

RESOLUTION NO. 2081-2021

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF JACKSONVILLE BEACH, FLORIDA, TO TERMINATE THE CITY ATTORNEY UNDER SECTION 5(B) OF HIS EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT; PROVIDING FOR ADOPTION OF RECITALS, REPEAL OF PRIOR INCONSISTENT RESOLUTIONS AND COUNCIL DECISIONS, SEVERABILITY, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the City of Jacksonville Beach (“City”) desires to terminate its Employment Agreement with Christopher Ambrosio as City Attorney; and

WHEREAS, this action is being taken as a result of Mr. Ambrosio’s arrest on March 24, 2021 and the resulting charges of (1) Lewd/Lascivious Molestation on a victim between 12 and 16 years of age, and (2) Contributing to the Delinquency or Dependency of a Child; and

WHEREAS, while Mr. Ambrosio has not yet entered a plea in the case, the City and public have been provided a copy of the arrest report in the case; and

WHEREAS, the arrest report appears to contain certain admissions by Mr. Ambrosio which would constitute “deliberate violation or disregard of the standards of behavior to which the City has a right to expect of the City Attorney” under Section 5(B) of the Employment Agreement between Mr. Ambrosio and the City; and

WHEREAS, among those apparent admissions are the following:

- Mr. Ambrosio admits inviting the female victim, a minor between the ages of 12 and 16, to spend the night in his house on February 19, 2021.
- He admits to planning a trip to Disney with the victim for a later date which can be viewed as classic grooming behavior.
- He admits to yelling to the victim to come pick up wet clothes and towels she had allegedly left in his bathroom and then immediately getting undressed and getting in the shower in the same bathroom where he had just asked her to come clean up “the mess.”
- He admits the shower curtain in that bathroom is “broken” and that the victim “may have seen him naked inside the shower” when he asked her to come in and clean up “the mess” which he says was cleaned up when he got out of the shower, indicating that the victim had been in there while he was naked in the shower.
- He confirmed that the victim had a “White Claw” alcoholic beverage at his house and that he had offered her a “White Claw.”
- He admits to believing the victim is both manipulative and “has a crush on him” and “has fantasies about him” but says he “never thought it was inappropriate that he continued to invite her to do things with him and to spend the night at his home alone with him.”

WHEREAS, this deliberate conduct by Mr. Ambrosio, if accurately portrayed in the arrest report, falls well below the standards of behavior to which the City has a right to expect of the City Attorney; and

WHEREAS, upon termination of the Employment Agreement for any of the reasons articulated in Section 5(B) and more specifically set forth herein, the City Attorney is only entitled to compensation for hours actually worked up to the termination date and compensation for accrued leave; and

WHEREAS, the City reserves the right to amend this resolution to set forth additional grounds for termination of Mr. Ambrosio for cause under Section 5(B) of the Employment Agreement or to amend to termination without cause as information becomes available.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JACKSONVILLE BEACH, FLORIDA, THAT:

SECTION 1. Adoption of Recitals. The foregoing recitals are deemed true and material parts of this resolution and are fully incorporated herein by reference.

SECTION 2. Suspension of City Attorney. For the reasons set forth in the recitals hereto and consistent with the City Charter, the City Council hereby suspends Christopher Ambrosio as City Attorney with pay, effective immediately upon adoption of this resolution.

SECTION 3. Termination of Employment Agreement. For the reasons set forth in the recitals hereto, the City Council terminates the Employment Agreement with Christopher Ambrosio as City Attorney pursuant to Section 5(B) of the Employment Agreement, effective thirty (30) days from the date a copy of this adopted resolution is provided to Mr. Ambrosio unless the date of termination is extended by an amendment hereto adopted by a supermajority of City Council.


SECTION 4. City Manager to Effectuate Termination. The City Manager or his designee shall take all steps necessary to effectuate the intent of this resolution consistent with the Employment Agreement and the City Charter.

SECTION 5. Repeal of Prior Inconsistent Resolutions and Council Decisions. All prior resolutions or parts of resolutions in conflict herewith are hereby repealed to the extent of the conflict.

SECTION 6. Severability. If any section, sentence, clause, or phrase of this resolution should be held invalid, unlawful, or unconstitutional, said determination shall not be held to invalidate or impair the validity, force, or effect of any other section, sentence, phrase, or portion of this resolution not otherwise determined to be invalid, unlawful, or unconstitutional.

SECTION 7. Effective Date. This resolution shall become effective immediately upon passage and adoption by City Council.

AUTHENTICATED this 31st day of March, 2021.



Christine H. Hoffman, Mayor



Laurie Scott, City Clerk