

RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_

**A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA, ACCEPTING THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE AND ECONOMIC RESILIENCY COMMITTEE, AT ITS JUNE 16, 2020 MEETING, TO ALLOCATE UP TO \$700,000 IN GENERAL RESERVE FUNDS FOR POTENTIAL USE TO ADDRESS THE PRESSING NEED OF RENT, MORTGAGE, AND UTILITIES ASSISTANCE DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC, AND AUTHORIZE THE RELEASE OF \$330,000 OUT OF \$700,000 FUNDS AT THIS TIME TO SUPPORT RENT, MORTGAGE AND UTILITIES ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS FOR QUALIFIED CITY RESIDENTS DUE TO THE ECONOMIC CRISIS; AND DIRECTING THE CITY ADMINISTRATION TO AWARD THESE FUNDS TO NON-PROFIT SUCH AS CITRUS HEALTH NETWORK TO ENSURE ASSISTANCE IS AVAILABLE TO THE BROADEST RANGE OF MIAMI BEACH RESIDENTS, INCLUDING THOSE WHO HAVE NOT ACHIEVED PERMANENT RESIDENCY STATUS.**

**WHEREAS**, the City has been providing emergency rent assistance for eligible residents who have been adversely impacted by the novel coronavirus (“COVID-19”) pandemic and unable to pay rent; and

**WHEREAS**, the City is using a variety of federal funds including Community Development Block Grant (“CDBG-CV”) and HOME Investment Partnership Program (“HOME”) in order to provide emergency rent assistance to households adversely impacted by COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS**, CDBG-CV and HOME funds have a variety of requirements including income eligibility and residency status; and

**WHEREAS**, households assisted through these funds must be United States citizens or permanent residents earning no more than 80% Area Median Income (“AMI”) for CDBG programs, and 60% AMI for HOME programs; and

**WHEREAS**, the City established two tranches of rent and utility assistance as follows: \$311,829 for Tranche 1, funded with CDBG-CV (CARES Act), CDBG, Emergency Food & Shelter Program, and HOME; and \$336,000 for Tranche 2, funded with CDBG-CV and HOME; and

**WHEREAS**, as of June 30, 2020, the City has funded 169 applications with \$346,451.30 in rent and utility assistance; and

**WHEREAS**, while the City allocated the maximum funds to direct service, doing so meant that households with provisional immigration status could not be served with these funds; and

**WHEREAS**, based on the initial tranche of applications processed through appointments, as well as the online views, versus application for the second tranche of funds, City staff estimated that four out of five households in the City in need of rent assistance are ineligible to access federal funds; and

**WHEREAS**, of the 502 appointments in Tranche 1, 159 appointments were funded after all 502 appointments had been processed, and funds were exhausted on June 25th; and

**WHEREAS**, at its June 12, 2020 meeting, the Finance and Economic Resiliency Committee (“FERC”) discussed the demand for rent assistance services in Miami Beach and acknowledged that the need was greater than what could be met with the funds allocated in Tranches 1 and 2; and

**WHEREAS**, as such, the Committee recommended that the City allocates up to \$700,000 in General Reserve Funds for potential use to address the pressing need of rent assistance; and

**WHEREAS**, the Committee further recommended to release only \$330,000 of \$700,000 funds at this time – a number equivalent to the value allocated in the two prior tranches of rent assistance; and

**WHEREAS**, the Committee emphasized the desire that, if possible, these funds be reimbursed through other sources such as CARES funds from Miami-Dade County; and

**WHEREAS**, in order to maximize the reach of these funds and ensure reimbursement from potential federal sources, the City Administration recommends awarding these funds to Citrus Health Network, the lead agency of the Housing Assistance Network of Dade (“HAND”) Program; and

**WHEREAS**, Citrus Health Network administered the COVID-19 rent assistance funds on behalf of Miami-Dade County serving income eligible applicants regardless of residency status; and

**WHEREAS**, HAND recently administered the online rent assistance lottery on behalf of Miami-Dade County that received more than 29,000 applications – of these applications, only 3,466 qualified for the COVID-19 rent assistance program; and

**WHEREAS**, at its June 16, 2020 meeting, the Affordable Housing Advisory Committee (“AHAC”) also recommended that, if Miami-Dade County were to allocate additional CARES funds to the City, that the City allocate a portion of these funds to Citrus Health Network as a means of ensuring that those residents without permanent resident status are served; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Administration recommends accepting the recommendation of the FERC to appropriate and authorize an initial \$330,000 and have the FERC reevaluate the need for additional funds in the future, not to exceed \$700,000, to support rent, mortgage and utility assistance programs; and

**WHEREAS**, furthermore, the City Administration recommends awarding these funds to a non-profit such as Citrus Health Network to ensure assistance is available to the broadest range of Miami Beach residents including those who have not achieved permanent residency status.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT DULY RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA,** that the Mayor and City Commission hereby accept the recommendation of the Finance and Economic Resiliency Committee, at its June 16, 2020 meeting, to allocate up to \$700,000 in General Reserve Funds for potential use to address the pressing need of rent, mortgage, and utilities assistance during the COVID-19 pandemic, and authorize the release of \$330,000 out of \$700,000 funds at this time to support rent, mortgage and utilities assistance programs for qualified city residents due to the economic crisis; and direct the City Administration to award these funds to non-profit such as Citrus Health Network to ensure assistance is available to the broadest range of Miami Beach residents, including those who have not achieved permanent residency status.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2020.

**ATTEST:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dan Gelber, Mayor

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Rafael E. Granado, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO  
FORM & LANGUAGE  
& FOR EXECUTION

Dee K      7/9/20  
City Attorney      Date  
WA