ANCHORAGE, ALASKA
AR No. 2020-221, As Amended*

A RESOLUTION OF THE ANCHORAGE MUNICIPAL ASSEMBLY AUTHORIZING THE FUNDING OF: A SMALL BUSINESS AND NONPROFIT RELIEF PROGRAM; A RENTAL AND MORTGAGE ASSISTANCE RELIEF PROGRAM; A CHILD CARE RELIEF PROGRAM; AND A PUBLIC LANDS JOBS PROGRAM (PROGRAMS).

WHEREAS, the Municipality of Anchorage is a welcoming and resilient community, which has been tested during the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has given us the ultimate appraisal of our resilience, and as we learn from it, we re-evaluate the existing systems understanding there is no going back to the way things were; and

WHEREAS, we know we must identify and stabilize the most precarious sectors and institutions to provide new and expanded economic opportunities; and

WHEREAS, to support small businesses and nonprofits financially impacted by COVID-19, the Municipality of Anchorage proposes funding an amount not to exceed $5,000,000 for the second tranche of Small Business and Nonprofit Relief Program to distribute grants to eligible small businesses and nonprofits impacted by COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, to support individuals impacted by COVID-19, the Municipality of Anchorage proposes funding an amount not to exceed $2,000,000 for the second tranche of Rental and Mortgage Assistance Relief Program to distribute grants to landlords and mortgage holders on behalf of eligible individuals impacted by COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, to support licensed childcare programs, the Municipality of Anchorage proposes funding an amount not to exceed $10,000,000 for a Child Care Relief Program to distribute grants to eligible child care programs; and

WHEREAS, to support out-of-work, furloughed, or underemployed workers, the Municipality of Anchorage proposed funding an amount not to exceed $3,000,000 for a Public Lands Jobs Program to hire individuals to help mitigate fire hazards and improve or expand soft surface trails; and

WHEREAS, to provide funds to support the ability of the Mayor and Assembly to quickly respond to COVID-19 related issues in a timely fashion, the Municipality of Anchorage proposes funding an amount not to exceed $1,500,000 for an Administration Flexibility Fund; and

*Corrected July 30, 2020 for scrivener error to correct the Administration Flexibility Fund amount to $1.5M.
WHEREAS, the aggregate costs of the Programs will not exceed the amount of $23,000,000; and

WHEREAS, the funds for the Programs are proposed to come from the State of Alaska, CARES Act Funds, appropriated with AR 2020-199, approved by the Anchorage Assembly on June 2, 2020; now, therefore,

THE ANCHORAGE ASSEMBLY RESOLVES:

Section 1. That the MOA is hereby authorized to fund an aggregate amount not to exceed Twenty-Three Million Dollars ($23,000,000) for: the Small Business and Nonprofit Relief Program; the Rental and Mortgage Assistance Relief Program; the Child Care Relief Program; and the Public Lands Jobs Program; and the Administration Flexibility Fund.

Section 2. This resolution shall be effective immediately upon passage and approval by the Assembly.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Anchorage Assembly this 23rd day of June, 2020.

Chair

ATTEST:

Municipal Clerk
From: ASSEMBLY MEMBERS CONSTANT, QUINN-DAVIDSON, ZALETEL; MAYOR

Subject: A RESOLUTION OF THE ANCHORAGE MUNICIPAL ASSEMBLY AUTHORIZING THE FUNDING OF: A SMALL BUSINESS AND NONPROFIT RELIEF PROGRAM; A RENTAL AND MORTGAGE ASSISTANCE RELIEF PROGRAM; A CHILD CARE RELIEF PROGRAM; AND A PUBLIC LANDS JOBS PROGRAM.

Purpose of the Resolution

This Resolution authorizes the Municipality of Anchorage (MOA) to fund: a Small Business and Nonprofit Relief Program; a Rental and Mortgage Assistance Relief Program; a Child Care Relief Program; and a Public Lands Jobs Program (Programs) for an aggregate amount not to exceed $23,000,000.

Background

The Municipality of Anchorage is a welcoming and resilient community. These are collective values of our city, which have been tested during the COVID-19 pandemic. The COVID-19 pandemic has given us the ultimate appraisal of our resilience, and as we learn from it, we re-evaluate the existing systems understanding there is no going back to the way things were.

Emerging from the impacts of the pandemic provides opportunity to rebuild our economy in ways that enhance our self-sufficiency and reduce our vulnerability to supply chain interruptions. A resilient and welcoming Anchorage better protects the economy and the health and wellbeing of all our city’s residents. Our responsibility is to identify areas that most profoundly tested our resilience, and to act to stabilize the most precarious sectors, institutions, and systems.

