

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

June 16, 2020

City Council

STAFF

Darin Atteberry, City Manager
Tyler Marr, Deputy Director, Information & Employee Services
Carrie M. Daggett, Legal

SUBJECT

Resolution 2020-058 Declaring that Fort Collins is Essential and Expressing Council's Support of Fair, Direct Federal Emergency Support to Reopen and Rebuild Local American Economies.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this item is to provide support for the National League of Cities' efforts as they implore Congress to provide direct federal support to all of America's cities regardless of population size.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends adoption of the Resolution.

BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION

Cities, villages and towns across the country are facing significant financial burdens due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Through the CARES Act, the federal government provided aid to municipalities with a population of 500,000 or more. The City and many other communities were left out. Federal assistance could provide significant support to offset expenses and revenue gaps while the City works through its 2020 and 2021 budgets.

It is reported that Congress is discussing a fourth COVID-19 aid package. In this new package, the City is hoping to receive direct assistance, which the federal government has not provided to the City, or communities like it. Aligning with Resolution 2020-033, which was passed in late March, approval of this resolution will support the National League of Cities' request to Congress that they allocate fair and direct federal support to all of America's cities, regardless of population size. Staff will continue to work with the legislative delegation to communicate the City's financial challenges and believe this resolution provides necessary support for the National League of Cities' efforts.

RESOLUTION 2020-058
OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FORT COLLINS
DECLARING THAT FORT COLLINS IS ESSENTIAL
AND EXPRESSING COUNCIL'S SUPPORT OF FAIR, DIRECT FEDERAL EMERGENCY
SUPPORT TO REOPEN AND REBUILD LOCAL AMERICAN ECONOMIES

WHEREAS, America's cities, towns and villages face unprecedented threats due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic emergency; and

WHEREAS, municipalities are essential to America's economic recovery and without funding support for local governments, municipalities may go from being a critical part of the economic solution, to becoming a major obstacle to long-term stabilization and recovery; and

WHEREAS, America's cities, towns and villages will experience budgetary shortfalls of up \$134 billion in fiscal year 2020 alone, and the negative effects of the pandemic emergency on local communities will continue long after this year; and

WHEREAS, three million critical municipal worker jobs are at risk, threatening cuts to basic community services, including 9-1-1 response and other public safety functions, infrastructure maintenance, parks and recreation, transportation and transit, sustainability services and critical support systems; and

WHEREAS, communities have taken extraordinary measures to protect health, safety, and the continuation of essential services throughout the emergency; and

WHEREAS, Fort Collins has experienced high unemployment and temporary business shutdowns in restaurant and retail, travel and leisure, outdoor recreation, personal services and other industries; and

WHEREAS, the City of Fort Collins has seen significant decline in sales tax collections while working to ensure safe municipal services and support to all Fort Collins residents and businesses, including our most vulnerable such as our homeless residents; and

WHEREAS, the City also experienced public facility closures and loss of fees – specifically hard hit were the arts and culture, parks and recreation departments; and

WHEREAS, the City is \$10.8 million under budget through May 2020, and projecting shortfalls between \$22 million and \$41 million for 2020; and

WHEREAS, America's rural communities and medium-sized and small towns are struggling just as much as big cities and risk being left behind or wiped out entirely.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FORT COLLINS as follows:

Section 1. That the City of Fort Collins calls on Congress to allocate fair and direct federal support to all of America's communities, regardless of population size.

Section 2. That this funding must be flexible and address not only the additional expenses incurred by communities to respond to the pandemic emergency, but also the dramatic budgetary shortfalls resulting from pauses in commerce, tourism, and other economic engines.

Section 3. That local governments will ensure federal funds are immediately used to rebuild and reopen the national economy.

Section 4. That funding will keep middle class workers employed and critical services operating.

Section 5. That the City of Fort Collins has been part of the emergency response and now calls on Congress to build a united national partnership for a safe, healthy, prosperous life.

Passed and adopted at a regular meeting of the Council of the City of Fort Collins this 16th day of June, A.D. 2020.

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk