

RESOLUTION NO. 20-

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA, URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO ENACT A CARES ACT PART II THAT WOULD EXPAND DIRECT FUNDING TO COMMUNITIES UNDER 500,000 IN POPULATION, AND LEGISLATION THAT WOULD PROVIDE DIRECT ECONOMIC STABILIZATION FUNDING TO COMMUNITIES UNDER 500,000 IN POPULATION TO ALLEVIATE MAJOR REVENUE SHORTFALLS AS A RESULT OF THE COVID-19 CRISIS, AND PROVIDING FOR DISTRIBUTION OF THIS RESOLUTION, SEVERABILITY, RESCISSION OF CONFLICTING RESOLUTION PROVISIONS, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, Florida Governor Ron DeSantis issued Executive Order Number 20-52, declaring a state of emergency for the entire State of Florida as a result of Novel Coronavirus Disease 19 ("COVID-19"); and

WHEREAS, Palm Beach, Broward, Miami-Dade, and Monroe Counties, Florida, have all been greatly impacted by the COVID-19 crisis; and

WHEREAS, as of April 28, 2020, there are almost 5,000 positive cases of COVID-19 and tragically, 179 deaths in Broward County, Florida, resulting from COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the City of Fort Lauderdale mourns the loss of its citizens, but is optimistic that the "curve" on the spread of COVID-19 has been "flattened" due to early social distancing and stay at home orders that were among the first in the State; and

WHEREAS, with numerous local businesses closed over the past six weeks, and unemployment claims among Broward County residents at 51,981, the City of Fort Lauderdale estimates a \$19.2 Million reduction of revenue to the General Fund, while working diligently to maintain public safety and health amidst the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the City of Fort Lauderdale employs 2,680 full-time employees, many of whom provide essential services to 186,220 permanent residents in regard to public safety, emergency response, utilities, public works, permitting, and law enforcement, and who are not easily replaced; and

WHEREAS, as the county seat of Broward County, Florida, a regional governmental and

cultural center, home to the Fort Lauderdale/Hollywood International Airport and Port Everglades, and tourism magnet with an influx of over fourteen million visitors annually, the City of Fort Lauderdale faces issues faced by large metropolitan areas; and

WHEREAS, while the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act ("CARES Act") provided \$150 billion of Coronavirus relief funds for state, local, and tribal governments, its provisions only provide direct funding to counties and municipalities with populations of 500,000 or more, leaving numerous sizable communities like the City of Fort Lauderdale dependent on possible sub-allocations from Broward County, which is among the hardest hit by COVID-19 in all of Florida with almost 5,000 cases, and its economy particularly impacted, with much of its revenue dependent upon travel and tourism that have essentially come to a halt; and

WHEREAS, direct funding would allow the City of Fort Lauderdale to maintain its personnel and provide essential services without interruption, thereby averting substantial increases in taxes, rates, and fees, or cuts in services, that if increased, will exacerbate the financial stress that both businesses and residents are already facing; and

WHEREAS, direct funding would allow local governments such as the City of Fort Lauderdale, which is already over six months into its annual budget, with its fiscal year 2019-2020 millage rate already set, to absorb the financial impact from the sudden drop in economic activity due to stay at home orders and closures of nonessential businesses; and

WHEREAS, as one of thirty-one municipalities in Broward County, the City of Fort Lauderdale should not have to compete with other municipalities and localities for CARES Act funds; and

WHEREAS, direct disbursement of federal funds to municipalities such as the City of Fort Lauderdale would minimize or eliminate unnecessary competition and administrative hurdles; and

WHEREAS, as a Community Development Block Grant entitlement community, and Byrne Justice Assistance Grant recipient, and having weathered numerous hurricane and tropical storm events, the City of Fort Lauderdale is well versed in the administration of federal funds; and

WHEREAS, the City of Fort Lauderdale's bond rating prior to COVID-19 was AAA for Standard & Poor's and Aa1 for Moody's Investors Service;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA:

SECTION 1. That the City of Fort Lauderdale urges the United States Congress to enact a

CARES Act Part II that would expand direct funding to communities under 500,000 in population, including the City of Fort Lauderdale, with funds distributed based on a formula that would take into account both population and a community's stature as the center of a large metropolitan area.

SECTION 2. That the City of Fort Lauderdale urges the United States Congress to enact legislation that would provide direct economic stabilization funding to communities under 500,000 in population, including the City of Fort Lauderdale, to alleviate major revenue shortfalls as a result of the COVID-19 crisis.

SECTION 3. That the City Clerk is directed to provide a copy of this Resolution together with a letter from the Mayor of the City of Fort Lauderdale to the following:

The Honorable Marco Rubio
United States Senate
284 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Rick Scott
United States Senate
716 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Debbie Wasserman Schultz
U.S. House of Representatives
1114 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Ted Deutch
U.S. House of Representatives
2447 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

SECTION 4. That if any clause, section, or other part of this Resolution shall be held invalid or unconstitutional by any court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of this Resolution shall not be affected thereby, but shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 5. That all resolutions or parts of resolutions in conflict herewith, be and the same are hereby rescinded.

SECTION 6. That this resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

ADOPTED this the ____ day of _____, 2020.

Mayor
DEAN J. TRANTALIS

ATTEST:

City Clerk
JEFFREY A. MODARELLI