Commissioner Blonder.

Ms. Lopez read the title as follows:

ORDINANCE NO. 2022-24

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF ST. AUGUSTINE, FLORIDA, CREATING, CHAPTER 18, ARTICLE I, SECTION 18-9 OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF ST. AUGUSTINE PROHIBITING SMOKING AT PUBLIC PARKS AND THE WILLIE GALIMORE PUBLIC POOL AT EDDIE VICKERS PARK; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR INCLUSION IN THE CODE OF THE CITY OF ST. AUGUSTINE; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

VOTE ON MOTION:

AYES: Upchurch, Blonder, Horvath, Valdes, Sikes-Kline

NAYES: None

MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

8.A.4. ORDINANCE 2022-25: Prohibits open burning with exceptions for reasonable recreational and cooking burning. (I. Lopez, City Attorney)

Ms. Lopez reviewed the ordinance and stated that wood chips, pellets, fire starters and paper were added to the ordinance.

Public hearing was opened; however, there was no response.

MOTION

Mayor Upchurch MOVED to approve Ordinance 2022-25, read by title only and passed on second reading. The motion was SECONDED by Commissioner Blonder.

Ms. Lopez read the title as follows:

ORDINANCE NO. 2022-25

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ST. AUGUSTINE, FLORIDA RELATING TO FIRE PREVENTION AND PROTECTION: PROHIBITING OPEN BURNING; ADDING CHAPTER 18, ARTICLE IV, SECTION 18-76, OF THE CODE; PROVIDING FOR REPEAL OF CONFLICTING ORDINANCES; PROVIDING FOR SEVERANCE OF INVALID PROVISIONS; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

VOTE ON MOTION:

AYES: Upchurch, Blonder, Valdes, Horvath, Sikes-Kline

NAYES: None

MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

8.A.5. ORDINANCE 2022-18: Rezones and amends the Planned Unit Development (PUD) at 36 Granada Street. (A. Skinner, Director Planning and Building)

Amy Skinner, Director of Planning and Building reviewed the ordinance and said the Planning and Zoning Board (PZB) recommended approval at their June 7th meeting. She said during the June 27th

Commission meeting, there were concerns regarding elevation, Historic Architecture Review Board (HARB) approval and the landscape plan.

Ms. Skinner stated HARB had reviewed and approved the revised elevation drawings at their July 21st meeting. She said the applicant submitted additional clarification and detail related to the proposed landscape plan and use of native vegetation. She said the proposed changes would impact the approved License Agreement between the City and applicant and a proposed modification of the License Agreement removed landscaping from public right of way and changed the awning configuration to include only three awnings on Granada Street.

Public hearing was opened; however, there was no response.

The Commission ex parte communications were shared:

- Commissioner Blonder – none
- Commissioner Horvath – spoke with applicant today at 2:30
- Mayor Upchurch – none
- Commissioner Sikes-Kline – spoke with applicant within last week or two
- Commissioner Valdes – spoke with applicant

Commissioner Horvath asked if parking would increase with the addition of 400 square feet.

Ms. Skinner replied that the parking met the code and the addition of the 400 square feet was a non-patron area.

Mayor Upchurch asked where the 1920's reproduction wall sign would be located.

Ms. Skinner said the mural was removed from the north side and the applicant would consider another location for it.

Darlene Galambos, City Clerk swore in Jay McGarvey, Building Owner.

Mr. McGarvey stated architects had not placed the mural since the context was about a hardware store and the building would not relate to a hardware store. He said based on comments from the Commission, they revised the plan and added windows including false windows. He stated they could put the mural on the parking lot side of the building since there were 50 spaces and many people would see it, or the north side entrance was an option. He said he would not hold up the project if the Commission felt strongly about keeping the mural.

Commissioner Horvath stated she thought the mural was a nice idea, but she could see not placing the mural and would like to hear from other Commissioners.

Mayor Upchurch stated he felt strongly about the mural being on the building to continue the 1920s feel even if the mural was not associated with the current business. He would support placing the mural on the south side of the building and thought it would make wall architecturally interesting.

Mr. McGarvey agreed and said the mural would be placed on the south side.

Commissioner Blonder confirmed the plan's improvement to include almost 90% native vegetation and bioswales, a bike rack and permeable pavers in the parking area. She supported the retention of the graphic. She asked the Commissioners about their thoughts on comments from the HARB meeting and the summary and analysis prepared by Ms. Courtney, Historic Preservation Officer. She shared one specific comment about removing the front façade/street entrance and re-orienting it to the side, not being recommended and made the building appear more suburban.

