

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 TO APPROPRIATE AN ADDITIONAL \$200,000 FROM THE REMAINING BALANCE (\$370,000) OF THE ORIGINAL \$700,000 SET ASIDE FROM THE GENERAL FUND TO ADDRESS COVID-19 RELATED MATTERS, SUBJECT TO BUDGETARY APPROVAL AS A FY 2020-2021 EXPENSE; SAID ADDITIONAL FUNDS TO BE EARMARKED FOR RENT, MORTGAGE AND UTILITY ASSISTANCE FOR QUALIFYING MIAMI BEACH HOUSEHOLDS WHO HAVE BEEN ADVERSELY IMPACTED BY COVID-19.

WHEREAS, the City has been providing emergency rent assistance for eligible residents who have been adversely impacted by COVID-19 resulting in rent arrears; and

WHEREAS, the City is using a variety of federal and state funding sources, including Community Development Block Grant (CDBG-CV), Coronavirus Relief Funds (CRF) and HOME Investment Partnership (HOME) funds; and

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

WHEREAS, CDBG-CV, CRF and HOME funds have a variety of requirements including income eligibility and residency status; 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, staff estimates that four of five households in the City needing rent assistance are ineligible to access federal funds; and

WHEREAS, at its June 12, 2020 meeting, the Finance and Economic Resiliency Committee (FERC) discussed the demand for rent assistance services in the community 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 up to \$700,000 in General Reserve Funds be set aside for potential use to address the pressing need of rent assistance, and that only \$330,000 of these funds be released at that time – a number equivalent to the value allocated in the two prior tranches of rent assistance; and

WHEREAS, at its July 29, 2020 City Commission meeting, the Mayor and City Commission adopted Resolution No. 2020-3132, accepting the recommendation of the FERC at its June 12, 2020 meeting, to allocate up to \$700,000 in General Reserve Funds for potential use to address pressing need of rent, mortgage, and utilities assistance during the COVID-19 pandemic; authorizing the appropriation of \$330,000 of these funds for qualified City residents; and directing the City Administration to award those funds to a non-profit organization, such as Citrus Heath Network, to ensure assistance is available to the broadest range of Miami Beach residents, including those who had not achieved permanent residency status; and

WHEREAS, On September 18, 2020, a contract was executed with H.O.P.E. in Miami-Dade, Inc. (HOPE) to provide rent and utility services to Miami Beach households referred by the Office of Housing and Community Services (OHCS); and

WHEREAS, the City is processing assistance requests utilizing CDBG-CV3, EFSP Phase 37 and EFSP CARES funds to fulfill the ongoing community needs; and

WHEREAS, at its October 23, 2020 FERC meeting, the Administration recommended waiting for 60-days to reevaluate the need for additional funds in the future, in an amount not to exceed \$700,000, to support rent, mortgage, and utility assistance programs; and

WHEREAS, at its March 26, 2021 meeting, FERC voted unanimously to:

- 1) appropriate an additional \$200,000, from the balance (\$370,000) of the \$700,000 initially set aside from the City's General Funds for COVID-19 related response services, in order to expand the rent/mortgage/utility assistance program, subject to approval in the FY 2020-2021 budget;
- 2) limit the period of assistance to six (6) months per qualified Miami Beach household; and
- 3) include, as qualified Miami Beach residents, those who have not achieved permanent residency status; and

WHEREAS, the Administration recommends continuing to provide assistance to Miami Beach residents who earn from 80% to 120% of Area Median Income (AMI).

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 to appropriate an additional \$200,000 from the remaining balance (\$370,000) of the original \$700,000 set aside from the General Fund to address COVID-19 related matters, subject to budgetary approval as a FY 2020-2021 expense; said additional funds to be earmarked for rent, mortgage and utility assistance for qualifying Miami Beach households who have been adversely impacted by COVID-19.

PASSED and ADOPTED this _____ day of _____, 2021.

ATTEST:

Dan Gelber, Mayor

Rafael E. Granado, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO
FORM & LANGUAGE
& FOR EXECUTION

City Attorney

4-20-21

Date