Already we know we must strengthen community health and wellbeing to protect the public. It will take coordinating a multi-sector approach to mitigate the stressors and shocks that threatened our community. It is incumbent on us to position today for the success of tomorrow.

We also know that the economy we had before the pandemic will be forever change by the virus. The need to reimagine our future, to transition into new and expanded economic opportunities was urgent even prior to the pandemic. Anchorage is the largest city in a petroleum and tourism dependent state. The decline in global oil
prices since COVID-19 dramatically speeds the need to reinvest in our workforce, as
 does the impact on tourism resulting from the pandemic. We need to strengthen our
local economy to prepare to take on new economic opportunities and retooling our
infrastructure to ensure our capacity for growth.

The following Programs are currently proposed to provide relief from the impacts of
COVID-19 and strengthen our local economy:

- **Small Business and Nonprofit Relief Program:** We propose $5 million in
  funding for the second tranche of this critical small business and nonprofit
  relief. During the initial $1 million pilot program, we received over 700
  applications from small businesses and nonprofits but were only able to
  provide grants to 120 applicants. Given the overwhelming response from
  Anchorage small businesses and nonprofits, and the gaps that continue to
  exist in federal and state relief programs, we believe it is imperative to
  provide additional funds for this need.

- **Rental and Mortgage Assistance Program:** We propose $2 million in funding
  for the second tranche of this critical housing support initiative. In the first two
  days of our initial $1 million pilot program, we fielded over 300 applicants for
  rental or mortgage assistance. Even with the recent rental assistance
  program announced by Alaska Housing Finance Corporation, we believe
  there will continue to be unmet need for housing support and recommend this
  second tranche of funding.

- **Child Care Relief Program:** We propose $10 million to address the immediate
  need for support to licensed child care providers, especially those that have
  struggled to maintain operations due to closures and decreased enrollments
  due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We value those providers who have
  remained open and those that serve low income families. **Funding shall be
  prioritized first to providers who meet or exceed the USDA Child Care
  Food Program’s participation criteria (i.e., 25% of children enrolled
  must either be on day care assistance or in the foster care system) and [if funds remain,] all childcare providers participating in the Child Care
  Assistance Program will then be eligible.** We are working with Anchorage
  Health Department on how these funds would be distributed.

- **Public Lands Jobs Program:** We propose $3 million in funding for two major
  initiatives related to the 11,000 acres of public lands managed by Parks &
  Recreation, both of which propose to utilize out-of-work, furloughed, or
  underemployed workers. The first initiative would target thirteen key areas
  identified for removal of spruce beetle infection trees that will help manage
  the current outbreak of the spruce beetle and mitigate for fire hazards. The
  second initiative focuses on shovel-ready soft surface trail maintenance or
  building activities in conjunction with our nonprofit partners Alaska Trails and
Single Track Advocates. **Union hiring halls shall be utilized for hiring workers for the Public Lands Jobs Program.**

- **Administration Flexibility Fund:** We propose $3 million to be available to address immediate needs related to COVID-19 issues as they arise, so the Administration can respond in a timely fashion. The Administration will report to the Assembly once a month on any expenditures made with this funding.

**Financing and Source of Funds**

The funds for the Programs are proposed to come from the State of Alaska, CARES Act Funds, appropriated with AR 2020-199, approved by the Anchorage Assembly on June 2, 2020.

**THE ADMINISTRATION SUPPORTS APPROVAL AND WE REQUEST YOUR SUPPORT.**

Prepared by: Mayor’s Office
Approved by: Jason Bockenstedt, Chief of Staff
Concur: Christopher M. Schutte, OECD Director
Concur: Lance Wilber, OMB Director
Fund Certification: Alexander Slivka, CFO
231802-9000000041-124304-57XXXX $23[20],000,000 (Alaska CARES Act Funds)
Concur: William D. Falsey, Municipal Manager
Concur: Christopher Constant, Assembly Member
District 1, Downtown
Concur: Austin Quinn-Davidson, Assembly Member
District 3, West Anchorage
Concur: Meg Zaletel, Assembly Member
District 4, Midtown
Respectfully submitted: Ethan A. Berkowitz, Mayor
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Fund certification: REVENUE

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Unencumb. Bal $23,000,000.00 *
This expenditure -$23,000,000.00
Resulting Bal. $0.00

Date 6/19/2020
By (electronic) Linda Yarbrough

*Subject to Receipt of Executed Grant Agreement and Appropriation. (Revised 6/25/2020 to add $3M.)