Commissioner Horvath said the design was a vast improvement to what currently existed and raising the floor was a worthwhile investment.

Commissioner Valdes concurred that it was a significant improvement.

Commissioner Sikes-Kline said she was happy it would be elevated and acknowledged it would look very different.

Commissioner Blonder asked for clarification on where the egress options were located.

Mr. McGarvey confirmed there were two egress locations on Desoto shown by the blue arrows.

MOTION

Mayor Upchurch MOVED to approve Ordinance 2022-18, read by title only and passed on second reading with the understanding the historic mural would be located on the south side of the building. The motion was SECONDED by Commissioner Sikes-Kline.

Ms. Lopez read the title as follows:

ORDINANCE NO. 2022-18

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ST. AUGUSTINE, FLORIDA AMENDING THE ZONING FOR APPROXIMATELY .75 ACRES OF PROPERTY LOCATED AT 36 GRANADA STREET (PID# 203240-0000) AND 8 DE SOTO PLACE (PID# 203230-0000), AS MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED HEREINAFTER, TO AMEND ITS CURRENT PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT (PUD) CLASSIFICATION ADOPTING A NEW PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT (PUD); PROVIDING FOR REPEAL OF CONFLICTING ORDINANCES; PROVIDING FOR SEVERANCE OF INVALID PROVISIONS; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

VOTE ON MOTION:

AYES: Upchurch, Sikes-Kline, Blonder, Horvath, Valdes

NAYES: None

MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

Ms. Skinner noted the License Agreement was revised and proposed 3 awnings along Granada Street that overhung the right of way.

MOTION

Commissioner Sikes-Kline MOVED to approve the License Agreement. The motion was SECONDED by Mayor Upchurch.

Commissioner Blonder asked if there was anything in the License Agreement that would require or encourage the owners to remove awnings in advance of a hurricane.

Ms. Lopez stated she could add that to the Agreement and the Commission should include it in an amended Motion.

AMENDED MOTION

Commissioner Sikes-Kline MOVED to approve the License Agreement to include removal awnings in advance of a significant inclement weather. The motion was SECONDED by Mayor Upchurch.

VOTE ON MOTION:

AYES: Sikes-Kline, Upchurch, Blonder, Horvath, Valdes

NAYES: None

MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

8.B. Ordinances – First Reading (only if required by law)

(None)

8.C. Resolutions – Public Hearing (only if required by law)

(None)

9. Ordinances and Resolutions - No Public Hearing Required

9.A. Ordinances – First Reading

(None)

9.B. Resolutions

(None)

10. Staff Reports and Presentations

10.A. Discussion of the estimated cost of the City entry sign located on Anastasia Blvd. (J. Piggott, Director General Services)

Jim Piggott, Director of General Services introduced the topic and stated City staff could complete the work to save costs, but it may take a bit longer.

Jeremy Marquis with Marquis, Latimer & Halback shared the signage proposal for Anastasia Blvd and noted the Commission had proposed the following steps during the last presentation:

- 1) focus on Anastasia Blvd and remove the other signs
- 2) discuss options for the north entrance by the conquistadors when a new Commission was in place.

He reviewed the signage modification and cost proposal for Anastasia Boulevard.

Commissioner Sikes-Kline said she was not a fan of the Spartina Grass and asked for other options.

Mr. Marquis noted that Muhley Grass might be a good option and said it would grow to about 3-feet tall and could be used to frame the sign.

Commissioner Horvath said having City staff work on the project was a good idea.

Commissioner Blonder liked the idea of City staff doing the work and would trust

staff to use appropriate native species considering Commissioner Sikes-Kline's concerns.

MOTION

Commissioner Sikes-Kline **MOVED** to rework the Anastasia Boulevard welcome sign and utilize City staff as much as possible to complete the work and reduce costs. The motion was **SECONDED** by Commissioner Horvath.

VOTE ON MOTION:

AYES: Sikes-Kline, Horvath, Valdes, Blonder, Upchurch

NAYES: None

MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

10.B. Discussion of Flagler College lease agreement for the third floor on the south wing of City Hall. (J. Piggott, Director General Services)

Prior to the presentation Mayor Upchurch and Commissioner Blonder recused themselves.¹

Mr. Piggott presented the proposed lease with Flagler College for the third floor, southern wing of the building which had been vacant for approximately 3.5 years and mirrored their lease for the north wing, second floor. He said that resolution 2017-37 required staff to obtain Commission approval for any items with monthly payments of \$4,000 or more, and that every year the payment increased by the Consumer Price Index (CPI) and for this year was, \$4,389.79. He said the monthly payment would be \$10,410.58 equaling a cost of \$21.70 per square foot with annual revenue for the City of \$124,926.96. He stated Flagler College planned minor renovations and would follow lease requirements in completing those. He said the space would be used for administrative purposes and that the College would begin payments in October but did not plan to move-in until January.

