



**CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
City Commission Agenda Memo
REGULAR MEETING**

#20-0359

TO: Honorable Mayor & Members of the
Fort Lauderdale City Commission

FROM: Chris Lagerbloom, ICMA-CM, City Manager

DATE: May 5, 2020

TITLE: Resolution in Support of a Direct Stimulus Federal Funding from the
Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act -
(Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

Recommendation

It is recommended that the City Commission approve a resolution urging 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, and 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.

Background

U.S. Congress recently passed the CARES Act, which provides an emergency relief aid dedicated to helping individual taxpayers, businesses, public health institutions, and state and local governments to cover expenditures incurred due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic that were incurred between March 1, 2020 through December 30, 2020. Currently the CARES Act provides direct stimulus funds for large cities of more than 500,000 in population, as verified by data from the U.S. Census Bureau.

With Florida being the third most-populated state in the country, only the City of Jacksonville and roughly 12 counties would satisfy the legislation's population requirement. Even with only large cities receiving direct stimulus funding, there is no provision in the bill that requires a state government to distribute money to local governments. States will have authority to decide on how they will designate their stimulus relief fund allocations, potentially including allocations for local governments that did not qualify for a direct allocation.

The City of Fort Lauderdale has a population of 186,220 and will receive no direct stimulus funds through the CARES Act. Despite the City's diverse revenue and expenditure variability, the current projections indicate that the City's General Fund will have revenue

shortfalls of over \$19 Million due to COVID-19 that may impact ongoing operations in the current fiscal year.

Direct stimulus funding would provide much-needed financial assistance for the City as we work to address service needs of our community and neighbors affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Resource Impact

There will be no fiscal Impact to the City to pass this resolution.

Strategic Connections

This item supports the *Press Play Fort Lauderdale 2024* Strategic Plan, specifically advancing:

- The Internal Support Focus Area
- Goal 8: Be a leading government organization that manages all resources wisely and sustainably
- Objective: Maintain financial integrity through sound budgeting practices, prudent fiscal management, cost effective operations, and long-term planning

This item advances the *Fast Forward Fort Lauderdale 2035* Vision Plan: We Are United.

Attachment

Exhibit 1 - Resolution

Prepared by: Laura Reece, Director of Office Management and Budget

Department Director: Chris Lagerbloom, ICMA-CM, City Manager