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COUNCIL**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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RE: 2023-0048/2023-0044

CM Matt Carlucci shared the following one-way communication with Council members today at 2:15 pm:

“Given the recent and disturbing demonstrations of antisemitism in Jacksonville, I am in full support of legislative action to address these hate-fueled acts. The purpose of this letter, however, is to address the circumvention of Council process and failure to extend professional courtesy to colleagues, which has resulted in two identical and competing pieces of legislation.

According to Council Rule 3.105, once a bill has been prepared or reviewed by the Office of General Counsel (OGC), each bill is filed with Legislative Services and serially numbered in the order they are received. This rule has been subverted by 2023-0044, for which a “pre-number” was requested and applied. According to a long-held practice, such numbers are held in reserve for Land Use and Zoning legislation in an understandable effort to keep companion bills sequential. And to my knowledge, requesting a pre-number for non-zoning related legislation has never occurred.

It is a disappointment to see Council members undermine the work of others, especially concerning an issue of such importance to our city. This disregard for the integrity of Council processes and absence of professional courtesy sets a precedent which corrodes our trust in the process and removes the protection granted by “first come, first serve” filing (see Rule 3.105), and introduces an unprecedented use of authority by a Council President.

In the spirit of professional courtesy and statesmanship, I respectfully request the withdrawal of 2023-0044, and encourage its introducer, co-introducers, and co-sponsors to follow Council Rules and lend their co-sponsorship and support to 2023-0048. Furthermore, I invite my esteemed colleagues to consult with OGC about the timeline for both bills which led to this unusual and unfortunate circumstance.”

Send questions and comments to mcarlucci@coj.net.

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