¹ Recusal forms attached to original meeting minutes

Commissioner Valdes inquired what the tenant responsibility would be for maintenance and asked if there had been any other interest in the space.

Mr. Piggett explained it would be the same as the current lease, the City would provide cleaning, electricity, lights, etc. He said there was little interest in the space by others.

Commissioner Horvath said she believed this was a good solution.

MOTION

Commissioner Horvath MOVED to approve the lease. The motion was SECONDED by Commissioner Valdes

VOTE ON MOTION:

AYES: Horvath, Valdes, Sikes-Kline

NAYES: None

MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

11. ITEMS BY CITY ATTORNEY

(None)

12. ITEMS BY CITY CLERK

(None)

13. ITEMS BY ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER

(None)

14. Items by Mayor and Commissioners

Mayor Upchurch asked staff to follow up on complaints brought forward during public comment regarding short term rentals that violate City ordinance. He said the community should understand that the state legislature, and Senator Hudson, had been strong advocates for limiting the power of local government to regulate short term rentals. He clarified the ordinance allowed a property to be rented once per week whether it be for one day or seven days.

Mayor Upchurch shared his support of a public housing authority and noted the decision would be at the County Commission level. He said he would write a letter of support at the direction of the Commission.

Commissioners Sikes-Kline stated she was in a favor of adding a Resolution for the next Commission meeting and supported the establishment of a housing authority. She said the City was completing a feasibility study for an 80-acre property and that the City had something to bring to the table.

Commissioner Blonder said she attended the County Commission meeting last week and noted the Genovar property and 120 parcels in west Augustine were designated for affordable housing. She said the County Commission was tepid about a housing authority. She clarified the speaker had referenced a compact between the three local governments and she felt the housing authority should rest with the County.

MOTION

Commissioner Sikes-Kline MOVED to request City staff to bring a Resolution in support of a public housing authority. The motion was SECONDED by Commissioner Horvath and APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE.

Commissioner Blonder spoke about an opinion piece regarding short term rentals that had been published in the Record over a week ago. She stated that efforts by the State to preempt Home Rule had been widespread and were not going away. She suggested citizens contact their state legislators if they wanted change. She said zoning standards were based on growth and were written around an economic model and that owners had a right to develop their property. She said the implication that the Commission was turning the community into a resort by rubber stamping every hotel was not true.

She stated the Commission had to consider zoning and if there were an amendment, the Commission considered the public benefit.

Mayor Upchurch said the City's Strategic Plan stated the goal of being a livable City. He shared that he was on the Commission when the City sued St. John's County for relocating County government from downtown St. Augustine. He noted this was done out of concern about relocating hundreds of employees and the impact local stores, shops, and restaurants. He said the Commission had to balance community interests in the context of the law.

Commissioner Sikes-Kline said she planned to attend the first Tourism Management Plan workshop in Charleston. She said they understood how tourism affected livability and St. Augustine was experiencing the same issue.

Commissioner Horvath attended the Affordable Housing Committee meeting of the Northeast Florida Regional Planning Council and learned from University of Florida's research on short term rentals and that companies were buying homes and bundling them into an investment portfolio that included affordable housing and they were making huge profits.

Commissioner Sikes-Kline stated it was her understanding that they had not come to St. Augustine.

Commissioner Valdes said that vacation rentals were a problem in St. Augustine and affordable housing, the homeless situation, and student housing were all affected by state statute and would need to be addressed at the state level.

15. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:28 P.M.²

Tracy Upchurch, MAYOR

Darlene Galambos, CITY CLERK

² Transcribed by Colleen Kuhn

CITY OF ST. AUGUSTINE

City Commission Special Meeting Monday, August 8, 2022

The City Commission met in formal session Monday, August 8, 2022, at 3:00 P.M. in the Alcazar Room at City Hall. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Tracy Upchurch, and the following were present:

1. Roll Call: Tracy Upchurch, Mayor/City Commissioner
Nancy Sikes-Kline, Vice-Mayor/City Commissioner
Roxanne Horvath, City Commissioner
John Valdes, City Commissioner
Barbara Blonder, City Commissioner

Also Present:
Meredith Breidenstein, Assistant City Manager
Isabelle Lopez, City Attorney
Darlene Galambos, City Clerk
David Birchim, Assistant City Manager
Mark Simpson, Director of Financial Services
Reuben Franklin, Director, Public Works
Todd Grant, Director of Utilities
Jim Piggott, Director of General Services
Colleen Kuhn, Recording Secretary

