

Written Statement of Honorable Jacob Frey
Mayor at City of Minneapolis, Minnesota

February 10, 2021

Members of the U.S. House of Representatives:

For nearly a year, public service workers have stood courageously on the front lines of the fight against the pandemic, doing everything in their power to keep our communities safe, healthy, and strong. Despite risking their lives, 1.4 million of these front-line workers have been laid off due to budget shortfalls caused by the pandemic, nearly double the total number of jobs lost during the entire Great Recession. We need to get public service workers back to work to beat this pandemic and begin the economic recovery.

Local governments across the nation are experiencing budget shortfalls due to the pandemic and have been faced with impossible decisions. Minneapolis is home to restaurants and entertainment venues that are typically thriving and contributing to city revenue. For nearly a year, large entertainment venues have been shuttered and restaurants are striving to adapt and survive. While revenues dry up, demands on essential city services have not diminished. In fact, the obligations of the city have only grown as the City supports small businesses, provides critical public health services, and makes sure City employees are safe. Shifting the burden of lost revenue onto residents experiencing their own hardships was not the answer.

Facing an anticipated loss of 2020 revenue of \$156 million, Minneapolis amended its budget in July making cuts across all departments, reducing contracts and discretionary spending, and implementing a hiring freeze. Limiting layoffs was my priority, but could not be entirely avoided. Thanks to many City employees who sacrificed a portion of their salary through a furlough program, we were able to prevent the need for large-scale layoffs. Cash reserves were also tapped. Cities across the nation are making these tough decisions. As members of the National League of Cities, we know this is not a red city or blue city issue. Cities have not received direct federal aid to mitigate the impacts of the pandemic. Aid to cities would ensure the continuation of essential services and get all hands-on deck to build back better.

President Biden has put forward a bold \$1.9 trillion stimulus plan that has the right priorities. Direct aid to cities will keep city staff on the job including police officers, firefighters, emergency call center personnel, and public works employees. We urge the Oversight and Reform Committee to secure critical aid to state and local governments, tribes, school districts, and U.S. territories so we can keep public service workers on the job when we need them the most.

Sincerely,



Mayor Jacob Frey

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR HILDA L. SOLIS

February 23, 2021

Supporting President Biden’s American Rescue Plan

President Joseph Biden has proposed a \$1.9-trillion plan to help address the COVID-19 pandemic and its vast economic impacts. The American Rescue Plan (Plan) would help speed up COVID-19 vaccine production and distribution, deliver immediate and direct economic relief to individuals, families, and businesses, and provide \$350 billion in much-needed aid to state and local governments.

The proposal would dedicate \$400 billion towards efforts to fight the spread of COVID-19. These efforts include:

- \$20 billion for the establishment of a national vaccination program in partnership with states, localities, Tribes and territories;
- \$50 billion for the expansion of COVID-19 testing capacity, including the purchase of rapid tests and increased investments in lab capacity;
- 100,000 public health workers as a part of a jobs program based in local communities to build long-term public health capacity; and
- \$130 billion in resources to help schools reopen safely with smaller class sizes, sufficient personal protective equipment, and other measures to create a safe environment for students and teachers.

Another critical component of the Plan is a direct payment of \$1,400 per person to help families and individuals pay for basic household expenses such as rent and food.

MOTION

MITCHELL _____

KUEHL _____

HAHN _____

BARGER _____

SOLIS _____

With respect to rental assistance, President Biden is also proposing \$25 billion in rental assistance, for low- and moderate-income households, and \$13 billion for food and nutrition programs. Increasing the minimum wage to \$15/hour and an extension and expansion of unemployment benefits are both elements of the Plan, which would supplement income for households struggling to make ends meet.

The Plan also includes assistance to help small businesses rebuild or stay afloat. Acknowledging that small businesses are the backbone of America's economy and sustain half of the country's private sector jobs, President Biden includes in his proposal \$15 billion in grants for 1 million of the hardest-hit small businesses. The Plan also requests that Congress leverage \$35 billion to generate as much as \$175 billion in low-interest loans and venture capital to help entrepreneurs create and maintain jobs.

President Biden's American Rescue Plan demonstrates the urgency needed to respond to the pandemic and its disastrous health and economic consequences. President Biden's Plan would enable Los Angeles County to bolster its support for County residents and businesses, accelerate and streamline its vaccine rollout, and make continued progress in its health and economic response to the pandemic.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors direct the Washington, D.C. advocates to support President Biden's \$1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan proposal and associated legislative efforts to provide funding for local and state governments, vaccinations, and relief for those impacted by the COVID-19 crisis.

#

HLS:jv

May 27, 2020

Honorable Members of the Arizona Congressional Delegation:

We would like to extend our utmost appreciation for all your efforts in addressing the COVID-19 pandemic. Whether it be the Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act, the Families First Coronavirus Response Act, the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, or the Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act, each have been beneficial in preventing the complete collapse of the economy and ensuring support for necessary sectors. Moving forward we request the swift passage of additional direct and flexible local budget support to all cities and towns across the United States. The detrimental impacts of COVID-19 on local governments are substantial and we believe recovery will require extraordinary measures.

The CARES Act passed in mid-March was a tremendous first step in recognizing that local governments are on the front lines of this pandemic, providing the most essential of services. While the first step was substantial, for cities with populations above 500,000 receiving direct funding, it failed to recognize all local governments are being directly impacted by this pandemic and are in need of the same direct and immediate assistance. The language in the CARES Act leaves out 88 of the 91 Arizona cities and towns representing nearly 3 million Arizona residents.

Going forward to the next COVID-19 stimulus bill, we respectfully request your support to include all 91 Arizona cities and towns as recipients of direct and flexible local budget support to municipalities across the country. This virus does not discriminate based on the size of the local government and we believe strongly the next package should reflect the non-discriminatory nature of the virus. We are familiar with multiple direct and flexible local budget support options that have been presented to congressional members over the past several weeks. It is not our intent to squabble over the details other than to say all local governments need assistance that will be imperative in helping local governments address the pandemic and its corresponding fiscal impact.

Arizona's local government entities are fiscally responsible and are required to run balanced budgets. We rely more heavily on sales tax for local revenue, than income or property taxes. While this may be worthy public tax policy to some, the impacts of shutting down our economy to slow the spread of the virus – also a worthy public policy – will be devastating to local coffers. Arizona cities and towns are major employers, providing 70 percent of all public safety personnel in the state. Additionally, we provide other essential services such as water and wastewater services, trash and recycling, parks, public health services, and business development services such as building planning and permitting - without which, communities and local businesses could not operate. Without additional and flexible support, as well as, flexibility for funds that have been previously distributed, Arizona municipalities will be faced with cutting or eliminating critical city services that Arizonans rely on.

In Arizona, initial projections of the economic impact of the pandemic suggest more than \$1 billion in losses for our state government and hundreds of millions for local governments. Across the nation news reports are indicating more than 1 million local government employees could be subject to furloughs and layoffs as a result of this pandemic. The loss of essential local government jobs is not something our economy can easily

sustain while also attempting to traverse the detrimental impacts to other private sectors within the economy. Not only do we employ essential workers, but state and local governments are catalysts for economic recovery through infrastructure investment, accounting for roughly 75 percent of total U.S. infrastructure investments.

We fear that without additional direct and flexible budget support local governments will struggle to quickly return to pre-pandemic levels. Ultimately, this will likely lead to a protracted, rather than robust recovery, not only impacting our essential workers but the state and U.S. economy on aggregate.

Thank you again for your efforts during this pandemic. We ask for your support for our shared constituencies and are confident that our collaboration on this important issue will help Arizona and our nation recover from this unprecedented crisis.

Sincerely,



Christian Price
League President
Mayor, City of Maricopa



Cathy Caillat
League Vice President
Mayor, City of Peoria



Douglas Nicholls
League Treasurer
Mayor, City of Yuma



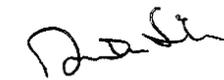
Jeff Serdy
Mayor, City of Apache Junction



Kenneth Weise
Mayor, City of Avondale



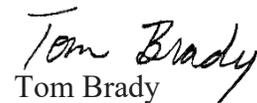
Toney D. King, Sr.
Mayor, City of Benson



David Smith
Mayor, City of Bisbee



Jackie A. Meck
Mayor, City of Buckeye



Tom Brady
Mayor, City of Bullhead City



Charles German
Mayor, Town of Camp Verde



Les Peterson
Mayor, Town of Carefree



Craig McFarland
Mayor, City of Casa Grande



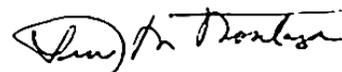
Ernie Bunch
Mayor, Town of Cave Creek



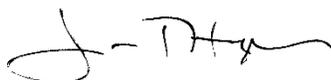
Kevin Hartke
Mayor, City of Chandler



Doug Von Gausig
Mayor, Town of Clarkdale



Luis M. Montoya
Mayor, Town of Clifton



Jon Thompson
Mayor, City of Coolidge



Tim Elinski
Mayor, City of Cottonwood



Donald Huish
Mayor-Elect, City of Douglas



Anne Thurman
Mayor, Town of Duncan



Bryce Hamblin
Mayor, Town of Eagar

Alexis A. Hermosillo
Mayor, City of El Mirage

Micah Powell
Vice Mayor, City of Eloy

Coral J. Evans
Mayor, City of Flagstaff

Tara Walter
Mayor, Town of Florence

Ginny Dickey
Mayor, Town of Fountain Hills

Tommy L. Sikes
Mayor, Town of Gila Bend

Jenn Daniels
Mayor, Town of Gilbert

Jerry Weiers
Mayor, City of Glendale

Al Gameros
Mayor, City of Globe

Georgia Lord
Mayor, City of Goodyear

Valerie Molina
Mayor, Town of Guadalupe

Dean Hetrick
Mayor, Town of Hayden

J. Merrill Young
Mayor, City of Holbrook

Christina "Alex" Barber
Mayor, Town of Jerome

Debra Sommers
Mayor, Town of Kearny

Jennee "Jen" Miles
Mayor, City of Kingman

Cal Sheehy
Mayor, City of Lake Havasu City

Thomas L. Schoaf
Mayor, City of Litchfield Park

Joe Dietz
Mayor, Town of Mammoth

John Giles
Mayor, City of Mesa

Sammy Gonzales
Mayor, Town of Miami

Arturo R. Garino
Mayor, City of Nogales

Joe Winfield
Mayor, Town of Oro Valley

Jerald Bien-Willner
Mayor, Town of Paradise Valley

Dan Beaver
Mayor, Town of Parker

Andrea Wood
Mayor, Town of Patagonia

Kate Gallego
Mayor, City of Phoenix

Greg Mengarelli
Mayor, City of Prescott

Kell Palguta
Mayor, Town of Prescott Valley

Norm Simpson
Mayor, Town of Quartzsite



Gail Barney
Mayor, Town of Queen Creek



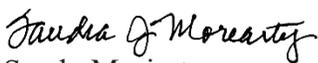
Jason Kouts
Mayor, City of Safford



Tom Murphy
Mayor, Town of Sahuarita



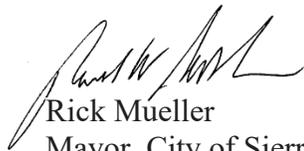
Gerardo Sanchez
Mayor, City of San Luis



Sandy Moriarty
Mayor, City of Sedona



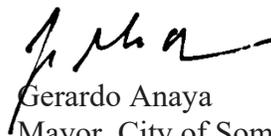
Dary Seymore
Mayor, City of Show Low



Rick Mueller
Mayor, City of Sierra Vista



Michael "Lynn" Johnson
Mayor, Town of Snowflake



Gerardo Anaya
Mayor, City of Somerton



Robert "Bob" Teso
Mayor, City of South Tucson



Phil Hanson, Jr.
Mayor, Town of Springerville



Spence Udall
Mayor, City of St. Johns



Gary Coon
Mayor, Town of Star Valley



Mila Besich
Mayor, Town of Superior



Skip Hall
Mayor, City of Surprise



David Smith
Mayor, Town of Taylor



Mark Mitchell
Mayor, City of Tempe



Bob Rivera
Mayor, Town of Thatcher



Anna Tovar
Mayor, City of Tolleson



Dustin Escapule
Mayor, City of Tombstone



Regina Romero
Mayor, City of Tucson



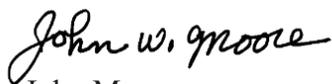
Craig Sanderson
Mayor, Town of Tusayan



Rui Pereira
Mayor, Town of Wickenburg



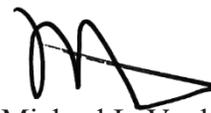
Mike Laws
Mayor, City of Willcox



John Moore
Mayor, City of Williams



Louis C. Bracamonte
Mayor, Town of Winkelman



Michael LeVault
Mayor, Town of Youngtown

cc:

The Honorable Kyrsten Sinema
United States Senate
317 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington D.C. 20510
meg_joseph@sinema.senate.gov

The Honorable Martha McSally
United States Senate
404 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
justin_roth@mcsally.senate.gov

The Honorable Tom O'Halleran
United States House of Representatives
324 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515
jeremy.nordquist@mail.house.gov

The Honorable Ann Kirkpatrick
United States House of Representatives
309 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515
carmen.frias@mail.house.gov

The Honorable Raul Grijalva
United States House of Representatives
1511 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515
amy.emerick@mail.house.gov

The Honorable Paul Gosar
United States House of Representatives
2057 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515
tom.vanflein@mail.house.gov

The Honorable Andy Biggs
United States House of Representatives
1318 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515
deborah.mazol@mail.house.gov

The Honorable David Schweikert
United States House of Representatives
1526 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515
katherina.dimenstein@mail.house.gov

The Honorable Ruben Gallego
United States House of Representatives
1131 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515
david.montes@mail.house.gov

The Honorable Debbie Lesko
United States House of Representatives
1113 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515
matthew.simon@mail.house.gov

The Honorable Greg Stanton
United States House of Representatives
128 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515
seth.scott@mail.house.gov



20 E Main St Suite 750
PO Box 1466
Mesa, Arizona 85211-1466

February 5, 2021

The Honorable Kyrsten Sinema
U.S. Senate
317 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mark Kelly
U.S. Senate
B40B Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Andy Biggs
U.S. House of Representatives
171 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Greg Stanton
U.S. House of Representatives
207 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senators Sinema and Kelly and Representatives Biggs and Stanton:

On behalf of the citizens of the City of Mesa, thank you for your continued work in securing federal resources to support our efforts to protect the health and safety of our citizens as we continue to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.

While we are extraordinarily grateful for the assistance Congress has provided, as the virus continues to spread and the economic hardship deepens, it is crucial that direct and flexible aid for local governments is included in the COVID-19 relief package being considered by Congress. We support the funding level of \$350 billion as proposed by President Biden.

Both the Trump and Biden Administrations have stated that the country's response to the pandemic is federally backed, state supported, and locally executed. As you know, Mesa was a direct recipient of approximately \$90 million in Coronavirus Relief Funds provided through the *CARES Act* and we worked hard to ensure we were effective stewards of those federal taxpayer dollars. These funds allowed us to enhance our local efforts to: assist nearly 1,000 small businesses; distribute over 3.54 million meals; service over 400 homeless individuals; provide rent and utility assistance to over 2,000 households, alleviating the risk of homelessness for over 6,000 individuals; and enable education access for students.

The resources provided in the *Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act* will certainly benefit our community; however, the only direct local resources were allocated through the Emergency Rental Assistance Program. Mesa received approximately \$15.76 million through this program just two weeks ago, and we have already started processing applications.

Cities like ours bear much of the responsibility for the continued response to COVID-19 in our communities. To properly address the public health, economic, education, housing, and nutrition



20 E Main St Suite 750
PO Box 1466
Mesa, Arizona 85211-1466

crises our citizens are enduring, it is essential that resources get to them as quickly as possible. Cumbersome and lengthy applications processes or state pass-through programs take time that we cannot afford to spare. Local officials know their communities, they know the areas of greatest need, and, as proven by cities like Mesa, they can distribute resources immediately.

