



## OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL

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### **PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

#### **Councilman Gaffney Sponsors Legislation To Save Jacksonville's Farm Share**

Jacksonville City Hall – Councilman Reggie Gaffney introduced key legislation today that will provide emergency relief funding for Farm Share in Jacksonville.

Farm Share is a charitable food bank and packing house that distributes produce, canned goods, proteins, milk and non-perishable food directly to agencies and individuals within the community. In its last fiscal year Farm Share distributed 9 million pounds of food within Duval County to over 150 agencies.

The property Farm Share currently resides in has been sold, with the new owners declining to renew the existing lease – which had allowed them to operate from the facility rent-free. Their current lease expires on September 30<sup>th</sup>. Farm Share has had difficulty finding an affordable warehouse to serve as a base of operations for the northeast Florida community. While a suitable location for continued operations has recently been identified, locating a funding source has been difficult.

Without a funding source for Farm Share in northeast Florida, it will have to move operations to Quincy, Florida – west of Tallahassee. This will negatively affect the ability of Farm Share to provide food to the Jacksonville area.

In response to this need Councilman Gaffney sponsored legislation today which will provide \$247,389 in emergency funding to assist Farm Share with their transition to a new Jacksonville warehouse. The bill will also include auditing requirements to ensure taxpayer dollars are spent as allocated.

“Farm Share provides essential services to people not just in District 7 – but city-wide. As Jacksonville continues to combat our existing food desert, losing Farm Share would serve as a critical blow to communities already struggling to acquire fresh groceries for their families and neighborhoods. Providing this funding would ensure that Farm Share can continue to provide this important service to District 7 and the greater Jacksonville area,” said Gaffney.

Councilman Gaffney serves on Jacksonville City Council in District 7. On the Jacksonville City Council, Gaffney serves on the Land Use and Zoning Committee and the Neighborhoods, Community Services, Public Health and Safety Committee.

Those with any questions or concerns should reach out to Councilman Gaffney's office at 904-255-5207 or send an e-mail to [RGaffney@coj.net](mailto:RGaffney@coj.net).