2. General Public Comments

The Commissioners heard from the following members of the public:

John Edward (Ted) Mooney
BJ Kalaidi

3. Review of the Utility and Public Works Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) Projects. *(R. Franklin and T. Grant, Directors, Public Works, and Utilities)*

Ruben Franklin, Director of Public Works reviewed modifications to the cover sheet for the Capital Improvement Plan. He confirmed the Commission would adopt the Plan during the budget process, and noted the Plan could change based on the needs of the City and as new projects were introduced. He said there were paving projects added and explained that paving projects not completed in the

current budget year would roll to the next year.

Mr. Franklin provided an update on lift station work and noted that Coquina Avenue required additional closure time of approximately three months and San Sebastian was projected to be completed by the end of August. He explained the delays were a result of supply issues.

Todd Grant, Director of Utilities shared that Jeremy Berg, Geographic Information System (GIS) Manager had developed a user-friendly GIS tool that would allow citizens to review specific project details like design, construction, and duration. He also said that after the completion of the process, the Communications Department would advertise the tool, and information would be included on the GIS maps page for the City.

4. Highlights of Budget Process to Date *(M. Simpson, Director, Finance)*

Mark Simpson, Director of Finance reviewed highlights of the budget process and reminded the Commission of a budget workshop scheduled for August 18, 2022. He shared the following highlights:

- Unchanged millage at 7.5 mills
- Staff review of Fire Assessment fees, which would not take effect until 2024
- New staff positions would include: 2 Police Officers, 2 Firefighters and a Mobility Technician, which would be paid for by parking fees
- \$290,000 of increased funding from Tourism Development Council (TDC) to support fireworks, shuttling, circulator, and the Visitor Information Center (VIC)
- \$600,000 for street repaving
- \$80,000 budgeted for a public arts study and construction for the May Street intersection
- Government House fountain maintenance contract
- Historic Preservation projects funded by VIC Parking Garage
- \$200,000 generated by Rental Income with automatic Consumer Price Index (CPI) increase of 1.9%
- Recruitment and retention initiatives for workforce
- \$500,000 projected savings from the City's new healthcare plan
- Citizen Survey focused on conservation and resiliency; consultant would be engaged to help craft the questions
- \$20,000 budgeted for feasibility study of land conservation initiative
- \$10,000 budgeted for Neighborhood Grant Program

Commissioner Valdes shared a history of the Government House fountain maintenance including by the City, Commissioner Valdes' family, and most recently the University of Florida who had not been successful maintaining the fountain despite the City's attempts to work with the University.

Mayor Upchurch volunteered to work with John Regan, City Manager on further communications with the University.

Commissioner Sikes-Kline requested that staff add livability to the proposed Citizen Survey. She said the City of Charleston had a Department of Livability and Tourism, which included separate code enforcement components and that the City of Fort Lauderdale had an exclusive after-hours and weekend Code Enforcement Officer.

Commissioner Valdes questioned the need for a survey when issues like traffic, homelessness and growth were already known. He also recommended identifying how much undeveloped and unacquired property was available in the City before conducting a feasibility study.

Commissioner Blonder stated she would include resiliency for the City's cultural heritage, and said staff were identifying undeveloped areas of the City prior to the feasibility study.

Mayor Upchurch noted the County had approved the purchase of the Genovar property which was inside the City limits.

5. Update on Utility Rates *(M. Simpson, Director, Finance)*

Mr. Simpson reviewed water/sewer rates and was happy to share that staff was proposing a 4%, rather than 9.1% increase. He said rather than adding two new utility crews, they proposed adding

two new staff positions. He shared the financial management system should be able to talk to the City Works program to help crews focus on preventative maintenance. He said staff proposed a reduction in the surcharge outside the City limits from 20% to 15% phased in over the next 5 years.

Commissioner Blonder questioned the cost reduction of the outside city utility rates by 1% and whether the inside city 4% rate increase would be subsidizing the reduction. She asked if the cost to provide utility services outside the city limits was known.

Mr. Simpson said actual costs to provide service outside the city limits had not determined. He said the 1% reduction would equate to \$350,000 and the 4% increase inside city limits would generate approximately \$770,000.

Meredith Breidenstein, Assistant City Manager stated that statute allowed a maximum of a 25% surcharge, but the city charged 20% and staff felt it would be reasonable to reduce the surcharge to 15% over a 5-year period. She said staff could do an analysis of actual costs.

Commissioners Sikes-Kline and Blonder agreed there was a need to determine the appropriate surcharge for out of City customers.