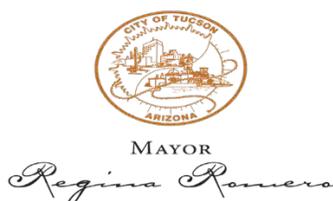
With the vaccine's arrival, we can finally see the light at the end of the tunnel. As such, we implore you to ensure that the federal government will provide direct funding to support our efforts and get our communities across the finish line.

We look forward to working with you on this vitally important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'John Giles'.

John Giles
Mayor of Mesa



February 4, 2021

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

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

I am grateful for the continued Congressional assistance and for your personal and active support to address the most pressing needs of State and local governments in responding to COVID-19. Therefore, it is with a sense of urgency that I appeal to you for quick action to approve the “American Rescue Plan,” the COVID relief package offered by President Biden and Vice President Harris.

Cities have been — and continue to be — on the front lines of this crisis, working tirelessly to protect our residents, support our businesses, and maintain the delivery of essential services. In Tucson, we have fought to keep our community safe, provide COVID testing, maintain transit services for our essential workers, provide rental and utility assistance, secure broadband services for our disadvantaged populations, provide small business and art venue support, and public safety relief our community needs to survive the COVID pandemic. We have done so with the collaboration of the federal government with CARES Act dollars, the most recent COVID relief bill, and even tapping City general funds, to respond to the emergency. Out of our commitment to transparency, we have created an online [storyboard](#) where the public can view how the City has spent dollars that we received from the Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) under the CARES Act.

The needs of our City and the community continue to grow at a time when there are limited available resources and the COVID crisis explodes in Arizona. Specific provisions of President Biden’s American Rescue Plan would provide the assistance our community so greatly needs. These provisions include:

- \$350 billion in direct and flexible State and local government assistance. We ask that Congress allocate the funds through a modified Community Development Block Grant

(CDBG) formula, as envisioned in the HEROES Act, to ensure the equitable distribution of the funds to all cities and counties. The funds will allow us to continue to provide COVID testing services, vaccination administration and support in the areas of highest risk, secure additional personal protective equipment, protect public safety personnel, and ensure the continuity of essential services that the City provides.

- \$50 billion to expand the nation's coronavirus testing efforts. So far we have provided over \$10 million of our CRF funds for testing support, including for at-risk populations with high community transmission on Tucson's southside, and, at a cost of approximately \$2 million a month, we will exhaust these funds by the end of February.
- \$20 billion national vaccination program to distribute the vaccines to states, localities, Tribes and territories. The City of Tucson is an important partner with Pima County and Tucson Medical Center in providing vaccinations at the Tucson Convention Center. City of Tucson medics, including Fire and EMT, are providing the medical staffing for the vaccination site. However, that medical staffing model is not sustainable. Additional direct resources to the City are necessary to support ramping up the vaccination efforts.
- \$25 billion in additional emergency rental assistance and an extension of the rental and foreclosure moratoriums for the most vulnerable who are on the verge of displacement due to no fault of their own. In 2020, the City of Tucson invested more than \$10 million in CRF funds for rental relief and will invest more than \$16 million provided from the Emergency Rental Assistance Program established in the latest COVID relief bill.
- \$20 billion in relief for public transit agencies, to maintain employment and transit routes for essential workers.
- \$5 billion in home energy and water utility assistance to cover costs and arrears.
- Provide an additional \$1,400 per person in direct financial assistance while also expand eligibility to adult dependents and mixed-status households.
- Reinstate changes to the Emergency Family and Medical Leave Expansion Act and Emergency Paid Sick Leave Act created by the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) and expand them to reimburse employers with fewer than 500 employees, as well as state and local governments, for the cost of leave.

The Biden Plan including \$1.9 trillion in aid is far from excessive; rather it is the bare minimum our States and cities must have to meet our essential missions during this historic challenge. Your support is requested and deeply appreciated.

Sincerely,



Mayor Regina Romero
City of Tucson

cc: Arizona Congressional Delegation

MAILING ADDRESS:
City Hall
150 City Park Way
Brentwood, CA 94513
Phone: 925.516.5400
Fax: 925.516.5401
www.brentwoodca.gov

CITY MANAGER
150 City Park Way
Phone: 925.516.5440
Fax: 925.516.5441

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
150 City Park Way
Phone: 925.516.5405
Fax: 925.516.5407

**FINANCE AND
INFORMATION SYSTEMS**
150 City Park Way
Phone: 925.516.5460
Fax: 925.516.5401

HUMAN RESOURCES
150 City Park Way
Phone: 925.516.5191
Fax: 925.516.5446

PARKS AND RECREATION
150 City Park Way
Phone: 925.516.5444
Fax: 925.516.5445

POLICE
9100 Brentwood Boulevard
Phone: 925.634.6911
24 Hr. Dispatch: 925.809.7911
Fax: 925.809.7799

**PUBLIC WORKS
Engineering Division**
150 City Park Way
Phone: 925.516.5420
Fax: 925.516.5421

Operations Division
2201 Elkins Way
Phone: 925.516.6000
Fax: 925.516.6001

February 5, 2021

The Honorable Mark DeSaulnier
mark.desaulnier@mail.house.gov

The Honorable Jerry McNerney
ca9districtschedule@mail.house.gov

U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Honorable Congressmen:

America's economic crisis from the COVID-19 pandemic is not over. Most municipalities like the City of Brentwood still have not received meaningful levels of federal aid. By separating, and ultimately dropping, state and local aid from the omnibus appropriations and emergency spending bill in December, Congress has injected significant uncertainty into the capability of local governments to carry out their operations, just as a third wave of COVID-19 infections threaten to spread uncontrollably.

National League of Cities' (NLC) latest revised estimate, based on the most recently available fiscal data and updated survey results, is that municipal governments are still facing a \$90 billion blow to their current year revenues.

Local elected leaders like myself have been working on the front lines of the emergency response. I've been managing resources to support the efforts of our first responders, coordinating regionally with other leaders across jurisdictional lines, enacting difficult and fiscally challenging emergency measures to slow the coronavirus epidemic, passing ordinances to limit the worst economic outcomes for residents and small businesses on the margins, and spending as necessary to protect public health and the economy in this extraordinary time.

At the same time, the still urgent, unmet need for federal aid has struck at the heart of local capacity to both carry out emergency response and participate in economic recovery. Loss of capacity is directly related to local government job losses.

Without additional aid and an appropriate, fair, and equitable allocation of this aid for all municipal and county governments, a preventable setback in household and economic stability services, and vaccination distribution, will be unavoidable.

For the next package, I ask that you adhere to the following principles for direct intervention and prevention of local government fiscal decline resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic:

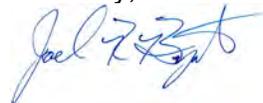
- **Emergency funding should be fair and appropriate for each and every local government, with no minimum population threshold for eligibility.**
- **Aid should be directly allocated through familiar and proven government revenue sharing programs.**
- **Entanglement of state and local funding should be minimized.**

To be clear, communities like mine are not asking for a “bail-out” of local governments. Local governments do not expect the federal government to make up for every loss of local revenue. Rather, we are seeking an additional lifeline for local governments to put off and ultimately avoid options of last resort, including making temporary cuts permanent at a time when our communities need local services most, laying-off furloughed municipal and county employees who comprise a large share of America’s middle class, and indefinitely cancelling capital projects that will further impact local employment, business contracts and overall investment in the economy.

In other words, we are seeking federal assistance to save America’s cities and counties; and to make local leaders part of the solution to economic recovery.

Thank you for your swift action during this truly unique moment in American history. As partners working hand-in-hand both within our communities and also with the federal government and states, we are ready to continue to ensure that America emerges from this pandemic stronger than we were before.

Sincerely,



Joel Bryant
Mayor
City of Brentwood

cc. Honorable Steven M. Glazer, Senator: senator.glazer@senate.ca.gov
Honorable Jim Frazier, Assembly Member: assemblymember.frazier@assembly.ca.gov
Honorable Diane Burgis, CCC Supervisor: supervisor_burgis@bos.cccounty.us
Honorable City Council Members, City of Brentwood: citycouncil@brentwoodca.gov
Archana Sridhar, Senior Specialist Grassroots Advocacy, NLC: sridhar@nlc.org
Sam Caygill, East Bay Division, League of California Cities: scaygill@cacities.org
League of California Cities: SupportLocalRecovery@cacities.org



Los Angeles, San Diego, San Jose, San Francisco, Fresno, Sacramento,
Long Beach, Oakland, Bakersfield, Anaheim, Santa Ana, Riverside, Stockton

February 5, 2021

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Majority Leader
United States Senate
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
United States Senate
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
House Speaker
United States House of Representatives
1236 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives
2468 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

RE: In Support of Direct State and Local Government Assistance

Dear Congressional Leaders:

As bipartisan mayors of the 13 largest cities in the nation's largest state – representing more than 11 million residents – we remain focused on addressing the devastating, and enduring impacts of the COVID-19 crisis. As this unprecedented global health pandemic continues to evolve and impact our communities at ever-deepening levels, we urge you to include significant, direct state and local government assistance as outlined in the President's American Rescue Plan in any coronavirus relief package.

We appreciate the assistance our federal partners have already provided in previous bills. These critical resources were invested prudently in our pandemic response, such as PPE, testing and contact tracing for essential workers and the public, vital small business support, food distribution to our most in need, as well as digital inclusion efforts. Our cities also concentrated on service gaps for our most vulnerable residents and small businesses, especially the basic nutrition and shelter needs of our seniors, youth, sick and unemployed. Broadband access for school children and remote workers, along with job placement and workforce training for the unemployed, have and will remain other areas of significant focus.

The immense scale and growing needs facing our cities require additional resources and direct, state and local aid is essential. We are seeing significant declines in local revenue that supports critical service delivery – including public safety, nutrition assistance, sanitation, and housing. We are diligently working to balance our budgets, reaching into local financial reserves,

reallocating local resources, and still, we are facing difficult decisions to cut services and staff to stay afloat during these difficult times. Simply put, partnership with the federal government is more critical now than ever.

We respectfully urge Congress and the White House to work together to ensure our cities have the resources and flexibility necessary to overcome this national emergency and to help our nation's economy recover.

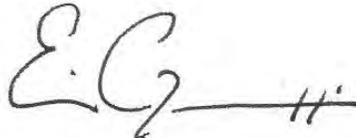
Thank you for your leadership in this critical time in our nation's history.

Sincerely,

California Big City Mayors Coalition



Sam Liccardo
Mayor
City of San José



Eric Garcetti
Mayor
City of Los Angeles



Todd Gloria
Mayor
City of San Diego



London Breed
Mayor
City of San Francisco



Jerry Dyer
Mayor
City of Fresno



Darrell Steinberg
Mayor
City of Sacramento



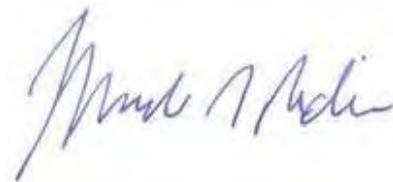
Robert Garcia
Mayor
City of Long Beach



Libby Schaaf
Mayor
City of Oakland



Karen Goh
Mayor
City of Bakersfield



Harry Sidhu
Mayor
City of Anaheim



Vicente Sarmiento
Mayor
City of Santa Ana



Patricia Lock-Dawson
Mayor
City of Riverside



Kevin Lincoln
Mayor
City of Stockton



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
PAUL FADELLI

February 5, 2021

The Honorable Mark DeSaulnier
503 Cannon HOB
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515
Sent via Electronic Mail

Dear Representative DeSaulnier:

America's economic crisis from the COVID-19 pandemic is not over. Most municipalities like El Cerrito still have not received meaningful levels of federal aid. By separating, and ultimately dropping, state and local aid from the omnibus appropriations and emergency spending bill in December, Congress has injected significant uncertainty into the capability of local governments to carry out their operations, just as a third wave of COVID-19 infections threaten to spread uncontrollably.

As you well know, cities and counties are facing upwards of \$90 billion in revenue loss in the current year. Already dealing with ongoing but manageable fiscal difficulties, El Cerrito has had to dramatically cut staff and services as a result of COVID-19. We have put ourselves on a fiscal response plan that will take years to get us back to the level of services we provided just last year. The lack of federal aid has also struck at the heart of local capacity to both carry out emergency response and participate in economic recovery.

Without an appropriate, fair, and equitable allocation of this aid for all municipal and county governments, a preventable setback in household and economic stability services, and vaccination distribution, will be unavoidable.

As the League of California Cities and the National League of Cities has already asked of Congress, I agree and request that Congress accept the following principles to respond to the fiscal impacts that COVID-19 has to local governments:

- **Emergency funding should be fair and appropriate for each and every local government, with no minimum population threshold for eligibility.**
- **Aid should be directly allocated through familiar and proven government revenue sharing programs.**
- **Entanglement of state and local funding should be minimized.**

We are not asking for a bailout. We are seeking federal assistance to save America's cities and counties, and to make local leaders part of the solution to economic recovery.

Thank you for your support of action during this truly unique moment in American history. As partners working hand-in-hand both within our communities and also with the federal government and states, we are ready to continue to ensure that America emerges from this pandemic stronger than we were before.

Sincerely,

Paul Fadelli

Paul Fadelli, Mayor
City of El Cerrito

cc. Archana Sridhar, Senior Specialist Grassroots Advocacy, NLC, sridhar@nlc.org
Sam Caygill, East Bay Division, League of California Cities, scaygill@cacities.org
League of California Cities, SupportLocalRecovery@cacities.org



Office of the Mayor

3300 Capitol Avenue, Building A | P.O. Box 5006, Fremont, CA 94537-5006

510 284-4011 *ph* | 510 284-4001 *fax* | www.fremont.gov

February 5, 2021

The Honorable Ro Khanna
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Khanna,

America's economic crisis from the COVID-19 pandemic is not over. Most municipalities like the City of Fremont, still have not received meaningful levels of federal aid. By separating, and ultimately dropping, state and local aid from the omnibus appropriations and emergency spending bill in December, Congress has injected significant uncertainty into the capability of local governments to carry out their operations, just as a third wave of COVID-19 infections threaten to spread uncontrollably.

National League of Cities' (NLC) latest revised estimate, based on the most recently available fiscal data and updated survey results, is that municipal governments are still facing a \$90 billion blow to their current year revenues.

Local elected leaders like myself have been working on the front lines of the emergency response. I've been managing resources to support the efforts of our first responders, coordinating regionally with other leaders across jurisdictional lines, enacting difficult and fiscally challenging emergency measures to slow the coronavirus epidemic, passing ordinances to limit the worst economic outcomes for residents and small businesses on the margins, and spending as necessary to protect public health and the economy in this extraordinary time.

At the same time, the still urgent, unmet need for federal aid has struck at the heart of local capacity to both carry out emergency response and participate in economic recovery. Loss of capacity is directly related to local government job losses.

Though the City of Fremont prides itself on our fiscal well-standing and responsibility, the City has experienced a reduction in revenue and will need to utilize funding from our uncertainty reserves. As the public health restrictions continue, we will continue to experience these reductions in the over the next fiscal year and may need to use the uncertainty reserves further.

Without additional aid and an appropriate, fair, and equitable allocation of this aid for all municipal and county governments, a preventable setback in household and economic stability services, and vaccination distribution, will be unavoidable.

For the next package, I ask that you adhere to the following principles for direct intervention and prevention of local government fiscal decline resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic:

- **Emergency funding should be fair and appropriate for each and every local government, with no minimum population threshold for eligibility.**

- **Aid should be directly allocated through familiar and proven government revenue sharing programs.**
- **Entanglement of state and local funding should be minimized.**

To be clear, communities like mine are not asking for a “bail-out” of local governments. Local governments do not expect the federal government to make up for every loss of local revenue. Rather, we are seeking an additional lifeline for local governments to put off and ultimately avoid options of last resort, including making temporary cuts permanent at a time when our communities need local services most, laying-off furloughed municipal and county employees who comprise a large share of America’s middle class, and indefinitely cancelling capital projects that will further impact local employment, business contracts and overall investment in the economy.

