



**OFFICE OF THE CITY  
COUNCIL**

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**September 1, 2022  
5:00 P.M.**

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** City Council Members and Staff

**FR:** Council President Terrance Freeman  
Jacksonville City Council

**RE: 20220901 Memo Regarding Safety Policy at the Podium**

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As I have stated before, the safety of Council Members, Staff, City employees and residents attending Council and committee meetings are of paramount importance to me. I am in constant communication with our Council Director and Sergeant-At-Arms pertaining to safety concerns within the Council Chambers and the Council Suite.

As a result of a recommendation from the Sergeant-At-Arms and in accordance with Rule 1.201(h) and Rule 4.202(f), Ordinance Code, effective immediately, I am instituting a new policy regarding purses, backpacks, and bags at the Speaker's Podium. Purses, backpacks, and bags of any sort will not be permitted at the Speaker's podium, but there will be a designated table nearby where these items can be left when a speaker intends to approach the podium.

This policy will further assist our capable Sergeant-At-Arms and his staff to assess threats and prevent any covert activities which could result in harm to the Council, its staff, City employees, and equally important, the citizens in attendance.

There will be signage in places near the podium to advise the public of this policy. The Floor Leader will also mention the new policy at the next Council meeting on September 13<sup>th</sup> so that the public has notice of the new policy.

Please direct any questions regarding this new policy to the Council Director. Thank you.

cc: Council Members and Staff  
Margaret "Peggy" Sidman, Director/Council Secretary  
Merriane Lahmeur, Chief, Legislative Services Division

Yvonne Mitchell, Chief, Administrative Services Division  
Jeff Clements, Chief, Research Division  
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