Mayor Upchurch commented that the City historically had a 25% surcharge for residents outside the City limits, and those customers City had no power to affect the Commission's decisions. He said it was important to not have the utility fund subsidize the City, and not to take advantage of customers outside the City.

Mr. Simpson said the recommended increase in storm water fees from \$9.00 to \$9.82 would generate an additional

\$150,000 in revenue. He stated the additional funding could be used for new projects or grant match funds and that the City's fees were comparable to other cities.

Mr. Simpson stated there had been a dramatic increase in solid waste operations, the cost of disposal, and the purchase of new equipment was very high. He said the recommendation was to increase the rate by \$5.00 per month for residential customers, and 9.1% for commercial customers to help balance the fund. He shared that the increases were due in part to new subdivisions and hurricanes had damaged fleets. He said the City was renting trucks which were expensive and that new trucks would be costly and not delivered until May/June 2023.

6. Update on Reserves (*M. Simpson, Director, Finance*)

Mr. Simpson discussed the City's reserves and pointed out the solid waste fund had reserves of \$1,355,737 effective September 30, 2021; however, the fund was not meeting the policy requirement of three months of operating reserves. He said the General Fund reserves were at four months of operating costs or \$9,700,000.

Mr. Simpson reviewed the Reserves Update slide and discussed the differences between the Restricted/Non-Spendable column which included things like inventory and pre-paid items and the Unrestricted column where funds could be used for unanticipated or one-time expense items. He did not recommend using unrestricted funds for ongoing expenses.

Commissioner Blonder inquired about the Storm Water Credit program and how citizens could conserve and save money.

Ms. Breidenstein noted the City's website had an application for the Storm Water Credit program that offered a 30% credit on monthly bills and that some neighborhoods had a storm water plan.

Mr. Franklin clarified that the Storm Water Credit program pertained to new developments and required a permit. He said that based on Commissioner Blonder's comment, he recommended adding an incentive program to older neighborhoods through the Drainage Grading Plan, which staff was working on and would include low-impact development options like rain gardens.

Commissioner Blonder requested an update on the parking garage fee study, as well as information on glass recycling.

Mr. Simpson noted that staff was creating a total parking plan for the Commission's consideration rather than arbitrarily increasing parking rates without a full plan.

Mr. Grant said the staff budgeted for the purchase of new equipment including dumpsters for a pilot glass recycling project. He explained the goal was to buy 3-5 dumpsters with special lids for glass drop off locations. He said staff was working with a company to supply a roll-off, the City would then dump the containers, and the company would pick them up and pay the City \$3 per ton dependent upon contamination.

Ms. Breidenstein stated that in addition to the \$3 per ton, the City would not pay the tipping fee for the heavy glass garbage or recycling which was expensive.

Commissioner Nancy Sikes-Kline said the \$3 per ton reimbursement seemed too low.

Mr. Grant said City staff could haul the glass to Jacksonville and get \$30 a ton,

but that would require staff time and resources, which was limited. He stated the City was currently paying \$140 ton for recycling and he thought getting the heavy glass out of the way would be helpful and reduce expenses.

Commissioner Sikes-Kline asked what defined contamination.

Mr. Grant clarified that contamination occurred when regular trash and glass were mixed, and that no cleaning was required prior to recycling glass.

Commissioner Valdes asked how Flagler Beach used the crushed glass.

Mr. Grant shared that Flagler Beach began a crushed glass recycle program that would be used for landscaping, sand traps at golf courses and sandbagging.

Mayor Upchurch invited attendees to provide public comments.

The Commissioners heard from the following members of the public:

BJ Kaladai
Cynthia Garris

7. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:18P.M.¹

Tracy W. Upchurch, MAYOR

Darlene Galambos, CITY CLERK

¹ Transcribed by Colleen Kuhn

CITY OF ST. AUGUSTINE

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and Commissioners
City Manager

DATE: August 30, 2022

RE: St. Augustine Film Festival Request for use of the Alcazar Room and use of the
City Seal

This request is on behalf of the St. Augustine Film Festival (SAFF) for their 2023 event. In August of last year, the City Commission granted the use of the Alcazar Room during a four-day weekend period in January of 2022 for the purpose of film screenings. SAFF is asking to use of the room again as an "in-kind" support and sponsorship, in addition to renewing their request for the one-time use of the City Seal on the promotional and marketing materials for the event.

Per City Code Section 2.1, permission to use the City Seal may only be granted by the City Commission. Should you concur, please place this matter on the Consent Agenda for the September 12, 2022, meeting.



Darlene Galambos
City Clerk