In other words, we are seeking federal assistance to save America’s cities and counties; and to make local leaders part of the solution to economic recovery.

Thank you for your swift action during this truly unique moment in American history. As partners working hand-in-hand both within our communities and also with the federal government and states, we are ready to continue to ensure that America emerges from this pandemic stronger than we were before.

Sincerely,



Lily Mei
Mayor
City of Fremont

cc. Archana Sridhar, Senior Specialist Grassroots Advocacy, NLC, sridhar@nlc.org
Sam Caygill, East Bay Division, League of California Cities, scaygill@cacities.org
League of California Cities, SupportLocalRecovery@cacities.org



JERRY P. DYER
MAYOR

The Honorable Carolyn B. Maloney
Chairwoman
House Committee on Oversight and Reform
2157 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable James Comer
Ranking Member
House Committee on Oversight and Reform
2105 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20505

February 5, 2021

Dear Chairwoman Maloney and Ranking Member Comer,

Our most daunting local and national challenge is the ongoing coronavirus emergency response. I understand that the House Committee on Oversight and Reform will oversee budget reconciliation instructions related to \$350 billion worth of additional assistance for state and local governments as included in President Joseph Biden's recently introduced American Rescue Plan. As Mayor of the City of Fresno, California, I support these provisions and I cannot understate the importance of this sorely needed relief for state and local government partners. I am writing to ask the Committee to provide these resources directly to cities and to allow us to use any forthcoming dollars to cover our local revenue losses, thereby enabling our local government to maintain essential workers and services.

Last year, the Fresno received a \$92 million allocation from the Coronavirus Relief Fund established by the *Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act*. This CARES Act relief enabled our local government to address the needs of our residents, businesses, and community partners. The City, however, has depleted those initial dollars on public health and safety expenses. We need additional federal resources to support both our ongoing local response to the pandemic and the accompanying economic fallout. Here in California's central San Joaquin Valley, coronavirus cases, hospitalizations, and deaths rose to record levels during the latest surge. More than 90,000 Fresno County residents have contracted the disease and, sadly, more than 1,100 of our neighbors have died. For weeks, intensive care beds have been near capacity as our region grapples with the disease's rapid spread through our community.

As you work to draft this critical component for coronavirus relief, I ask that your instructions allow for direct allocations with new spending flexibility for cities of all sizes. Fresno is contending with severe fiscal pressure, through no fault of our own, while leading the front-line response. In fact, the City entered the coronavirus emergency with the only fully funded public pension system in California. Now, we are contending with an \$11.7 million shortfall during the current fiscal year and another \$28.4 million in the coming one. The pandemic is fully responsible for these budget shortfalls, and it will devastate essential jobs and services if not

addressed. Without federal aid, the budget shortfall could result in a more than 12 percent reduction in our municipal workforce – or well in excess of a hundred positions.

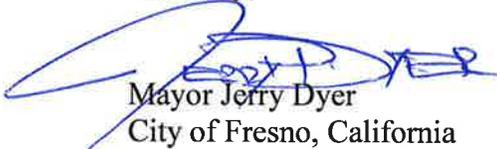
Our first responders have confronted the past year's challenges with bravery and sacrifice, and these essential workers deserve to focus on their daily work and responsibilities without the specter of a potential job loss looming on the horizon. Absent relief, Fresno would implement staff and service reductions across every department, including police and fire. The public sector nationally has already lost close to a million jobs over the past year. Simply put, this is not a fair outcome for hard-working employees who have worked tirelessly to protect the public. The United States cannot afford more avoidable job losses, which will lead to long-term unemployment.

Additionally, a lack of vaccine supply and insufficient distribution funding is hindering our ability to vaccinate our local population. Two community-based sites in Fresno were recently forced to pause vaccinations for health care workers and senior citizens, adding an additional layer of urgency to an already difficult situation. I ask that State and local funding included in the American Rescue Plan may be used flexibly for vaccine distribution and other vaccination activities. In Fresno, we hope to administer 900,000 doses in the next four months to vaccinate 450,000 people – enough to meet the herd immunity standard of a 75 percent vaccination rate for 600,000 individuals, which is the approximate population of Fresno and its immediate vicinity.

This pandemic has dramatically altered the financial reality of state and local governments across the country – including here in Fresno. I support the swift passage of commonsense legislation that will provide sufficient aid for the local governments managing this crisis on the ground so that we can maintain personnel and services during this difficult time. After nearly a year managing the crisis, cities cannot afford continued uncertainty or further delay from Washington.

Please let me know if I can provide any additional information that would be helpful to the Committee moving forward in these discussions or other matters that arise during 117th Congress. Thank you for your hard work to ensure the swift and equitable distribution of \$350 billion worth of state and local assistance nationwide to communities, including Fresno.

Sincerely,



Mayor Jerry Dyer
City of Fresno, California

CITY OF HAWTHORNE



4455 West 126th Street · Hawthorne, California 90250-4482

February 5, 2021

The Honorable Maxine Waters
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Waters:

America's economic crisis from the COVID-19 pandemic is not over. Most municipalities like the City of Hawthorne still have not received meaningful levels of federal aid. By separating, and ultimately dropping, state and local aid from the omnibus appropriations and emergency spending bill in December, Congress has injected significant uncertainty into the capability of local governments to carry out their operations, just as a third wave of COVID-19 infections threaten to spread uncontrollably.

National League of Cities' (NLC) latest revised estimate, based on the most recently available fiscal data and updated survey results, is that municipal governments are still facing a \$90 billion blow to their current year revenues.

Local elected leaders like myself have been working on the front lines of the emergency response. I've been managing resources to support the efforts of our first responders, coordinating regionally with other leaders across jurisdictional lines, enacting difficult and fiscally challenging emergency measures to slow the coronavirus epidemic, passing ordinances to limit the worst economic outcomes for residents and small businesses on the margins, and spending as necessary to protect public health and the economy in this extraordinary time.

At the same time, the still urgent, unmet need for federal aid has struck at the heart of local capacity to both carry out emergency response and participate in economic recovery. Loss of capacity is directly related to local government job losses.

Without additional aid and an appropriate, fair, and equitable allocation of this aid for all municipal and county governments, a preventable setback in household and economic stability services, and vaccination distribution, will be unavoidable.

For the next package, I ask that you adhere to the following principles for direct intervention and prevention of local government fiscal decline resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic:

- Emergency funding should be fair and appropriate for each and every local government, with no minimum population threshold for eligibility.

- Aid should be directly allocated through familiar and proven government revenue sharing programs.
- Entanglement of state and local funding should be minimized.

To be clear, communities like mine are not asking for a “bail-out” of local governments. Local governments do not expect the federal government to make up for every loss of local revenue. Rather, we are seeking an additional lifeline for local governments to put off and ultimately avoid options of last resort, including making temporary cuts permanent at a time when our communities need local services most, laying-off furloughed municipal and county employees who comprise a large share of America’s middle class, and indefinitely cancelling capital projects that will further impact local employment, business contracts and overall investment in the economy.

In other words, we are seeking federal assistance to save America’s cities and counties; and to make local leaders part of the solution to economic recovery.

Thank you for your swift action during this truly unique moment in American history. As partners working hand-in-hand both within our communities and also with the federal government and states, we are ready to continue to ensure that America emerges from this pandemic stronger than we were before.

Sincerely,



Alex Vargas
Mayor
City of Hawthorne
310.349.2910

cc. Archana Sridhar, Senior Specialist Grassroots Advocacy, NLC, sridhar@nlc.org
Jeff Kiernan, Regional Public Affairs Manager, Cal Cities, jkiernan@cacities.org
League of California Cities, SupportLocalRecovery@cacities.org



February 4, 2021

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20510

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

On behalf of the League of California Cities and the 477 cities we represent, we urge you to take swift and urgent action on comprehensive coronavirus relief legislation that includes direct, flexible funding for all cities as called for in President Biden's American Rescue Plan.

Our country's economic crisis from the pandemic is not over, and our cities are still waiting to receive meaningful levels of federal aid. By separating, and ultimately dropping, state and local aid from the omnibus appropriations and emergency spending bill in December, Congress has injected significant uncertainty into the capability of local governments to carry out their operations, just as a third wave of COVID-19 infections threaten to spread uncontrollably.

Based on the most recently available fiscal data and updated survey results from the National League of Cities, municipal governments nationwide are still facing a \$90 billion blow to their current year revenues.

For nearly a year, California cities have been on the front lines taking action to protect their residents and maintain the delivery of essential city services, despite the substantial unplanned expenses and revenue shortfalls caused by the pandemic. Cities are managing resources to support the efforts of first responders, coordinating regionally with other leaders across jurisdictional lines, enacting difficult and fiscally challenging emergency measures to slow the coronavirus epidemic, passing ordinances to limit the worst economic outcomes for residents and small businesses on the margins, and spending as necessary to protect public health and the economy in this extraordinary time.

At the same time, the still urgent, unmet need for federal aid has struck at the heart of local capacity to both carry out emergency response and participate in economic recovery. Without support, cities have been forced to cut budgets, services, and jobs. Sadly, across the state, more than 165,000 local government jobs have already been lost during the pandemic.

Without additional emergency funding and an **appropriate, fair, and equitable allocation of this aid for all cities**, counties, and states, a preventable setback to response, recovery, and vaccination distribution, will be unavoidable.

For the next package, we respectfully ask that you adhere to the following principles to reverse the fiscal shortfalls resulting from the pandemic:

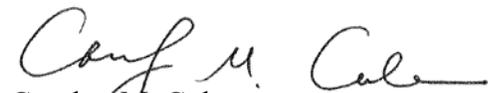
- **Emergency funding should be fair and appropriate for each and every local government, with no minimum population threshold for eligibility.**
- **Aid should be directly allocated through familiar and proven government revenue sharing programs.**
- **Entanglement of state and local funding should be minimized.**

To be clear, our cities are not asking for a “bail-out” of local governments. Rather, we are seeking an emergency lifeline so local governments can delay and ultimately avoid making temporary cuts permanent at a time when our communities need local services most, laying-off furloughed city and county employees who comprise a large share of America’s middle class, and indefinitely cancelling capital projects that will further impact economic recovery.

Ultimately, we are seeking emergency federal assistance that will ensure local leaders are part of the solution to our country’s economic recovery.

Thank you for your swift action during this truly unique moment in American history. Cities have been and will continue working hand-in-hand both within our communities and with the state and federal governments to ensure that America emerges from this pandemic stronger than we were before.

Sincerely,



Carolyn M. Coleman
Executive Director and CEO
League of California Cities

Cc: Members of the California Congressional Delegation



CITY OF OCEANSIDE

MAYOR ESTHER C. SANCHEZ
DEPUTY MAYOR RYAN KEIM
COUNCILMEMBERS
KORI JENSEN
CHRISTOPHER RODRIGUEZ
PETER WEISS

Oceanside COVID-19 Impacts

Background: As of January 30, 2021, 10,724 Oceanside residents have tested positive for COVID-19, approximately 6% of our total population. Of those, approximately 426 have been hospitalized with 58 admitted to the ICU, and 110 residents have lost their lives.

Among city staff, we have had 121 positive cases as of February 2, 2021, almost 11% of our workforce. Five employees have been hospitalized to date, including two currently hospitalized. As of 1/9/21, 356 employees have used 23,591 hours of paid emergency leave for quarantine, isolation or childcare issues, which represents lost productivity equivalent to 11.34 full time employees over one year (FTE). Additional City employees have been re-directed from their typical duties to provide COVID-19 services to the community, and the City instituted a hiring freeze in order to address budget shortfalls. **As a result, approximately 16.5% of the City's positions are currently vacant, which impairs the City's ability to effectively serve our residents and puts additional stress on current employees.**

Oceanside's hospitality sector has experienced the biggest economic impacts from COVID-19, including restaurants and hotels, along with personal services businesses such as gyms, hair salons, exercise studios, barbershops, nail salons and the like.

City Revenue Impacts: Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT). TOT is the tax paid by persons who stay at lodging facilities (hotels, motels and short-term rentals) for less than 30 days. TOT revenue helps pay for public safety, lifeguards and beach cleaning, and general maintenance of facilities used by these visitors. Before the pandemic hit, we expected \$8.34M in TOT for FY 19/20, and \$8.9M for FY 20/21. Actual revenues for FY 19/20 were \$7.4M and our revised projection for FY 20/21 is \$5.9M. Our 5-year total projection for FY 20/21 through FY 24/25 was \$56.21M, we are now projecting \$39.34M for this time period, a reduction of \$16.87M.

The City has also seen revenue impacts in other areas including parking, lease revenue, business licenses, and permits.

Total revenues. Our 5-year total projection for FY 20/21 through FY 24/25 was \$886M, we are now projecting \$866M for this time period, a reduction of \$20M.

City Expenses: Oceanside has used local funds to provide direct assistance to our community. This includes the following:

- **\$876,746 from the City's infrastructure reserves to fund and operate food programs** to assist needy residents. Staff has prepared FEMA reimbursement claims for these programs but until those funds are received, a process which usually takes multiple years, **these funds are not available for their intended purpose of repairing the City's deteriorating infrastructure.**
- **\$750,000 from the City's reserves to fund a business *grant* program** to assist local businesses mandated by government action or decree to close or significantly alter their business activity due to COVID-19.
- **\$450,000 from the City's reserves to fund business *loan* program** to assist local businesses mandated by government action or decree to close or significantly alter their business activity due to COVID-19. This program provides very low interest loans with payments deferred until January 2022.

In addition, the City continues to accrue costs to comply with the COVID-19 Health Orders such as enhanced cleaning and sanitizing of public spaces, temporary staff to serve as **the City's Designated Infection Control Officer (DICO) to screen and monitor employees** for COVID-19 illness, ongoing public information to advise residents of Health Order requirements and provide factual information about COVID-19 including testing and vaccination resources, qualified City staff who are assisting with the County vaccination program including visiting long term care facilities in the City, and responding to COVID-19 related calls for service. Costs incurred prior to October 31, 2020 were reimbursed from CARES Act allocations that the City received from the County and State governments, however these costs have continued and the City has approximately \$1.3M in additional unreimbursed expenses as of 2/1/2021.

In summary, the City of Oceanside has at least \$2.93M in unreimbursed expenses that are eligible for Federal funding under the prior CARES Act guidance, and the City continues to incur additional eligible expenses.

Contacts:

Charmayne Anderson, The Ferguson Group, (202) 261-6016, canderson@tfgnet.com
Deanna Lorson, City Manager, (760) 435-3055, dlorson@oceansideca.org



February 5, 2021

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

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

We write today as the duly elected officials of the fifth-most populous County in the United States representing more than 3.3 million people to advocate for the passage of additional funding for state and local governments as well as vaccine funding in the next COVID-19 relief bill.

We have been working at the county and municipal levels as partners to rebuild the economy and streamline vaccine rollouts. Despite experiencing historic budget shortfalls, we continue to manage mounting costs and increasing demands to protect our residents. Previous federal legislation responding to COVID-19 provided important support, yet none allowed for the replacement of billions of lost revenues due to COVID-19.

Amid caring for coronavirus patients, the County has begun vaccinating residents age 65 and older. However, our County is quickly going through our vaccine supply. To successfully reach our goal of at least 30,000 vaccinations a day and accommodate for our new vaccine "super sites," our County desperately needs increased quantities of the vaccine. We will not overcome this virus without a vigorous vaccine program, which requires increased funding.

