

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 AND APPROVING A FOOD DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM FOR THE BENEFIT OF VULNERABLE RESIDENTS IMPACTED BY COVID-19, TO BE ADMINISTERED BY THE CITY'S OFFICE OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY SERVICES, TO PROVIDE FOR FOOD ASSISTANCE FOR UP TO 600 HOUSEHOLDS, FOR A PERIOD OF UP TO FOUR MONTHS, FOR AN ESTIMATED COST OF \$700,000, WHICH COSTS WOULD BE ELIGIBLE FOR REIMBURSEMENT BY THE FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (FEMA).

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has adversely affected our community and residents in a variety of ways, including mass unemployment and the correlating need for emergency services including food, rent and utility assistance; and

WHEREAS, the City began to receive an increase in food assistance requests the week of March 16, 2020, and began responding to food requests through funds it had available through the Emergency Food and Shelter Program (EFSP); and

WHEREAS, households requesting assistance were provided with food packages that included shelf-stable food that included rice, beans, canned vegetables and crackers, among other items; and

WHEREAS, the first delivery under this initiative was made on March 20th with a total of 70 households received these packages; and

WHEREAS, once the need outgrew resources under the Emergency Food and Shelter Program, resources were shifted so as to leverage Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and General Fund resources with a donation of \$10,000 funds from AryIn Cypen to purchase additional food; and

WHEREAS, the City has subsequently distributed grocery packs to 643 families; and

WHEREAS, the amount of food requests began to increase on April 22nd which coincided with the beginning of the fourth week of the month when most families who rely on Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits to feed their families typically would rely on their own funds to feed their households; and

WHEREAS, the City currently has 929 households registered for food assistance; and

WHEREAS, in response to this significant increase in such a necessary service, the City will establish weekly food distributions in North Beach (North Shore Youth Center) and South Beach (Police Athletic League Building) as many of these households do not have cars and have been unable to participate in drive-thru distributions; and

WHEREAS, the City will provide sufficient food to feed all members of registered households for one week with shelf-stable items (including protein, cereal, bread) and fresh produce at a cost estimated at \$73 per family of four; and

WHEREAS, the City is tracking all food assistance and is ensuring that eligible households access other avenues including SNAP and Miami-Dade County registration, as appropriate, and ensuring that those households with SNAP benefits would be expected to exhaust their allocations prior to requesting additional City assistance; and

WHEREAS, assuming the City begins to re-open within the next month, it is estimated that the need for food distribution could be sustained for the next four months as schools are expected to reopen in September and a degree of normalcy is anticipated by September.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT 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 and approve a food distribution program for the benefit of vulnerable residents impacted by COVID-19, to be administered by the City's Office of Housing and Community Services, to provide up to four months, for an estimated cost of \$700,000, which costs would be eligible for reimbursement by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 13th day of May, 2020.

ATTEST:

Dan Gelber, Mayor

Rafael E. Granado, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO
FORM & LANGUAGE
& FOR EXECUTION

WJ for 5-11-20

City Attorney RAP Date