

Policy Statement on COJ Chief Resilience Officer

Resilience is the ability of a community to “bounce back” to normal conditions after losing function because of an uncontrollable event. Resilient communities have the capacity to quickly respond to, withstand, and recover from adverse situations such as hurricanes and high-intensity flooding events. From a long-term perspective, resilient communities find ways to adapt to changing conditions so that future losses are minimized and continuing stresses such as ageing infrastructure and sea level rise are managed.

The **Chief Resilience Officer (CRO)** for the City of Jacksonville (COJ) will serve as the chief liaison for all COJ operations relating to resilience. The Jacksonville CRO will report directly to the Mayor’s Office and will be responsible for the development and implementation of Jacksonville’s Resilience Strategy. The CRO will assess recommendations brought forward by the COJ Adaptation Action Area Working Group, COJ Storm Resiliency & Infrastructure Review Committee, and City Council Special Committee on Resiliency; and will then establish government priorities for implementation. In a technical capacity, the CRO will be tasked with aligning resilience priorities with several City plans, policies, and regulations, including but not limited to, the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan, the Comprehensive Plan and future land use policies, plans for capital improvements, building codes and zoning codes, and plans related to Jacksonville’s participation in FEMA’s Community Rating System.

The CRO will be tasked with identifying adaptation strategies that are holistic, financially cost-effective, and doable. In assessing the impacts of past events, such as coastal flooding caused by Hurricanes Matthew and Irma, the CRO will work across government departments to identify solutions that address existing concerns, but also looks forward to anticipating shocks and stresses that have not yet been experienced. The CRO will be responsible for ensuring that all resiliency related initiatives have end goals that relate to increasing the capabilities and capacities of the COJ Emergency Preparedness Division. The ultimate objective of the CRO position will be to increase Jacksonville’s resilience to the impacts of coastal flooding, riverine flooding, high intensity storm events, sea level rise, and other identified hazards.

The CRO will be responsible for coordinating resiliency efforts across all government departments and will lead multi-departmental teams to review city infrastructure, land use, and environmental policies that affect valuable and often vulnerable county assets. The CRO will also be responsible for coordinating efforts with other government and affiliate entities, including, but not limited to, DIA, JEA, JTA, JAA, JAX Port, JAX Chamber, the North Florida Transportation Planning Organization, the Northeast Florida Regional Council, and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection.

Chief Resilience Officer

The City of Jacksonville Chief Resilience Officer (CRO) is the lead staff person responsible for the development and implementation of Jacksonville's Resilience Strategy across all Departments. The CRO is primarily responsible for the coordination, development, refinement, administration, integration, and communication of resilience policies and practices for the City of Jacksonville. The CRO directly oversees implementation of high-priority resilience projects, including securing funding for and managing resilience initiatives and budgets, formulating work plans, monitoring and reporting progress, and supervising professional staff.

Responsibilities:

- Serve as chief liaison for all COJ operations relating to resilience, including, but not limited to, policies, practices, programs, procedures, and initiatives.
- Report directly to the Mayor's Office and oversee professional staff.
- Serve as lead subject matter expert for COJ on all issues related to resilience and routinely report findings to Mayor, City Council, city management, advisory groups, city operations, partnership entities, and internal and external stakeholders for resiliency related policies, practices, programs, procedures, and initiatives.
- Prepare and deliver data driven presentations and reports to the Mayor, City Council, Council Committees, and general public on status of resilience plan implementation.
- Ensure that all resiliency related initiatives have end goals that relate to increasing the capabilities and capacities of the COJ Emergency Preparedness Division.
- Identify short-term and long-term shocks and stressors unique to Jacksonville and the surrounding region. Identify adaptation strategies and recommend policies to address.
- Manage multi-departmental teams for resilience projects related to infrastructure improvements, community engagement, policies, and regulations.
- Facilitate the integration of resilience policies and practices across all departments, ensuring a multi-disciplinary approach to resilience.
- Coordinate with four municipalities in Duval County on resiliency related issues and identify opportunities for countywide collaboration.
- Align resilience strategy development with other plans, policies and regulations, including, but not limited to, the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan, the Comprehensive Plan and future land use policies, plans for capital improvements, building codes and zoning codes, and plans related to COJ participation in FEMA's Community Rating System.
- Identify grant opportunities for funding resiliency relating to infrastructure improvements and analyze City's fiscal impact, including return on investment (ROI).

- Establish meaningful performance measures for effective decision making; and properly track and report on progress.
- Evaluate, respond, and recommend responses to proposed legislation and rules of interest that may potentially impact the City of Jacksonville.
- Coordinate resiliency efforts with other governmental and affiliate entities, including, but not limited to, DIA, JEA, JTA, JAA, JAX Port, JAX Chamber, the North Florida Transportation Planning Organization, the Northeast Florida Regional Council, and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection.
- Facilitate sustained stakeholder engagement through media outreach and close collaboration with community partners and coalitions in the public and private sectors, including the public.
- Understand, adhere to, and comply with all local and state ethics requirements.

Abilities:

- Communicate clearly, effectively, and persuasively in all forms, to a variety of audiences.
- Gather and analyze routine and complex data and interpret and communicate key information for decision-making and formulation of policy recommendations.
- Anticipate and avert potential problems and creatively solve complex problems.
- Develop strategic direction and program implementation in collaboration with various external and internal policy bodies, partners, and stakeholders.
- Develop and properly manage budgets, grants, and other outside funding sources; meet or exceed compliance and reporting requirements for all funding sources.
- Identify and secure funding for strategic initiatives from a variety of sources.

Qualifications:

- Exceptional program management, strategic thinking, and interpersonal skills are required, including the ability to problem-solve and influence decision-making processes in a diplomatic, intuitive, and collaborative manner.
- Experience in sustaining collaborative relationships with diverse stakeholders to achieve measured results.
- Experience with planning, policy development, and implementation of organizational preparedness for community resilience efforts.

Aspirational Goal:

- Experience managing multi-year projects as part of a resilience team at a local, state, or national level, including developing resiliency project plans and managing timelines.