As Congress prepares its priorities for the early months of 2021, leaders in Congress and the Executive Branch have made it clear COVID-19 recovery is the foremost priority. The most impactful measure Congress can take to stabilize our COVID-19 situation and encourage economic revival is to provide aid to local governments. We are urging Congress to:

- Provide direct aid to local governments equally divided between cities and counties. Please do not place states in a position of intermediary in this aid.
- Provide maximum flexibility. Financial struggles of local governments in their COVID-19 responses vary in scope. Congress should ensure the direct aid can cover the widest set of eligible activities, including forgone revenue.

- Provide a robust amount of aid. Congress should appropriate additional funds on the order of magnitude larger than the \$150 billion provided in the Coronavirus Relief Fund in March.
- Establish no minimum population. In prior COVID relief legislation, Congress provided direct aid to communities with a minimum population of 500,000 and 200,000. We urge Congress to make the funding available without a statutory minimum population.

As proposed, President Biden’s COVID relief package addresses a number of our concerns as it relates to state and local government aid: (1) it provides \$350 billion in emergency aid to state and local governments; (2) it allocates \$20 billion towards a national vaccination program; and (3) it provides \$130 billion to help our K-12 schools reopen. This package would keep public workers employed, increase vaccine distribution, expand virus testing, and reopen schools. President Biden recognizes the urgency of this moment and the need to support counties across the U.S.

We are also encouraged by the President’s recognition of the need for the federal government to reimburse local governments for coronavirus-related expenses, as indicated by his recent executive action to increase the Federal Emergency Management Agency Public Assistance cost share to 100 percent. If the federal government expands staffing for vaccines, the County and all its contained cities stand ready to offer our support of increased staff – as long as the federal government will reimburse the cost.

Local governments have been on the front lines of this crisis. We implore you to prioritize the passage of additional funding for state and local governments and vaccine programs. We look forward to continuing to work with you to address our concerns while advancing the passage of the next COVID-relief package.

Sincerely,

ORANGE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

First District Supervisor Andrew Do
Chairman

Fourth District Supervisor Doug Chaffee
Vice Chairman

Third District Supervisor Donald P.
Wagner

Fifth District Supervisor Lisa Bartlett

ORANGE COUNTY MAYORS:

Aliso Viejo Mayor Tiffany Ackley	Laguna Woods Mayor Shari L. Horne
Anaheim Mayor Harry Sidhu	Lake Forest Mayor Scott Voigts
Brea Mayor Steve Vargas	Los Alamitos Mayor Mark A. Chirco
Buena Park Mayor Connor Traut	Mission Viejo Mayor Trish Kelley
Costa Mesa Mayor Katrina Foley	Newport Beach Mayor Brad Avery

Cypress Mayor Jon Peat
Dana Point Mayor Joe Muller
Fountain Valley Mayor Michael Vo
Fullerton Mayor Bruce Whitaker
Garden Grove Mayor Steven R. Jones
Huntington Beach Mayor Kim Carr
Irvine Mayor Farrah Khan
La Habra Mayor Rose Espinoza
La Palma Mayor Nitesh P. Patel
Laguna Beach Mayor Bob Whalen
Laguna Hills Mayor Erica Pezold
Laguna Niguel Mayor Fred Minagar

Orange Mayor Mark A. Murphy
Placentia Mayor Craig S. Green
Rancho Santa Margarita Mayor L. Anthony Beall
San Clemente Mayor Kathleen Ward
San Juan Capistrano Mayor John Taylor
Santa Ana Mayor Vicente Sarmiento
Seal Beach Mayor Joe Kalmick
Stanton Mayor David J. Shawver
Tustin Mayor Letitia Clark
Villa Park Mayor Crystal Miles
Westminster Mayor Tri Ta
Yorba Linda Mayor Peggy Huang



February 5, 2021

The Honorable Congressman DeSalinier
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative DeSalinier:

America's economic crisis from the COVID-19 pandemic is not over. Most municipalities like the City of Orinda still have not received meaningful levels of federal aid. By separating, and ultimately dropping, state and local aid from the omnibus appropriations and emergency spending bill in December, Congress has injected significant uncertainty into the capability of local governments to carry out their operations, just as a third wave of COVID-19 infections threaten to spread uncontrollably.

National League of Cities' (NLC) latest revised estimate, based on the most recently available fiscal data and updated survey results, is that municipal governments are still facing a \$90 billion blow to their current year revenues.

Local elected leaders like myself have been working on the front lines of the emergency response. I've been managing resources to support the efforts of our first responders, coordinating regionally with other leaders across jurisdictional lines, enacting difficult and fiscally challenging emergency measures to slow the coronavirus epidemic, passing ordinances to limit the worst economic outcomes for residents and small businesses on the margins, and spending as necessary to protect public health and the economy in this extraordinary time.

At the same time, the still urgent, unmet need for federal aid has struck at the heart of local capacity to both carry out emergency response and participate in economic recovery. Loss of capacity is directly related to local government job losses.

Without additional aid and an appropriate, fair, and equitable allocation of this aid for all municipal and county governments, a preventable setback in household and economic stability services, and vaccination distribution, will be unavoidable.

For the next package, I ask that you adhere to the following principles for direct intervention and prevention of local government fiscal decline resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic:

- **Emergency funding should be fair and appropriate for each and every local government, with no minimum population threshold for eligibility.**
- **Aid should be directly allocated through familiar and proven government revenue sharing programs.**

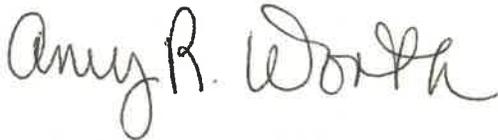
- **Entanglement of state and local funding should be minimized.**

To be clear, communities like mine are not asking for a “bail-out” of local governments. Local governments do not expect the federal government to make up for every loss of local revenue. Rather, we are seeking an additional lifeline for local governments to put off and ultimately avoid options of last resort, including making temporary cuts permanent at a time when our communities need local services most, laying-off furloughed municipal and county employees who comprise a large share of America’s middle class, and indefinitely cancelling capital projects that will further impact local employment, business contracts and overall investment in the economy.

In other words, we are seeking federal assistance to save America’s cities and counties; and to make local leaders part of the solution to economic recovery.

Thank you for your swift action during this truly unique moment in American history. As partners working hand-in-hand both within our communities and also with the federal government and states, we are ready to continue to ensure that America emerges from this pandemic stronger than we were before.

Sincerely,



Amy Worth
Mayor
City of Orinda

cc. Archana Sridhar, Senior Specialist Grassroots Advocacy, NLC, sridhar@nlc.org
Sam Caygill, East Bay Division, League of California Cities, scaygill@cacities.org
League of California Cities, SupportLocalRecovery@cacities.org



City of
San Bernardino

Office of the Mayor | John Valdivia

February 4, 2021

The Honorable Mark DeSaulnier
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative DeSaulnier:

America's economic crisis from the COVID-19 pandemic is not over. Most municipalities like the City of San Bernardino still have not received meaningful levels of federal aid. By separating, and ultimately dropping, state and local aid from the omnibus appropriations and emergency spending bill in December, Congress has injected significant uncertainty into the capability of local governments to carry out their operations, just as a third wave of COVID-19 infections threaten to spread uncontrollably.

National League of Cities' (NLC) latest revised estimate, based on the most recently available fiscal data and updated survey results, is that municipal governments are still facing a \$90 billion blow to their current year revenues.

Local elected leaders like myself have been working on the front lines of the emergency response. I've been managing resources to support the efforts of our first responders, coordinating regionally with other leaders across jurisdictional lines, enacting difficult and fiscally challenging emergency measures to slow the coronavirus epidemic, passing ordinances to limit the worst economic outcomes for residents and small businesses on the margins, and spending as necessary to protect public health and the economy in this extraordinary time.

At the same time, the still urgent, unmet need for federal aid has struck at the heart of local capacity to both carry out emergency response and participate in economic recovery. Loss of capacity is directly related to local government job losses. Without additional aid and an appropriate, fair, and equitable allocation of this aid for all municipal and county governments, a preventable setback in household and economic stability services, and vaccination distribution, will be unavoidable.

For the next package, I ask that you adhere to the following principles for direct intervention and prevention of local government fiscal decline resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic:

- **Emergency funding should be fair and appropriate for each and every local government, with no minimum population threshold for eligibility.**
- **Aid should be directly allocated through familiar and proven government revenue sharing programs.**
- **Entanglement of state and local funding should be minimized.**

To be clear, communities like mine are not asking for a “bail-out” of local governments. Local governments do not expect the federal government to make up for every loss of local revenue. Rather, we are seeking an additional lifeline for local governments to put off and ultimately avoid options of last resort, including making temporary cuts permanent at a time when our communities need local services most, laying-off furloughed municipal and county employees who comprise a large share of America’s middle class, and indefinitely cancelling capital projects that will further impact local employment, business contracts and overall investment in the economy.

In other words, we are seeking federal assistance to save America’s cities and counties; and to make local leaders part of the solution to economic recovery.

Thank you for your swift action during this truly unique moment in American history. As partners working hand-in-hand both within our communities and also with the federal government and states, we are ready to continue to ensure that America emerges from this pandemic stronger than we were before.

Sincerely,



John Valdivia
Mayor
City of San Bernardino

cc. Archana Sridhar, Senior Specialist Grassroots Advocacy, NLC, sridhar@nlc.org
Your League Regional Public Affairs Manager, lmorales@cacities.org
League of California Cities, SupportLocalRecovery@cacities.org



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

TODD GLORIA

MAYOR

February 5th, 2021

Oversight and Reform Committee
United States House of Representatives
2157 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C 20515

Re: Usage of Coronavirus Relief Funds

Dear Chairwoman Maloney:

The City of San Diego (City) has fully expended or obligated the \$248 million received via the CARES ACT-Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF). Since March 2020, CRF funds have aided the City in meeting the evolving challenges presented by the pandemic by responding to and mitigating the effects of COVID-19. Importantly, CRF aided the City in continuing to deliver core municipal services while under stay-at-home orders, purchase critical personal protective equipment, provide shelter and critical services to thousands of individuals within a highly vulnerable homeless population. Further, the City used CRF to deploy assistance to the COVID-19-impacted community through programs including small business relief grants, rental assistance, childcare vouchers for impacted families, and technical assistance to small, economically disadvantaged businesses.

The following includes information and outcomes for a few the key CRF-funded community programs:

- Outcomes for Emergency Rental Assistance (\$9.7M) in FY2020 and FY2021 include 3,673 Households Served.
- Outcomes for Emergency Childcare Voucher Program (\$5M) in FY2020 and FY2021 include 1,752 Families Served; 2,742 Children Served; and 1,118 Businesses Served.
- Outcomes for Small Business Relief Fund (\$12.1M) in FY2020 and FY2021 include 1,857 businesses, impacting 7,180 jobs and 51% of the funds were distributed to businesses located in Low-to-moderate income areas, Opportunity Zones, Promise Zone, and Hardest Hit Zip Codes based on unemployment rates.

- Outcomes for Small Business Relief for small and disadvantaged businesses. (\$500K) 244 grants awarded to small and disadvantaged businesses in the City of San Diego. See this link for an example of one illustrative success story: <https://youtu.be/urPXr0QaRMo>
- Outcomes for Outreach and Technical Assistance (\$200K) support for small, economically disadvantaged, and at-risk businesses during the COVID-19 pandemic through specialized outreach and technical assistance to help these small businesses obtain local grants, identify and apply for other financial resources or available benefits through local, state, or federal agencies, comply with funding requirements, and improve financial resilience. 6,860 clients served, of which: 556 Black Owned, 561 Asian Pacific Islander Owned, 1,651 Latino Owned and 3,035 Woman Owned.

CRF monies were essential in helping the City and its partners provide assistance to its most vulnerable residents through **Operation Shelter to Home** (\$27M). Operation Shelter to Home launched on April 1st by moving individuals already in shelters into the San Diego Convention Center to allow for proper physical distancing to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. Because the effects of the pandemic were creating staffing challenges at the City's various shelters, the program centralized staff in one place to ensure personnel could be efficient even with limited numbers. The operation enabled the City and its partners to provide shelter, hygiene, nutrition, medical, counseling, frequent COVID-19 testing, and currently, vaccines to eligible groups based on State and County guidelines. One of the core missions of Operation Shelter to Home is to find permanent housing for individuals. So far, the agencies have housed more than 1,186 individuals and 43 families during the pandemic with more than 200 others in the process of finding a permanent or longer-term housing solution.

The following includes a few of the key essential CRF expenditures for City personnel, services, and equipment:

- \$8.3M in critical IT infrastructure and equipment to allow City services to be delivered remotely and with minimal interruption to residents;
- \$3.2M in necessary personal protective equipment for on-the-line City employees;
- \$7.1M in personnel expenses for City staff who were wholly or substantially redeployed to respond to and mitigate the spread of COVID-19;
- \$135M in first responder personnel eligible expenses necessary to respond to and mitigate the spread of COVID-19

Going forward, the COVID-19 pandemic is anticipated to continue to significantly impact the City of San Diego economy and revenue. The City is projected to lose over \$280 million in City general fund revenue, due to lost sales and hotel taxes, through the end of fiscal year 2021. This lost revenue represents over 15 percent of the City's annual general fund budget and is roughly the size of the City's Fire Department's budget. In addition to the significant losses in the current fiscal year, the City is projecting a \$154 million budget deficit for fiscal year 2022 with

additional triple-digit deficit margins in fiscal year 2023 and fiscal year 2024. This relief is essential to provide our local governments the resources necessary to maintain neighborhood services, preserve critical public safety and public workforce jobs, and allow us to make community investments needed to build our cities back better in the wake of the pandemic.

Sincerely,



Todd Gloria
Mayor
City of San Diego, California

CC:

Sen. Dianne Feinstein
Sen. Alex Padilla
Rep. Scott Peters
Rep. Mike Levin
Rep. Sara Jacobs
Rep. Juan Vargas



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

TODD GLORIA

MAYOR

February 4, 2021

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
Majority Leader
Washington, D.C 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
Washington, D.C 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
Washington, D.C 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
Washington, D.C 20515

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

As the Mayor of America's eighth largest city, I am writing to you today to outline some of our City's core priorities for the next COVID-19 relief package. The Biden administration's *American Rescue Plan* is strong proposal for Congress to consider for providing our cities the support necessary to contain the virus, help us speed up vaccine dissemination, aid small businesses in their recovery, and provide our communities with flexible fiscal relief. As you deliberate over the details of this relief package, I urge you to take swift action to ensure our communities get the much-needed assistance we need.

Our City's top priority, as outlined in the President's proposal, is the inclusion of at least \$350 billion in direct, flexible funding for local governments. Currently, the City of San Diego, due to pandemic related economic impacts, is projecting to lose over \$280 million in City general fund revenue, due to lost sales and hotel taxes, through the end of fiscal year 2021. This represents over 15 percent of the City's annual general fund budget and is roughly the size of the City's Fire Department's budget. The City's upcoming budget is now facing a \$154 million-dollar budget deficit for fiscal year 2022 and additional triple-digit deficit margins in fiscal year 2023 and fiscal year 2024. This relief is essential to provide our local governments the resources necessary to maintain neighborhood services, preserve critical public safety and public workforce jobs, and allow us to make community investments needed to build our cities back better in the wake of the pandemic. In addition to appropriating this direct relief, Congress must ensure a few key provisions relating to this including:

- Providing an equitable split of funds between states and cities to ensure our local governments get their fair share of funding.

- Ensuring the funding appropriated is flexible for what it can be used for, including being allowed for revenue replacement
- Using a formula like the one used in last year's *H.R. 6800 The HEROES Act*
- Allowing our cities ample time to spend these funds to ensure we can utilize these funds efficiently and provide the flexibility to react to ever changing fiscal environments.

