

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

CITY OF SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-16

INTRODUCED BY:

Mayor Alan Webber

Councilor Renee Villarreal	Councilor Signe I. Lindell
Councilor JoAnne Vigil Coppler	Councilor Michael Garcia
Councilor Jamie Cassutt-Sanchez	Councilor Carol Romero-Wirth
Councilor Chris Rivera	Councilor Roman "Tiger" Abeyta

A RESOLUTION

URGING NEW MEXICO'S CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION TO SEEK FEDERAL FUNDING RELIEF FOR THE CITY OF SANTA FE AND OTHER SMALL MUNICIPALITIES TO ADDRESS AND RECOVER FROM THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC AND TO CONTINUE THE DELIVERY OF QUALITY SERVICES TO THE RESIDENTS AND EMPLOYMENT FOR THE WORKERS.

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020 New Mexico reported the first three cases of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on that same date, Santa Fe County reported its first case of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, in the following weeks, cases in New Mexico jumped to 1,971 (as of April 21, 2020) and cases in Santa Fe rose to 86 (as of April 21, 2020); and

WHEREAS, justified and thoughtful emergency actions taken by the State of New Mexico (State) and City of Santa Fe (City) since the first cases were reported have resulted in the drastic shutdown of the City's economy, which is heavily dependent on the hospitality, art,

1 culture, and tourism industries; and

2 **WHEREAS**, the City is facing a \$46 million shortfall in the fiscal year 2020 budget and,
3 as a result, is pursuing furloughs for most City employees, implementing a hiring freeze,
4 drastically cutting spending, and implementing other measures to ensure it achieves a balanced
5 budget; and

6 **WHEREAS**, the specific magnitude and duration of the fiscal implications to the City
7 are not yet known, but will undoubtedly include an immediate and drastic decrease in Gross
8 Receipts Tax revenue, resulting in the need for the City to take strong, stringent, and severe
9 spending measures such as dramatically reducing services, virtually eliminating hiring, cutting
10 back on all city expenses, furloughing employees, and/or implementing temporary pay cuts for all
11 employees; and

12 **WHEREAS**, the United States Congress passed and President Trump signed the CARES
13 Act that allocated \$8.2 billion to cities to support communities and their fiscal capacity to respond
14 to COVID-19; and

15 **WHEREAS**, to qualify for relief under the CARES act, cities must have a population of
16 500,000 or greater, leaving all but one municipality in New Mexico without the much-needed
17 financial assistance; and

18 **WHEREAS**, the State will receive approximately \$1.25 billion and Albuquerque, the
19 largest city in New Mexico and the only city that qualifies for funding under the CARES Act, will
20 receive around \$149 million in federal financial assistance; and

21 **WHEREAS**, the CARES Act includes no requirement that states distribute money to
22 local governments other than those with populations greater than 500,000, potentially leaving
23 every community in New Mexico other than Albuquerque deep in deficit as they work to fight the
24 COVID-19 outbreak and deal with the economic aftershock and the resultant deep and ongoing
25 fiscal crisis; and

1 **WHEREAS**, the US Conference of Mayors sent a letter to Congressional leaders on
2 April 13, 2020 supporting an “Interim Supplemental” allocation of \$53.55 billion in emergency
3 fiscal assistance for local governments using the existing Community Development Block Grant
4 (CDBG) structure as well as a “4th Supplemental” to ensure all cities addressing the pandemic and
5 experiencing substantial revenue losses will receive desperately needed federal assistance
6 (attached as Exhibit A); and


7 **WHEREAS**, Congressman Ben Ray Lujan and Senator Martin Heinrich are
8 cosponsoring the Coronavirus Community Relief Act which would provide \$250 billion in
9 stabilization funds for cities across the country that did not receive direct support from the
10 CARES Act.

11 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE**
12 **CITY OF SANTA FE** that the City urgently requests and strongly urges the New Mexico
13 Congressional Delegation support the allocation of additional funding for municipalities that do
14 face severe fiscal impacts as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic but which are not included in
15 receiving support from the \$8.2 billion allocation included in the CARES Act.

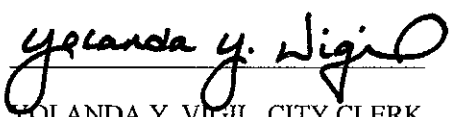
16 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the funds will be used to provide essential services
17 to the residents of the City, to reimburse costs associated with providing emergency services to
18 those affected by COVID-19, and for general economic aid as a result of declining Gross
19 Receipts Tax revenues.

20 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that such funds, and any previously allocated funds,
21 should allow maximum flexibility for local governments to address declining revenues and to
22 mitigate reductions in essential services and necessary employment as a response to the COVID-
23 19 pandemic.

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25


ALAN WEBBER, MAYOR

ATTEST:


YOLANDA Y. VIGIL, CITY CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM:


ERIN K. McSHERRY, CITY ATTORNEY



THE UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF MAYORS

600 F STREET, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20004
TEL: 202/638-1300 FAX: 202/638-1307
URL: WWW.USCMAYORS.ORG

April 13, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
United States House of Representatives

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Republican Leader
United States House of Representatives

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
Democratic Leader
United States Senate

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Leader McConnell, Leader McCarthy, and Leader Schumer:

RE: Support for Emergency Fiscal Assistance Using the CDBG Structure for Cities NOW

On behalf of The United States Conference of Mayors, we are writing to strongly urge that the "Interim Supplemental" being negotiated to provide needed funding for small business aid programs also include emergency fiscal assistance for America's cities. Cities are the front lines of fighting this pandemic, immediately addressing this crisis and taking actions to protect public health and ensure public safety while continuing to provide core services to our citizens.

We strongly support the proposal being offered by House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Senate Democratic Leader Charles Schumer that would provide \$53.55 billion in emergency fiscal assistance to be sent to local governments based on the CDBG structure. The CDBG structure has existed since 1974, it works, and we need to get these flexible funds to our cities now. We also greatly appreciate that this proposal would clarify that fiscal assistance provided to local governments through this bill, as well as funding provided through "The CARES Act", would be available to be used for lost revenues.

Cities are right now being faced with having to make decisions that include laying off employees, cutting budgets, and reducing or eliminating critically needed services – at the very same time when we are being called on to help lead the fight against this pandemic.

We strongly urge that the "Interim Supplemental" provide \$53.55 billion in emergency fiscal assistance through the CDBG structure, and we look forward to working with you on the 4th Supplemental to make sure that all cities fighting this pandemic and experiencing serious revenue losses receive needed federal assistance. These federal actions will empower the nation's mayors to immediately take the bold steps necessary to protect the American public from the pandemic and recover from the subsequent economic fallout.

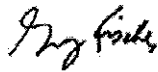
The United States Conference of Mayors
April 13, 2020
Page 2

Thank you for your leadership during this time of national crisis, and please feel free to reach out to our CEO and Executive Director Tom Cochran at 202-744-9110 / tcochran@usmayors.org or Chief of Staff Ed Somers at 202-744-9223 / esomers@usmayors.org to discuss this priority request.

Sincerely,



Bryan K. Barnett
Mayor of Rochester Hills, MI
President



Greg Fischer
Mayor of Louisville, KY
Vice President




Nan Whaley
Mayor of Dayton, OH
Second Vice President



Steve Benjamin
Mayor of Columbia, SC
Past President



Elizabeth B. Kautz
Mayor of Burnsville, MN
Past President



Tom Cochran
CEO and Executive Director

cc: All Members of the United States House of Representatives and the United States Senate