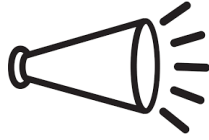


Florida Voice



For The Unborn

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Florida Voice for the Unborn's Statement on the Defeat of Jacksonville City Councilman Rory Diamond's Symbolic Budget Amendment to 'Prohibit' Taxpayer Funding of Abortion And Abortion-Related Services

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For Immediate Release

Contact: Andrew Shirvell, Founder and Executive Director, at (850) 404-3414 or Andrew@FloridaVoiceForTheUnborn.com.

Executive Director Andrew Shirvell today issued the following statement:

“Florida Voice for the Unborn is unsurprised that the Republican-majority **Jacksonville City Council** [passed](#), in the early morning hours, the annual city budget without an imprudent amendment from **Councilman Rory Diamond (R – District 13)** that **Diamond** misleadingly claimed would ‘prohibit’ Jacksonville taxpayers from funding abortion and abortion-related services.”

Shirvell continued, “Most Florida citizens, I believe, are in agreement that taxpayers should not be footing the bill for another person’s decision to murder an innocent unborn child. But as I testified before the **Jacksonville City Council** during the general public comment period yesterday afternoon, Florida state law already prohibits a local government entity, like Jacksonville, from expending public funds to support abortion, pursuant to [Florida Statute 390.0111\(15\)](#). Moreover, [an important provision](#) of Florida’s new Heartbeat Protection Law, which took full effect on May 1, 2024, explicitly prohibits local governments from paying for ‘a person to travel to another state to receive services that are intended to support an abortion.’”

Shirvell further remarked, “**Councilman Rory Diamond’s** proposed budget amendment was clearly symbolic, as even **Diamond**, a lawyer, [acknowledged](#) back in August. It would not have done a thing to protect the city’s taxpayers – or unborn children in Jacksonville, who are still being killed through abortion [at a high rate](#).”

Shirvell added, “I continue to question the intent of **Councilman Rory Diamond’s** symbolic proposal. It was imprudent to propose such an amendment, without first securing the votes necessary to make sure the final budget could be passed with it.”

Shirvell concluded, “Although **Rory Diamond** was a year ahead of me, we both attended the University of Michigan (U of M) in Ann Arbor together more than two decades ago. In fact, while I was serving as president of the campus Students for Life chapter, **Diamond** was the president of the U of M College Republicans and was adamantly pro-abortion. I have followed **Diamond’s** subsequent political career for many years, and he seems to me to be the epitome of a chameleon. I do not believe **Diamond** is actually ‘pro-life’ in any way, shape, or form. **Diamond’s** well-known [homosexual lifestyle](#) and his [controversial tenure](#) as the well-paid CEO of the Florida-based K9s for Warriors charity, which public commenters and even his fellow council members have repeatedly brought-up at council meeting after council meeting, demonstrate that the messenger matters. **Diamond** has shown himself to be a bad actor and has hurt the overall pro-life cause here in Florida with his latest ill-conceived publicity stunt, which backfired spectacularly – as usual.”

Florida Voice for the Unborn is a Tallahassee-based grassroots lobbying group that only focuses on pro-life issues impacting the unborn. It is strictly independent, and its work is guided by faith in God’s only Son, Jesus Christ. **Florida Voice for the Unborn** supports all peaceful efforts by elected officials and others to end abortion and save lives. Follow us on X (formerly Twitter), Facebook, Instagram, Pinterest, Truth Social, and YouTube @UnbornVoiceFL – and visit our website at FloridaVoiceForTheUnborn.com.