In addition, to direct fiscal relief this package must be comprehensive in nature and include provisions to address the many dimensions of how this pandemic has impacted our communities. I urge you to include the following priorities in a final relief package:

- **Funding for Vaccine Dissemination:** Congress should appropriate at least an additional \$20 billion dollars to help with vaccine dissemination to help our communities vaccinate everyone including our undocumented populations and make cities eligible to receive this funding.
- **Allow Cities to be Direct Vaccine Recipients:** This legislation should include language to allow cities to be direct vaccine recipients so we can help speed up our vaccination efforts.
- **Funding for Testing, Tracing, and Surveillance:** Congress should appropriate at least \$50 billion dollars in a massive expansion of testing, providing funds for the purchase of rapid tests, investments to expand lab capacity, and support to help cities implement regular testing protocols.
- **Extend the Federal Eviction Moratorium:** To prevent the spread of COVID-19 and help keep millions of renters stably housed, Congress should extend and improve the federal eviction moratorium issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Congress should extend the moratorium throughout the duration of the federal public health emergency.
- **Expanded Housing Voucher Funding:** Congress should appropriate at least \$28 billion dollars to fund 500,000 new Housing Choice Vouchers, to assure housing stability, which will help curtail homelessness and lead to universal housing assistance.
- **Move Housing Vouchers from Discretionary to Mandatory Funding:** Congress should make housing vouchers universal and move this from discretionary funding to mandatory funding program for all eligible households.
- **Additional Emergency Rental and Utility Assistance:** Congress should appropriate at least an additional \$30 billion dollars to the Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) to help provide additional rental, utility, and legal assistance to renters and landlords. This funding should be flexible and be allowed to help with a larger array of utilities including broadband. In addition, the dissemination of appropriated funding should be expediated and have an application process that is efficient and not cumbersome.
- **Funding for Emergency Solutions Grants:** Congress should appropriate at least \$8 billion dollars in Emergency Solutions Grants to help prevent and respond to outbreaks among people experiencing homelessness.
- **Small Business Relief Funding:** Congress should appropriate at least an additional \$15 billion dollars in flexible grants to help our small businesses recover. Any small business assistance should prioritize smaller, minority-owned businesses and utilize community

bank. Dissemination of appropriated funding should be expediated and have an application process that is efficient and not cumbersome.

Your quick action on additional COVID-19 relief is a crucial step to making meaningful progress in one of the most challenging moments in our country's history. My administration is eager to work with you to make this relief package a reality.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Todd Gloria". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "T" and a long, sweeping underline.

Todd Gloria
Mayor
City of San Diego

February 5, 2021



E-TRANSMITTAL/U.S. REGULAR MAIL

The Honorable Mark De Saulnier
U.S. House of Representatives (11th District)
503 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

RE: COVID-19 FEDERAL ECONOMIC STIMULUS FOR CITIES

Dear Representative De Saulnier:

America's economic crisis from the COVID-19 pandemic is not over.

Most municipalities, like the City of San Pablo, still have not received meaningful levels of federal aid. By separating, and ultimately dropping, state and local aid from the federal omnibus appropriations and emergency spending bill in December 2020, the U.S. Congress has injected significant uncertainty into the capability of local governments to carry out their operations, just as a third wave of COVID-19 infections threaten to spread uncontrollably.

In the San Pablo community within the 11th District, some of the highest active cases (nearly 15,000 to date) of COVID-19 infections per capita exist in the East Bay region.

See attached link: <https://www.coronavirus.cchealth.org/overview>

National League of Cities' (NLC) latest revised estimate, based on the most recently available fiscal data and updated survey results, is that municipal governments are still facing a \$90 billion blow to their current year revenues.

Local elected leaders like myself have been working on the front lines of the emergency response. I've been managing resources to support the efforts of our first responders, coordinating regionally with other leaders across jurisdictional lines, enacting difficult and fiscally challenging emergency measures to slow the coronavirus epidemic, passing ordinances to limit the worst economic outcomes for residents and small businesses on the margins, and spending as necessary to protect public health and the economy in this extraordinary time.

At the same time, the still urgent, unmet need for federal aid has struck at the heart of local capacity to both carry out emergency response and participate in economic recovery. Loss of capacity is directly related to local government job losses.

In FY 2020/21, the City of San Pablo adopted a \$41.1M GF Budget with a (20%) revenue loss related to COVID-19 fiscal impacts which required the City to use \$5M in Catastrophic Reserves, 10% cuts in services/supplies, and seek labor concessions from employee labor groups to balance its budget this year. The one-time use of the City's reserves must be replenished within 3 years per the City's adopted fiscal policies.

Unfortunately, this unforeseen pandemic and unfortunate fiscal scenario cannot bear repeating for our City. Additionally, the City's financial condition will be exacerbated for years to come unless ample federal COVID-19 funding is provided to shore up the City's revenue loss and pay off these reserve obligations to sustain critical City services (i.e. First Responders, Police, Fire) in a community with significant underinsured or non-insured population, with limited or no access to medical care during the COVID-19 pandemic crisis.

Without additional federal aid and an appropriate, fair, and equitable allocation of this aid for all municipal and county governments, a preventable setback in household and economic stability services, and vaccination distribution, will be unavoidable.

For the next package, I ask that you adhere to the following principles for direct intervention and prevention of local government fiscal decline resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic:

- **Emergency funding should be fair and appropriate for each and every local government, with no minimum population threshold for eligibility.**
- **Aid should be directly allocated through familiar and proven government revenue sharing programs.**
- **Entanglement of state and local funding should be minimized.**

To be clear, communities like mine are not asking for a "bail-out" of local governments. Local governments do not expect the federal government to make up for every loss of local revenue. Rather, we are seeking an additional lifeline for local governments to put off and ultimately avoid options of last resort, including making temporary cuts permanent at a time when our communities need local services most, laying-off furloughed municipal and county employees who comprise a large share of America's middle class, and indefinitely cancelling capital projects that will further impact local employment, business contracts and overall investment in the economy.

In other words, we are seeking federal assistance to save America's cities and counties; and to make local leaders part of the solution to economic recovery.

As partners working hand-in-hand both within our communities and also with the federal government and states, we are ready to continue to ensure that America emerges from this pandemic stronger than we were before.

The Honorable Mark De Saulnier
U.S. House of Representatives (11th District)
Page 3

Thank you in advance for your swift action during this truly unique moment in American history.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Elizabeth Pabon-Alvarado". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "E".

Elizabeth Pabon-Alvarado, Mayor
City of San Pablo

cc. Archana Sridhar, Senior Specialist Grassroots Advocacy, NLC, sridhar@nlc.org
Sam Caygill, East Bay Division, League of California Cities, scaygill@cacities.org
League of California Cities, SupportLocalRecovery@cacities.org



CITY OF RANCHO SANTA MARGARITA

22112 El Paseo • Rancho Santa Margarita • California 92688-2824
949.635.1800 • fax 949.635.1840 • www.cityofrsm.org

February 4, 2021

The Honorable Katie Porter
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Porter:

The City of Rancho Santa Margarita, like most municipalities, still have not received meaningful levels of federal aid to address the severe economic crisis resulting from the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. By separating, and ultimately dropping, state and local aid from the omnibus appropriations and emergency spending bill in December, Congress has injected significant uncertainty into local governments' capability to carry out their operations as a third wave of COVID-19 infections loom.

National League of Cities' (NLC) latest revised estimate, based on the most recently available fiscal data and updated survey results, is that municipal governments are still facing a \$90 billion blow to their current year revenues.

Local elected leaders like myself have been working on the front lines of the emergency response. From managing resources to support first responders, coordinating regionally with leaders across jurisdictional lines, enacting emergency measures, passing ordinances to limit the worst economic outcomes for residents and small businesses, the City of Rancho Santa Margarita has spent as necessary to protect public health and the economy in this extraordinary time.

The urgent, unmet need for federal aid has struck at the heart of local capacity to conduct emergency response and participate in economic recovery. Loss of capacity is directly related to local government job losses. Without additional appropriate, fair, and equitable aid for all municipal and county governments, a preventable setback in household and economic stability services, and vaccination distribution, will be unavoidable.

For the next package, I ask that you adhere to the following principles for direct intervention and prevention of local government fiscal decline resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic:

- **Emergency funding should be fair and appropriate for each and every local government, with no minimum population threshold for eligibility.**
- **Aid should be directly allocated through familiar and proven government revenue sharing programs.**

Mayor
L. Anthony Beall

Mayor Pro Tempore
Anne D. Figueroa

Council Member
Carol A. Gamble

Council Member
Jerry Holloway

Council Member
Bradley J. McGirr

City Manager
Jennifer M. Cervantez

- **Entanglement of state and local funding should be minimized.**

To be clear, communities like mine are not asking for a "bail-out." Local governments do not expect the federal government to make up for every loss of local revenue. Instead, we seek an additional lifeline for local governments to put off and ultimately avoid last resort options, including making temporary cuts permanent at a time when our communities rely on local services more than ever. Indefinitely canceling capital projects and business contracts will further impact local jobs and the economy. Federal assistance is needed to save America's cities and counties and to make local leaders part of the solution to economic recovery.

We ask for your swift action during this unique moment in American history as we pursue economic recovery from COVID-19.

Sincerely,



L. Anthony Beall
Mayor
City of Rancho Santa Margarita

cc. Archana Sridhar, Senior Specialist Grassroots Advocacy, NLC, sridhar@nlc.org
Tony Cardenas, League Regional Public Affairs Manager (via email)
tcardenas@cacities.org
League of California Cities, SupportLocalRecovery@cacities.org



February 5, 2021

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
United States Senate
331 Senate Hart Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Alex Padilla
United States Senate
B03 Senate Russell Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mike Thompson
United States House of Representatives
268 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jared Huffman
United States House of Representatives
1527 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senator Feinstein, Senator Padilla, Congressman Thompson and Congressman Huffman:

On behalf of the residents of Santa Rosa, I want to thank you for your continued support and your work to ensure that our community has the resources we need to address the devastating impacts of COVID-19 and mitigate against community spread. I am writing today to express our support for President Biden's American Rescue Plan and highlight the COVID-19 relief priorities included in the City of Santa Rosa's 2021 Federal Platform, adopted by the City Council on February 2.

The platform, among other things, highlights the City's priorities for the next COVID relief package: including support for direct and flexible assistance to local governments to offset COVID-related revenue losses, expansion of paid family medical leave benefits, small business assistance, rental and water utility assistance to help vulnerable City residents facing evictions, homelessness, and paying off utility payments.

As you know, Santa Rosa's fire, police, water, wastewater services, and other essential workers have been working around the clock to protect our citizens and deliver essential services during the pandemic. While the City continues to provide these and other essential services, our revenues have decreased substantially due to shuttered businesses and record-high unemployment.

While the *Omnibus and COVID Relief and Response Act of 2020* (PL 116-260) bill does not provide direct assistance to local governments, it does include critical funding that will help our community recover, like rental and water utility assistance. The bill provided \$25 billion in rental assistance directly to States and to units of local governments with population at and above 200,000. The City's population, according to [Census 2019 Vintage data](#), is 176,753. The City supports and respectfully requests that Congress provide additional, direct rental assistance funding to units of local government that did not receive a direct allocation and/or reduce the population threshold to ensure that more communities receive direct rental assistance.

Office of the Mayor
City of Santa Rosa
100 Santa Rosa Avenue, room 10
Santa Rosa, CA 95404

In addition, the President's American Rescue plan also requests \$5 billion for homeless assistance and \$5 billion for energy and water utility assistance, which the City supports, and respectfully asks that Congress allocate that funding directly to communities, without regard to population size, to help the City's most vulnerable residents.

This funding, in conjunction with direct assistance to local governments, is critical to helping the City recover from the economic impacts of COVID-19. In the current fiscal year alone, COVID-19 expenditure impacts to our City already total over \$7 million and include costs for non-congregate sheltering for our most vulnerable unsheltered community members and the costs for equipment and PPE necessary to protect our frontline essential City workers. Additionally, the City is forecasting an \$18 million revenue shortfall for FY 2020-21. The revenue loss comes primarily from reductions in sales, hotel, and business license taxes with additional lost revenue due to a moratorium on certain City fees and citations. We are estimating \$56M of COVID-19 revenue losses from FY20 to FY25.

Your leadership has been critical to helping our residents and businesses throughout this unprecedented pandemic and economic crisis. We look forward to continuing to work with you, your colleagues and the new Administration to secure emergency COVID-19 fiscal assistance that will help our community recover from the devastating impacts of COVID-19.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Chris Rogers". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

CHRIS ROGERS
Mayor

c:
Santa Rosa City Council
Senator Mike McGuire
Assembly Member Jim Wood
Assembly Member Marc Levine
Senator Bill Dodd
Assembly Member Cecilia Aguiar-Curry
Nancy Hall Bennett - League of California Cities
Kyriakos Pagonis, MMO Partners
David Jones, Emanuels Jones & Associates

Claudia Bill-de la Peña
Mayor

February 4, 2021

The Honorable Julia Brownley
United States House of Representatives
1019 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Via Email

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
United States Senate
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Via Email

The Honorable Alex Padilla
United States Senate
Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Via Email

The Honorable Ro Khanna
The Honorable Katie Porter
The Honorable Mark DeSaulnier
The Honorable Jimmy Gomez
California Delegation to House Oversight Committee
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Via Email

RE: SUPPORT FOR STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Honorable Congresswoman Brownley; Senators Feinstein and Padilla; and
Members of the House Oversight Committee:

On behalf of the City of Thousand Oaks, I urge you to include critical support for states and local governments in the final aid package. America's economic crisis from the COVID-19 pandemic is not over. Most municipalities like the City of Thousand Oaks still have not received meaningful levels of federal aid. By separating, and ultimately dropping, state and local aid from the omnibus appropriations and emergency spending bill in December, Congress has created significant uncertainty of local governments to carry out their operations, just as a third wave of COVID-19 infections threaten to spread uncontrollably.

National League of Cities' (NLC) latest revised estimate, based on the most recently available fiscal data and updated survey results, is that municipal governments are still facing a \$90 billion blow to their current year revenues.

Local elected leaders like myself have been working on the front lines of the emergency response. The Thousand Oaks City Council has been managing resources to support the efforts of our first responders, coordinating regionally with other leaders across jurisdictional lines, enacting difficult and fiscally challenging emergency measures to slow the coronavirus epidemic, passing ordinances to limit the worst economic outcomes for residents and small businesses on the margins, and spending as necessary to protect public health and the economy in this extraordinary time.

At the same time, the still urgent, unmet need for federal aid has struck at the heart of local capacity to both carry out emergency response and participate in economic recovery. Loss of capacity is directly related to local government job losses and service reductions.

Cities rely on local sales tax, including transit occupancy tax, fees and interest earnings to pay for their essential workforce and support services such as public safety, parks and recreation, water, wastewater, refuse disposal, recycling and infrastructure maintenance. The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the local economy has severely decreased local generated revenue sources leaving cities scrambling to cover losses.

For the City of Thousand Oaks, our revenue is estimated to **decline by more than \$11 million** for the 2020-21 fiscal year. The pandemic has also had additional impact to our General Fund budget. The City has had to provide local pandemic response and relief efforts without any reimbursements from the state. In fact, State's share of CARES Act funding to the City was only \$1.5 million - far below than what the City spent in providing pandemic support. Thousand Oaks assisted with establishing local testing sites, coordinated business support programs, offered rental assistance programs, increased code enforcement and now are supporting local vaccine distribution.

To hedge revenue shortfalls and budget reductions, the Thousand Oaks City Council took drastic measures by postponing capital projects, approving furloughs and early retirement incentives to address current losses. Without additional aid and an appropriate, fair, and equitable allocation aid for all municipal and county governments, additional job losses will be unavoidable as well as service reductions that the community relies on are inevitable.

For the next package, I ask that you adhere to the following principles for direct intervention and prevention of local government fiscal decline resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic:



- **Emergency funding should be fair and appropriate for each and every local government, with no minimum population threshold for eligibility.**
- **Aid should be directly allocated through familiar and proven government revenue sharing programs.**
- **Entanglement of state and local funding should be minimized.**

To be clear, communities like mine are not asking for a “bailout” of local governments. Local governments do not expect the federal government to make up for every loss of local revenue. Rather, we are seeking an additional lifeline for local governments to put off and ultimately avoid options of last resort, including making temporary cuts permanent at a time when our communities need local services most, laying off furloughed municipal employees who comprise a large share of America’s middle class, and indefinitely cancelling capital projects that will further impact local employment, business contracts and overall investment in the economy.

We simply are seeking federal assistance to **save America’s cities and counties**; and to make local leaders part of the solution to economic recovery.

Thank you for your swift action during this truly unique moment in American history. As partners working hand-in-hand both within our communities and also with the federal government and states, we are ready to continue to ensure that America emerges from this pandemic stronger than we were before.

The City of Thousand Oaks is grateful for your continued support in assuring all cities have the resources they need to serve their communities during this crisis.

Sincerely,



Claudia Bill-de la Peña
Mayor

CC: National League of Cities- sridhar@nlc.org
James Crum, Van Scoyoc & Associates - jcrum@vasdc.com
cno:660-40/COVID-19 Relief Reconciliation Bill/ml





CITY OF WEED

550 Main Street
P. O. Box 470
Weed, CA 96094
(530) 938-5020
ci.weed.ca.us

February 4, 2021

The Honorable Mark DeSaulnier
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative DeSaulnier:

America's economic crisis from the COVID-19 pandemic is not over. Most municipalities like the City of Weed, CA still have not received meaningful levels of federal aid. By separating, and ultimately dropping, state and local aid from the omnibus appropriations and emergency spending bill in December, Congress has injected significant uncertainty into the capability of local governments to carry out their operations, just as a third wave of COVID-19 infections threaten to spread uncontrollably.

National League of Cities' (NLC) latest revised estimate, based on the most recently available fiscal data and updated survey results, is that municipal governments are still facing a \$90 billion blow to their current year revenues.

Local leaders like myself have been working on the front lines of the emergency response. I've been managing resources to support the efforts of our first responders, coordinating regionally with other leaders across jurisdictional lines, enacting difficult and fiscally challenging emergency measures to slow the coronavirus epidemic, passing ordinances to limit the worst economic outcomes for residents and small businesses on the margins, and spending as necessary to protect public health and the economy in this extraordinary time.

At the same time, the still urgent, unmet need for federal aid has struck at the heart of local capacity to both carry out emergency response and participate in economic recovery. Loss of capacity is directly related to local government job losses.

We are a tourist driven community and COVID-19 has taken a direct impact upon our sales and TOT revenue. Our employees have been on furloughs since April of 2020 with a cut in pay of 10%. It is very stressful to maintain our level of services with the sharp decline in revenue.

Without additional aid and an appropriate, fair, and equitable allocation of this aid for all municipal and county governments, a preventable setback in household and economic stability services, and vaccination distribution, will be unavoidable.

For the next package, I ask that you adhere to the following principles for direct intervention and prevention of local government fiscal decline resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic:

- **Emergency funding should be fair and appropriate for each and every local government, with no minimum population threshold for eligibility.**
- **Aid should be directly allocated through familiar and proven government revenue sharing programs.**
- **Entanglement of state and local funding should be minimized.**

To be clear, communities like mine are not asking for a “bail-out” of local governments. Local governments do not expect the federal government to make up for every loss of local revenue. Rather, we are seeking an additional lifeline for local governments to put off and ultimately avoid options of last resort, including making temporary cuts permanent at a time when our communities need local services most, laying-off furloughed municipal and county employees who comprise a large share of America’s middle class, and indefinitely cancelling capital projects that will further impact local employment, business contracts and overall investment in the economy.

In other words, we are seeking federal assistance to save America’s cities and counties; and to make local leaders part of the solution to economic recovery.

Thank you for your swift action during this truly unique moment in American history. As partners working hand-in-hand both within our communities and also with the federal government and states, we are ready to continue to ensure that America emerges from this pandemic stronger than we were before.

Sincerely,



Tim Rundel
City Manager
City of Weed, CA

cc. Archana Sridhar, Senior Specialist Grassroots Advocacy, NLC, sridhar@nlc.org
League of California Cities, SupportLocalRecovery@cacities.org



Mayor
15151 E. Alameda Parkway, 5th Floor
Aurora, Colorado 80012
office 303.739.7015
fax 303.739.7594
email mcoffman@auroragov.org

Worth Discovering • AuroraGov.org

February 4, 2021

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Leader McCarthy:

On behalf of the city of Aurora, Colorado, I urge you to take swift and urgent action on a comprehensive coronavirus relief package that includes direct, flexible funding for all cities as called for in President Biden's American Rescue Plan.

American cities and our essential workers have served at the frontlines of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The city of Aurora has a \$26 million budget shortfall for 2020 and projects a shortfall of \$32 million for 2021. Capital projects and equipment replacement budgets have been impacted as projects and purchases are deferred to balance costs. A hiring freeze has been implemented, impacting all city departments, and employees are facing furloughs in 2021. All governmental functions will likely be impacted in 2021 if additional furloughs or other personnel cost savings measures are put into place.

The direct assistance provided in previous packages have helped our community provide critical housing, health, nutrition, and small businesses assistance, and relief for our underserved and essential workers. With additional, direct federal assistance for local governments, our community could: continue our rental assistance program; continue assisting those experiencing homelessness through provision of non-congregant shelters; support the city's low-income water bill assistance program; continue to provide food assistance; and assist small businesses affected by restrictions on gatherings.

The \$350 billion in direct relief to state and municipal governments included in the American Rescue Plan allows for the preservation of critical jobs and our ability to push economic recovery efforts forward. We urge you to include this critical funding in the next coronavirus relief package.

Respectfully,

Mike Coffman
Mayor



July 30, 2020

Dear Senators Marco Rubio and Rick Scott,

On behalf of mayors from across the state of Florida, we are writing to request your support for direct federal funding for municipal governments to help mitigate the losses from COVID-19. And with the pandemic showing little sign of slowing down, we ask for your support to help us weather the economic impacts of this unprecedented and unexpected event.

COVID-19 has affected every Florida city, and it has resulted in major public health and safety challenges requiring significant demand for the critical services our cities provide. We not only help ensure the safety of our communities, but we also employ thousands of essential workers. As we face diminished revenues, any cuts to our staff impact both the ability to provide those services and contribute to our economic downturn. Absent direct federal assistance, we will be forced to cut our workforce, exacerbating the economic and public health crisis we face.

Additionally, many local business owners are still struggling to stay open and to keep their dreams alive. Federal assistance would allow cities to continue to support those businesses, and the jobs they provide, through low-interest loans, grants and other innovative and impactful programs.

Florida has received more than \$8.3 billion from the Coronavirus Relief Fund, and while we appreciate your efforts to try to address these issues in the previous round of federal relief packages, due to the population thresholds in the CARES Act, **only one Florida city qualified for direct federal support.**

Some proposals currently being considered by Congress would allow state/local governments to use CARES Act dollars to make up lost revenue. Since 410 of FL's 411 cities were excluded from the CARES Act, this is **not going to solve the problem, and that's why additional funding is needed.** In fact, expanding the use of previously distributed dollars may serve as an even bigger disincentive and may encourage recipient counties to not share the dollars they received.

We need Congress to pass dedicated and flexible funding for cities in the next stimulus package. This is **not a request for a handout, nor a call for a federal bailout.** Direct emergency funding to municipalities focused on COVID-19 will help to support local jobs and small businesses, protect local first responders and residents, maintain essential services and keep neighborhoods safe.

Our cities have been an important part of the COVID-19 response. We must also be an important part of the recovery.

Sincerely,
Florida Mayors

Gib Coerper
Mayor
Alachua

Pat Bates
Mayor
Altamonte Springs

Trevor Doran
Mayor
Altha

Dan Murphy
Mayor
Anna Maria

Kevin Begos
Mayor
Apalachicola

Bryan Nelson
Mayor
Apopka

Robert W. Heine, Jr.
Mayor
Arcadia

Iris Bailey
Mayor
Archer

Mitchell Mack
Mayor
Astatula

Ellen Glasser
Mayor
Atlantic Beach

Garrett Anderson
Mayor
Avon Park

Scott Sjoblom
Mayor
Bartow

Stephanie Bruder
Mayor
Bay Harbor Islands

Steve B. Wilson
Mayor
Belle Glade

Christine Dobkowski
Mayor
Bellevue

Virginia O'Halpin
Mayor
Biscayne Park

Scott Singer
Mayor
Boca Raton

James E. Sims, Jr.
Mayor
Bonifay

Peter Simmons
Mayor
Bonita Springs

Steven Spinks
Mayor
Bowling Green

John R. Chappie
Mayor
Bradenton Beach

Heather Willis
Mayor
Bristol

Catherine D. Robinson
Mayor
Bunnell

Pam Henderson
Mayor
Callaway

Danny E. Taylor
Interim Mayor
Campbellton

Robert E. Hoog
Mayor
Cape Canaveral

Joe Coviello
Mayor
Cape Coral

Brenda J. La Paz
Mayor
Carrabelle

Jim Walts
Mayor
Center Hill

Frank Hibbard
Mayor
Clearwater

Mali Gardner
Mayor
Clewiston

Ben Malik
Mayor
Cocoa Beach



Greg Ross
Mayor
Cooper City



J. B. Whitten
Mayor
Crestview



Camille Hernandez
Mayor
Dade City



Lori Lewellen
Mayor
Dania Beach



Judy Paul
Mayor
Davie



Nancy Miller
Mayor
Daytona Beach Shores



Karen Chases
Mayor
DeBary



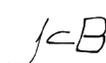
Bill Ganz
Mayor
Deerfield Beach



Robert F. Apgar
Mayor
DeLand



Heidi Herzberg
Mayor
Deltona



Juan Carlos Bermudez
Mayor
Doral



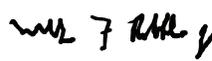
Julie W. Bujalski
Mayor
Dunedin



John Dowless
Mayor
Edgewood



Claudia V. Cubillos
Mayor
El Portal



William F. Ribble Jr.
Mayor
Estero



Randy Torrance
Council President
Esto



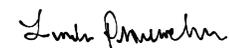
Michael Holland
Mayor
Eustis



Howell Grimm, Jr.
Mayor
Everglades City



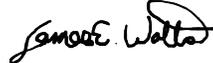
Joel Tyson
Mayor
Fellsmere



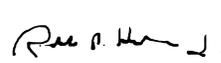
Linda Provencher
Mayor
Flagler Beach



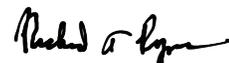
Dean J. Trantalis
Mayor
Fort Lauderdale



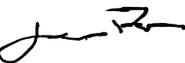
James E. Watts
Mayor
Fort Meade



Randall P. Henderson, Jr.
Mayor
Fort Myers



Richard A. Rynearson
Mayor
Fort Walton Beach



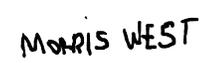
Lauren Poe
Mayor
Gainesville



Del Yonts
Mayor
Grant-Valkaria



Cherry Fitch
Mayor
Gulf Breeze



Morris L. West
Mayor
Haines City



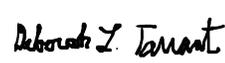
Joy F. Cooper
Mayor
Hallandale Beach



Matthew D. Surrency
Mayor
Hawthorne



Carlos Hernandez
Mayor
Hialeah



Deborah L. Tarrant
Mayor
Hillsboro Beach

Josh Levy
Mayor
Hollywood

Judy Titsworth
Mayor
Holmes Beach

Steven D. Losner
Mayor
Homestead

Martha MacFarlane
Mayor
Howey-in-the-Hills

Michael C. Brown
Mayor
Hypoluxo

Dave Berkman
Mayor
Indianlantic

Scott Nickle
Mayor
Indian Harbour Beach

Thomas F. Slater
Mayor
Indian River Shores

Patrick Soranno
Mayor
Indian Shores

Drinda Merritt
Mayor
Inglis

Michael Forster
Mayor
Islamorada, Village of Islands

Charlie Latham
Mayor
Jacksonville Beach

Daniel J. Comerford, III
Mayor
Jupiter Inlet Colony

Whitney Pidot
Mayor
Jupiter Island

John DeNeale
Mayor
Key Colony Beach

Jose A. Alvarez
Mayor
Kissimmee

Nancy Z. Daley
Mayor
Lake Alfred

Daisy Raisler
Mayor
Lake Helen

John M. Holbrook
Mayor
Lake Placid

Eugene L. Fultz
Mayor
Lake Wales

Pam Triolo
Mayor
Lake Worth Beach

Hazelle P. Rogers
Mayor
Lauderdale Lakes

Kenneth Thurston
Mayor
Lauderhill

Glenn Troast
Mayor
Lighthouse Point

Ken Schneier
Mayor
Longboat Key

A. Dale McDonald
Mayor
Maitland

Patrick T. Reilly
Mayor
Malabar

Margaret McLemore
Mayor
Mary Esther

Roberto Martell
Mayor
Medley

Kathy Meehan
Mayor
Melbourne

Jim Simmons
Mayor
Melbourne Beach

Francis Suarez
Mayor
Miami

Joseph L. Aufmuth
Mayor
Micanopy

Heather F. Lindsay
Mayor
Milton

Teresa Heitmann
Mayor
Naples

Elaine E. Brown
Mayor
Neptune Beach

Robert Marlowe
Mayor
New Port Richey

Jordan Marlowe
Mayor
Newberry

James Hayes
Mayor
Noma

Brent Latham
Mayor
North Bay Village

Ana M. Ziade
Mayor-At-Large
North Lauderdale

Matthew Sparks
Mayor
Oakland Park

Kent Guinn
Mayor
Ocala

Karen Ostrand
Mayor
Ocean Breezes

Eric Seidel
Mayor
Oldsmar

Matthew Pigatt
Mayor
Opa-locka

Gary A. Blair
Mayor
Orange City

Buddy Dyer
Mayor
Orlando

Keith W. Babb, Jr.
Mayor
Pahokee

Terrill L. Hill
Mayor
Palatka

William Capote
Mayor
Palm Bay

Alan D. Fiers
Mayor
Palm Beach Shores

Carol M. McCormack
Mayor
Palm Shores

Gregory M. Brudnicki
Mayor
Panama City

Christine Hunschofsky
Mayor
Parkland

Ashira Mohammed
Mayor
Pembroke Park

Frank C. Ortis
Mayor
Pembroke Pines

Grover C. Robinson, IV
Mayor
Pensacola

Alan Hall
Mayor
Perry

Sandra L. Bradbury
Mayor
Pinellas Park

Lynn Stoner
Mayor
Plantation

Joe LaCascia
Mayor
Polk City

Rex Hardin
Mayor
Pompano Beach

Laura Johnson
City Council
Ponce De Leon



Gary Smith
Mayor
Ponce Inlet



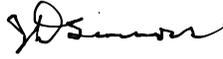
William R. Buzzett
Mayor
Port St. Joe



Gregory J. Oravec
Mayor
Port St. Lucie



Nancy Prafke
Mayor
Punta Gorda



Nick J. Simons
Mayor
Redington Beach



Art Woodruff
Mayor
Sanford



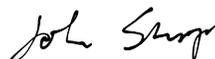
Kevin Ruane
Mayor
Sanibel



Jen Ahearn-Koch
Mayor
Sarasota



Ed Dodd
Mayor
Sebastian



John C. Shoop
Mayor
Sebring



Sally Philips
Mayor
South Miami



Bernice Fischer
Mayor
South Palm Beach



Arthur Penny
Mayor
South Pasadena



Ralph Hammond
Mayor
Springfield



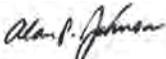
Margaret England
Mayor
St. Augustine Beach



William G. Thiess
Mayor
St. Lucie Village



Rick D. Kriseman
Mayor
St. Petersburg



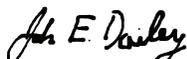
Al Johnson
Mayor
St. Pete Beach



Mike Meier
Mayor
Stuart



Michael J. Ryan
Mayor
Sunrise



John E. Dailey
Mayor
Tallahassee



Michelle J. Gomez
Mayor
Tamarac



Jane Castor
Mayor
Tampa



Abby Brennan
Mayor
Tequesta



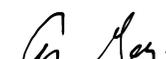
Fred Spencer Deno, IV
Mayor
Virginia Gardens



Richard Keith Nadaskay, Jr.
Mayor
Wauchula



Bobby Yost
Mayor
Webster



Anne Gerwig
Mayor
Wellington



Keith A. James
Mayor
West Palm Beach



Eric H. Jones, Jr.
Mayor
West Park



Daniel J. Stermer
Mayor
Weston



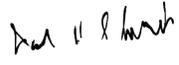
Jerry Robinson
Mayor
Williston



Jim O'Brien
Mayor
Windermere



Bradley T. Dantzler
Mayor
Winter Haven



Jack Schofield
Mayor
Yankeetown



City of Tampa

Jane Castor, Mayor

Mayor's Office Administration

306 E. Jackson Street
Tampa, Florida 33602

Office: (813) 274-8251
Fax: (813) 274-7050

February 8, 2021

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
United States House of Representatives
U.S. Capitol Building, H-222
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
Majority Leader
United States Senate
U.S. Capitol Building, S-221
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Republican Leader
United States House of Representatives
U.S. Capitol Building, H-204
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Republican Leader
United States Senate
U.S. Capitol Building, (Senate) Room: S-230
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Leadership,

On behalf of the City of Tampa and its 400,000 residents, I am writing to urge swift passage and enactment of the American Rescue Plan, which includes \$350 billion in direct and flexible financial relief for our nation's cities. This will ensure that cities like Tampa are able to maintain vital services and continue to provide the necessary support our community needs.

Tampa and its frontline workers have played a critical role in stabilizing and moving our community forward through the pandemic. Direct funding to Tampa will cover costs related to COVID-19 including homelessness mitigation, rental assistance, workforce retraining, fire and police call responses, and security and maintenance of traffic at testing and vaccination sites. It will allow us to leverage public/private partnerships to rebuild our local economies and reduce the long-term impacts of COVID-19. Instead of being a drag on economic growth in the aftermath of the pandemic, the American Rescue Plan will make cities catalysts of recovery.

Our nation's cities are on the frontlines of fighting COVID-19 and its social and economic impacts, and will remain on the frontlines as we emerge from this difficult moment in history. We appreciate your support for our efforts to maintain public health while rebuilding local economies. America cannot recover if its cities cannot recover.

Sincerely,

Jane Castor, Mayor

Good evening Nick, Jessica, and Kaitlyn,

I am reaching out to flag this issue for you. GMA has learned that amendments have been filed that would remove state and local aid from the next COVID relief bill. Text of these amendments is attached. **On behalf of the Georgia Municipal Association and our 537 member cities, including all cities in GA-10, we are reaching out to urge your help in making sure that state and local relief including direct relief to ALL cities, is included in the next COVID-19 relief bill. This is the number one and most urgent priority for 2021 for our members - direct to cities of all sizes for pandemic relief.**

Without additional aid and an appropriate, fair, and equitable allocation of this aid for all municipal and county governments, a preventable setback in household and economic stability services, and vaccination distribution, will be unavoidable.

For the next package, GMA is asking on behalf of our member cities that Congressman Hice adhere to the following principles for direct intervention and prevention of local government fiscal decline resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic:

- **Emergency funding should be fair and appropriate for each and every local government, with no minimum population threshold for eligibility.**
- **Aid should be directly allocated through familiar and proven government revenue sharing programs.**
- **Entanglement of state and local funding should be minimized.**

Your support is critical to the cities in your district. Please let me know if we can count on Congressman Hice's support for this issue. More details are below.

Georgia cities went into the pandemic as prepared as they could be for this economic downturn, having learned from the Great Recession. Some were able to “weather the storm” by using reserves and through frugal management but many cities especially those relying on tourism and retail centers, have already seen a significant impact in revenues. Cities have also had to scale back or postpone capital projects – going into the pandemic, Georgia’s cities told GMA they need \$20 billion over five years for infrastructure improvements and those needs have not gone away. National economists and local officials in Georgia are aware there will be a long term impact to municipal revenues – well into 2022 and beyond. “Revenue losses” is just another way of saying cities will not be able to pay for key services without a lifeline from the federal government. Cities, and our communities, residents, and business, cannot afford to be left out once again when it comes to COVID relief.

Most Georgia cities have been left out of Congressional COVID relief bills to date. The \$150 billion Coronavirus Relief Fund enacted under the CARES Act provided essential supplemental assistance to state and some local governments to control the spread of COVID-19 and maintain essential services during a national public health crisis. Sadly, most of the funding failed to reach local governments. As an example, as of today, of the 537 cities and 159 counties in Georgia, only 1 city and 4 counties received direct funding as a result of meeting the population threshold of 500,000 residents. Confusion over congressional intent, delayed guidance, and well-intentioned but overly restrictive expenditure requirements complicated access to the funding for all cities. Ultimately, of the slightly more than \$4 billion that was allocated to the

State of Georgia for CARES Act CRF, only 13% (or just over \$371 million) went to local governments (cities and counties) under 500,000 population.

There is an urgent need among Georgia cities for federal COVID relief, and with federal funds, cities will be in a position to help protect the lives and livelihoods of all people in Georgia. Below are some ways Georgia cities could put federal dollars to work immediately if they have access in a new COVID relief bill.

- Grants to local businesses for things such as revenue losses that could result in closure, foreclosure avoidance, license payment assistance and utility payment assistance
- Grants to residents to help pay for utilities
- Transit to help residents get to work
- Assistance programs and resources for homeless population
- Community food resources
- Public health support – vaccine campaigns, facility rental and mobile vaccine vehicles for hard to reach populations
- Blocking off streets and parking lots or parking spaces to create outdoor dining areas/ creative partnerships with businesses on infrastructure solutions
- Update technology for residents to access city hall, vote, courts, drive in windows for payments and permits
- Improve broadband connectivity for schools and city facilities to help students and families with online learning and telemedicine

We appreciate your help with this issue. Please let me know if you have any questions or need more information.

Thanks,
Becky



Becky Taylor
Director of Federal Relations and Research
Office: 678-686-6276 Fax: 678-686-6376
www.gacities.com

READER ADVISORY NOTICE: This information is intended only for the individual named above. If you received this in error, please call 404-688-0472 to notify the sender, and then delete the email without printing, copying or retransmitting it. In addition, be advised that Georgia has a very broad open records law and that your email communications with GMA may be subject to public disclosure.

Hey, did you notice my new email address?

GMANET is now GACITIES.COM. While I'm still getting the emails you send me, please update your contacts to note my new email address.



May 30, 2020

Dear Senator Perdue:

I pray that this correspondence finds you and your family in amazing health. I want to thank you for taking the time to speak with the GMA team, myself, and several other mayors from around the State a few weeks ago. As we all circle around the disappointment of this horrific COVID-19 pandemic, and how we move to stand up our cities, now our Nation is faced with the unwelcomed intrusion of anarchist and opportunist that continue to cause division. Unfortunately, the real message is getting lost in the mayhem!

As a city leader and a constituent, I am writing on behalf of Union City to urge you to support funding for all local governments in the next round of federal assistance in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Specifically, we are asking for your support of legislation that provides emergency fiscal assistance to cities of all sizes, fair and direct allocations to all local governments, and maximum flexibility to use this funding to address the consequences of coronavirus on our cities.

The virus is taking a toll on first responders, utility workers, and sanitation workers who are out in the community every day putting their own lives at risk to protect the public's health and safety. Without federal support, the cities working so hard to provide these critical services, particularly small cities, will struggle to survive. So far, cities with fewer than 500,000 residents have been left behind in federal legislation to address the coronavirus. Immediate action is needed to support these communities.

In the City of Union City, our expenses have risen dramatically due to increases in personnel costs, purchase of operating supplies, and acquisition of equipment, such as PPE, IT equipment, cleaning and sanitizing supplies, etc. These were vital purchases that are continuing to be made in order to protect the public as well as our employees. Our revenues are also down significantly. In just one month, for example, sales tax revenue decreased by 23% and is expected to continue to decline by 35% - 40%. We are experiencing dramatic declines in fines and forfeitures with a decrease of \$88,000 in revenues in just the last 30 days. This combined with an overall decrease of 20% in hotel motel taxes poses serious fiscal concerns for our community. Additionally, many of our residents who have lost their jobs are unable to pay their water/sewer bills and sanitation bills. Our revenues are down by \$367,000 in a matter of 2-3 months, yet the expenses to operate water and wastewater systems and provide citywide services have not decreased proportionally. This results in choices we will soon have to make to eliminate jobs, including



public safety, close facilities, and cut back services, all things that will harm the very citizens we are elected to serve.

It is imperative that all Georgia cities receive federal funding to help us meet the needs in our communities. The services cities provide directly impact the quality of life to raise a family, create jobs, and provide hope for young people that they can have a bright future in their home town. Congress cannot turn a blind eye to the crisis our cities are facing, similar to the dire circumstances faced by businesses, states, and local governments over 500,000 that have received billions from the federal government. Our small cities are the backbone of this state and we are a primary reason Georgia has been named the #1 place to do business for 6 consecutive years. However, faced with major cuts in the services that attract business and industry, we cannot be successful in recruiting those businesses and their investments that make our cities what they are, the heart and soul of this state.

This crisis we face is not about local governments, it is about local residents, the very ones that all of us as elected officials, local, state and federal, take an oath to serve. This is the crisis of a generation and how we respond to it, with action and funding instead of partisan politics, will define our future in this state and in every city.

We request a favorable response to this letter and will be following this legislation closely to determine where our members of Congress stand in this time of crisis.

Best Regards,

Vince Williams
Mayor

February 10, 2021

Dear Members of the United States Congress,

On behalf of the City of Burnsville, Minnesota and its nearly 62,000 residents, I am writing to urge swift passage and enactment of the American Rescue Plan, which includes \$350 billion in direct and flexible financial relief for our nation's cities. This will ensure that cities like Burnsville are able to maintain vital services and continue to provide the necessary support our communities need.

Burnsville, our surrounding cities in the greater Twin Cities metro area, and our frontline workers have played a critical role in stabilizing and moving our community forward through the pandemic. Direct funding to Burnsville will cover costs related to COVID-19 including fire and police call responses, expanded mental health services, and increased sanitation and public health measures. This funding will allow us to leverage public/private partnerships to rebuild our local economies and reduce the long-term impacts of COVID-19. Instead of being a drag on economic growth in the aftermath of the pandemic, the American Rescue Plan will enable cities to be catalysts of recovery.

Our nation's cities are on the frontlines of fighting COVID-19 and its social and economic impacts, and will remain on the frontlines as we emerge from this difficult moment in history. We appreciate your support for our efforts to maintain public health while rebuilding local economies. America cannot recover if its cities cannot recover.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth B. Kautz
Mayor
City of Burnsville, Minnesota



CITY OF FRAMINGHAM

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

Dr. Yvonne M. Spicer
Mayor

508-532-5401
mayor@framinghamma.gov
www.framinghamma.gov

MEMORIAL BUILDING
150 Concord Street, Room 121
Framingham, MA 01702

Thatcher W. Kezer III
Chief Operating Officer

February 6, 2021

Dear Congressman Lynch:

I am writing to express the gravity of the need for immediate direct financial aid for our cities and towns, with the ability to use this aid to replace lost revenue. As the Mayor of Framingham, MA, I see it each and every day and know that our community's future depends on it.

At the same time that we have experienced a loss in revenue due to depressed economic activity, we have seen increased need for services in our communities. In Framingham, we have used federal aid to provide grants to struggling small businesses and to residents for housing and utility costs. However, the needs are growing exponentially for our seniors, unemployed and under employed workers that are struggling to make ends meet.

We have had to lay off staff and adjust budgets to address shortfalls in revenue streams since the onset of COVID-19. Even as our COVID-19 case statistics have been improving slightly, the financial need of our City and its residents continues. For example, we have stood up an emergency food and toiletry delivery service for those who are homebound or quarantining because they have been exposed to COVID-19 and have no other way of getting food and other necessities.

Furthermore, we have had to invest in making alterations to our schools and public buildings in order to ensure that our students and staff can learn and work safely, purchasing plexiglass barriers and increasing the intensity and frequency of sanitization of common spaces. Our workers have been on the front line of the fight against COVID-19 and our continued fight against this virus depends on our ability to fund essential services. We have very few places left to cut in our budget if we are to continue to provide them. It is imperative that COVID-19 relief resources come directly to cities and towns to shore up budget shortfalls and position us on the path of economic recovery.

I urge you and your colleagues to ensure that this aid comes directly and immediately to our cities and towns. Thank you for your dedication and hard work on behalf of our Commonwealth.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Yvonne M. Spicer".

Dr. Yvonne M. Spicer, Mayor
City of Framingham, MA



THE UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF MAYORS

1620 EYE STREET NORTHWEST
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006
TELEPHONE (202) 293-7330
FAX (202) 293-2352
URL: www.usmayors.org

February 11, 2021 (Update #5)

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Republican Leader
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Republican Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

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

RE: Urgent Action Needed on President Biden's American Rescue Plan

On behalf of The United States Conference of Mayors, we urge you to take immediate action on comprehensive coronavirus relief legislation, including providing direct fiscal assistance to all cities, which is long overdue. President Biden's American Rescue Plan contains such assistance as part of an aggressive strategy to contain the virus, increase access to life-saving vaccines, and create a foundation for sustainable and inclusive recovery.

American cities and our essential workers have been serving at the frontlines of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic for nearly a year. We have been charged with executing herculean public health efforts and an unprecedented emergency response. Despite immense fiscal pressure, your local government partners oversaw those efforts, while trying to maintain essential services and increase our internal capacity to provide support for residents and businesses who have been crippled by a tanking economy.

And yet, as the economic engines of our country, local governments will be relied upon to lead the long-term economic recovery our nation so desperately needs, even as, with few exceptions, cities have been largely left without direct federal assistance. The lack of adequate support has resulted in budget cuts, service reductions, and job losses. Sadly, nearly one million local government jobs have already been lost during the pandemic. Our essential workers deserve federal relief like any other sector.

The \$350 billion in direct relief to state and local governments included in President Biden's American Rescue Plan would allow cities to preserve critical public sector jobs and help drive our economic recovery. Providing direct, flexible aid to cities is the most efficient and immediate way to help families and their communities who have been suffering for far too long.

Furthermore, cities must be central to a deliberate strategy to accelerate vaccinations throughout the country. We support President Biden's proposal to mount a national vaccination program and the provision of additional resources to cities to bolster our efforts to contain the spread of the virus.

Your quick action on President Biden's plan is a crucial step to making meaningful progress in one of the most challenging moments in our country's history. The United States Conference of Mayors is eager to work with Congress and the incoming Administration to meet this challenge. We encourage you to take up the President's rescue plan as soon as possible in the 117th Congress.

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,



Greg Fischer
Mayor of Louisville, KY
President



Nan Whaley
Mayor of Dayton, OH
Vice President



Francis X. Suarez
Mayor of Miami, FL
Second Vice President



Bryan K. Barnett
Mayor of Rochester Hills, MI
Past 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: Members of the United States House of Representatives and United States Senate

(Additional mayoral signatories are listed on the following pages.)

Mayors Letter on American Rescue Plan

February 11, 2021 (Update #5)

Page 3

Dan Horrigan
Mayor of Akron, OH

Jeff Williams
Mayor of Arlington, TX

Jesse Arreguin
Mayor of Berkeley, CA

Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft
Mayor of Alameda, CA

Esther E. Manheimer
Mayor of Asheville, NC

Phyllis Magazzu
Mayor of Berlin, NJ

Kathy M. Sheehan
Mayor of Albany, NY

Keisha Lance Bottoms
Mayor of Atlanta, GA

Robert Donchez
Mayor of Bethlehem, PA

Alex Johnson II
Mayor of Albany, OR

Nancy Backus
Mayor of Auburn, WA

Michael P. Cahill
Mayor of Beverly, MA

Tim Keller
Mayor of Albuquerque, NM

Hardie Davis, Jr.
Mayor of Augusta, GA

Lester Friedman
Mayor of Beverly Hills, CA

William Wagner
Mayor of Alexander, NY

David Rollins
Mayor of Augusta, ME

Richard C. David
Mayor of Binghamton, NY

Justin Wilson
Mayor of Alexandria, VA

Steve Adler
Mayor of Austin, TX

Randall Woodfin
Mayor of Birmingham, AL

Sasha Renee Perez
Mayor of Alhambra, CA

Richard Clarke
Mayor of Baldwinsville, NY

Michael J. Venezia
Mayor of Bloomfield, NJ

Ray O'Connell
Mayor of Allentown, PA

Brandon M Scott
Mayor of Baltimore, MD

John Hamilton
Mayor of Bloomington, IN

Michael Cinquanti
Mayor of Amsterdam, NY

Lancer Shull
Mayor of Batesburg-Leesville,
SC

Domingo Vargas
Mayor of Blue Island, IL

Harry Sidhu
Mayor of Anaheim, CA

Sharon Weston Broome
Mayor of Baton Rouge, LA

Scott Singer
Mayor of Boca Raton, FL

Thomas Broderick, Jr.
Mayor of Anderson, IN

Becky Ames
Mayor of Beaumont, TX

Lauren McLean
Mayor of Boise, ID

Gavin Buckley
Mayor of Annapolis, MD

Greg Szymanski
President of Beecher, IL

Martin J. Walsh
Mayor of Boston, MA

Roger Chandler
Mayor of Arcadia, CA

Ali Saleh
Mayor of Bell, CA

Sam Weaver
Mayor of Boulder, CO

Nancy Kaboolian
Mayor of Ardsley, NY

Sally Russell
Mayor of Bend, OR

Todd Alcott
Mayor of Bowling Green, KY

Mayors Letter on American Rescue Plan

February 11, 2021 (Update #5)

Page 4

Cynthia Andrus
Mayor of Bozeman, MT

Thomas M. Bernabei
Mayor of Canton, OH

Andy Berke
Mayor of Chattanooga, TN

James Schoenig
Mayor of Brewster, NY

James Brainard
Mayor of Carmel, IN

Wanda Stringfellow
Mayor of Chester, SC

Steven Vescio
Mayor of Briarcliff Manor, NY

Frank Saverino
Mayor of Carol Stream, IL

Lori E. Lightfoot
Mayor of Chicago, IL

Joe Ganim
Mayor of Bridgeport, CT

John M. Skillman
President of Carpentersville, IL

Charles Tokar
Mayor of Chicago Ridge, IL

Katrina R. Thompson
Mayor of Broadview, IL

Lydia Lavelle
Mayor of Carrboro, NC

Mary Casillas Salas
Mayor of Chula Vista, CA

Mary C. Marvin
Mayor of Bronxville, NY

Lula Davis-Holmes
Mayor of Carson, CA

John Cranley
Mayor of Cincinnati, OH

Steven 'Steve' V. Ponto
Mayor of Brookfield, WI

Harold Weinbrecht, Jr.
Mayor of Cary, NC

Cory Moss
Mayor of City of Industry, CA

John Arthur Ernst, Jr.
Mayor of Brookhaven, GA

Brad Hart
Mayor of Cedar Rapids, IA

Frank G. Jackson
Mayor of Cleveland, OH

Mike Elliott
Mayor of Brooklyn Center, MN

Benjamin Weinstock
Mayor of Cedarhurst, NY

Jason Turner
Mayor of Cloverdale, CA

Trey Mendez
Mayor of Brownsville, TX

Maria Rivera
Mayor of Central Falls, RI

Patrick L. Wojahn
Mayor of College Park, MD

Byron W. Brown
Mayor of Buffalo, NY

Deborah Frank Feinen
Mayor of Champaign, IL

Bianca Motley Broom
Mayor of College Park, GA

Emily P. Berendt
President of Bull Valley, IL

Janet McFetridge
Mayor of Champlain, NY

Andrew J. Ginther
Mayor of Columbus, OH

Miro Weinberger
Mayor of Burlington, VT

Pam Hemminger
Mayor of Chapel Hill, NC

Tim McGallian
Mayor of Concord, CA

Elizabeth Gibbons
Mayor of Campbell, CA

John J. Tecklenburg
Mayor of Charleston, SC

William 'Bill' C. Dusch
Mayor of Concord, NC

Bob Palumbo
Mayor of Canandaigua, NY

Vi Alexander Lyles
Mayor of Charlotte, NC

Brian Tobin
Mayor of Cortland, NY

Mayors Letter on American Rescue Plan

February 11, 2021 (Update #5)

Page 5

Biff Traber
Mayor of Corvallis, OR

Teresa Kernc
Mayor of Diamond, IL

Kirsten Holzheimer Gail
Mayor of Euclid, OH

Joseph U. Meyer
Mayor of Covington, KY

Juan Carlos Bermudez
Mayor of Doral, FL

Lucy K. Vinis
Mayor of Eugene, OR

Raymond R. Soliman
Mayor of Crest Hill, IL

Claudia M. Frometa
Mayor of Downey, CA

Carlo DeMaria , Jr.
Mayor of Everett, MA

Jose R. Gonzalez
Mayor of Cudahy, CA

Roy D. Buol
Mayor of Dubuque, IA

Elizabeth Carr-Hurst
Mayor of Fairburn, GA

Alex Fisch
Mayor of Culver City, CA

Emily Larson
Mayor of Duluth, MN

Paul Coogan
Mayor of Fall River, MA

Jeffrey J. Mutter
Mayor of Cumberland, RI

Steve Schewel
Mayor of Durham, NC

Lioneld Jordan
Mayor of Fayetteville, AR

Eric Johnson
Mayor of Dallas, TX

Marcia A. Leclerc
Mayor of East Hartford, CT

Christina Muryn
Mayor of Findlay, OH

Joseph A. Marchese
Mayor of Darien, IL

Carlos Romero
Mayor of East Palo Alto, CA

Stephen L. DiNatale
Mayor of Fitchburg, MA

Judith 'Judy' Paul
Mayor of Davie, FL

Bonnie Parente
Mayor of East Williston, NY

Paul S. Braun
Mayor of Flossmoor, IL

Gloria Partida
Mayor of Davis, CA

Salvatore 'Sal' J. Panto , Jr.
Mayor of Easton, PA

Mike Kozlowski
Mayor of Folsom, CA

Jerry Smith
Mayor of DeKalb, IL

James B. Hovland
Mayor of Edina, MN

Acquanetta Warren
Mayor of Fontana, CA

Heidi K. Herzberg
Mayor of Deltona, FL

Jessica Ancona
Mayor of El Monte, CA

Thomas 'Tom' C. Henry
Mayor of Fort Wayne, IN

Michael B. Hancock
Mayor of Denver, CO

Drew Boyles
Mayor of El Segundo, CA

Betsy Price
Mayor of Fort Worth, TX

Frank Cownie
Mayor of Des Moines, IA

J. Christian Bollwage
Mayor of Elizabeth, NJ

Donald J. Schmit , Jr.
Mayor of Fox Lake, IL

Mike Duggan
Mayor of Detroit, MI

Frank Whitfield
Mayor of Elyria, OH

Yvonne M. Spicer
Mayor of Framingham, MA

Mayors Letter on American Rescue Plan

February 11, 2021 (Update #5)

Page 6

Layne Wilkerson
Mayor of Frankfort, KY

Nancy Vaughan
Mayor of Greensboro, NC

Barbara Lashua
Mayor of Heuvelton, NY

Michael O'Connor
Mayor of Frederick, MD

John D. Ferris
President of Greenwood, IL

Penny Lilburn
Mayor of Highland, CA

Robert T. Kennedy
Mayor of Freeport, NY

Travis Stovall
Mayor of Gresham, OR

Nancy Rodkin Rotering
Mayor of Highland Park, IL

Lily Mei
Mayor of Fremont, CA

Kristina Kovarik
Mayor of Gurnee, IL

Joseph P. Tursi
Mayor of Hillburn, NY

Jerry Dyer
Mayor of Fresno, CA

Joy Cooper
Mayor of Hallandale Beach, FL

Joseph M. Lee
Mayor of Hilton, NY

Steven R. Jones
Mayor of Garden Grove, CA

Curt Balzano Leng
Mayor of Hamden, CT

William 'Bill' D. McLeod
Mayor of Hoffman Estates, IL

Jerome A. Prince
Mayor of Gary, IN

Jeff Martin
Mayor of Hamilton Township,
NJ

Alex B. Morse
Mayor of Holyoke, MA

Kevin Burns
Mayor of Geneva, IL

Rodney S. Craig
Mayor of Hanover Park, IL

Kevin M. Casey
Mayor of Hometown, IL

Mike Palazzolo
Mayor of Germantown, TN

Luke Bronin
Mayor of Hartford, CT

Richard Milne
Mayor of Honeoye Falls, NY

Jerry Weiers
Mayor of Glendale, AZ

James J. Fiorentini
Mayor of Haverhill, MA

John Buckley
Mayor of Hornell, NY

Michael Allawos
Mayor of Glendora, CA

Evelyn Mitchell
Mayor of Healdsburg, CA

Nathan Nagle
Mayor of Horseheads, NY

Jonathan Godes
Mayor of Glenwood Springs,
CO

Don Ryan
Mayor of Hempstead, NY

Sylvester Turner
Mayor of Houston, TX

Rosalynn Bliss
Mayor of Grand Rapids, MI

Debra March
Mayor of Henderson, NV

Steve Williams
Mayor of Huntington, WV

Bob Kelly
Mayor of Great Falls, MT

Justin Massey
Mayor of Hermosa Beach, CA

Tom Hinshaw
President of Indian Head Park,
IL

Eric Genrich
Mayor of Green Bay, WI

David Watts
Mayor of Herriman, UT

Joseph 'Joe' H. Hogsett
Mayor of Indianapolis, IN

Mayors Letter on American Rescue Plan

February 11, 2021 (Update #5)

Page 7

Jack Tatoes
Mayor of Inverness, IL

Bruce Teague
Mayor of Iowa City, IA

Farrah N. Khan
Mayor of Irvine, CA

Mary Lou Pauly
Mayor of Issaquah, WA

Svante L. Myrick
Mayor of Ithaca, NY

Edwin P. Hettermann
President of Johnsbury, IL

Greg Deemie
Mayor of Johnson City, NY

Frank J. Janakovic
Mayor of Johnstown, PA

Quinton Lucas
Mayor of Kansas City, MO

Don Patterson
Mayor of Kettering, OH

Jose L. Segarra
Mayor of Killeen, TX

Steven T. Noble
Mayor of Kingston, NY

Dontario 'Don' Hardy
Mayor of Kinston, NC

Indya Kincannon
Mayor of Knoxville, TN

Tim Kabat
Mayor of La Crosse, WI

Russ Ruzanski
President of Lake in the Hills,
IL

H 'Bill' William Mutz
Mayor of Lakeland, FL

Todd Rogers
Mayor of Lakewood, CA

Adam A. Paul
Mayor of Lakewood, CO

R Rex Parris
Mayor of Lancaster, CA

Andy Schor
Mayor of Lansing, MI

Kenneth D. Miyagishima
Mayor of Las Cruces, NM

Carolyn G. Goodman
Mayor of Las Vegas, NV

Craig A. Moe
Mayor of Laurel, MD

Bill Baird
Mayor of Lee's Summit, MO

David J. Berger
Mayor of Lima, OH

Leirion Gaylor Baird
Mayor of Lincoln, NE

Alyssa Silhi
Mayor of Lincoln, CA

Frank D. Scott, Jr.
Mayor of Little Rock, AR

Jenelle Osborne
Mayor of Lompoc, CA

Robert Garcia
Mayor of Long Beach, CA

Jack W. Bradley
Mayor of Lorain, OH

Eric Garcetti
Mayor of Los Angeles, CA

Dan Pope
Mayor of Lubbock, TX

Thomas M. McGee
Mayor of Lynn, MA

Satya Rhodes-Conway
Mayor of Madison, WI

Joyce Craig
Mayor of Manchester, NH

Scott Schertzer
Mayor of Marion, OH

Danny Pearl
Mayor of Massapequa Park, NY

Kathy Catazaro-Perry
Mayor of Massillon, OH

Dennis K Leahy
Mayor of Maybrook, NY

Ricardo Lara
Mayor of Maywood, CA

John Giles
Mayor of Mesa, AZ

Neil Perry
Mayor of Methuen, MA

Rodney Harris
Mayor of Miami Gardens, FL

Mayors Letter on American Rescue Plan

February 11, 2021 (Update #5)

Page 8

Gary L'Heureux President of Midlothian, IL	Steve Gawron Mayor of Muskegon, MI	Leon Rockingham , Jr. Mayor of North Chicago, IL
Rich Tran Mayor of Milpitas, CA	Brian Schenk Mayor of Naples, NY	Ana M. Ziade Mayor of North Lauderdale, FL
Thomas 'Tom' Barrett Mayor of Milwaukee, WI	Alejandra Sotelo-Solis Mayor of National City, CA	Lawrence La Ronde Mayor of North Plainfield, NJ
Jacob Frey Mayor of Minneapolis, MN	Jeff M. Gahan Mayor of New Albany, IN	David J. Narkewicz Mayor of Northampton, MA
Brad Wiersum Mayor of Minnetonka, MN	Jon Mitchell Mayor of New Bedford, MA	Sandra E. Frum President of Northbrook, IL
Wayne M. Messam Mayor of Miramar, FL	LaToya Cantrell Mayor of New Orleans, LA	Jennifer Perez Mayor of Norwalk, CA
Matthew Shorraw Mayor of Monessen, PA	Noam Bramson Mayor of New Rochelle, NY	Harry Rilling Mayor of Norwalk, CT
Sean M. Spiller Mayor of Montclair, NJ	Bill de Blasio Mayor of New York, NY	Shawn Sastri Mayor of Norwich, NY
Steven Reed Mayor of Montgomery, AL	Alan L. Nagy Mayor of Newark, CA	Don Hammond Mayor of Nyack, NY
Anne Watson Mayor of Montpelier, VT	Ras J. Baraka Mayor of Newark, NJ	Gopal Lalmalani Mayor of Oak Brook, IL
Miles Atkins Mayor of Mooresville, NC	McKinley L. Price , DDS Mayor of Newport News, VA	Sandra Bury Mayor of Oak Lawn, IL
Frank Provo Mayor of Mount Morris, NY	Robert Restaino Mayor of Niagara Falls, NY	Anan Abu-Taleb Mayor of Oak Park, IL
Arlene A. Juracek Mayor of Mount Prospect, IL	Kenneth Cooper Alexander Mayor of Norfolk, VA	Libby Schaaf Mayor of Oakland, CA
Shawyn Patterson-Howard Mayor of Mount Vernon, NY	Breea Clark Mayor of Norman, OK	Jane F. Bolin Mayor of Oakland Park, FL
Ellen Kamei Mayor of Mountain View, CA	Francis 'Mac' Womack III Mayor of North Brunswick, NJ	Sue Higgins Mayor of Oakley, CA

Mayors Letter on American Rescue Plan

February 11, 2021 (Update #5)

Page 9

Kent Guinn
Mayor of Ocala, FL

Victor Gordo
Mayor of Pasadena, CA

Patricia M. Randall
Mayor of Portage, MI

Esther C. Sanchez
Mayor of Oceanside, CA

Chance Mullen
Mayor of Pelham, NY

Ted Wheeler
Mayor of Portland, OR

David Holt
Mayor of Oklahoma City, OK

Frank C. Ortis
Mayor of Pembroke Pines, FL

Kate Snyder
Mayor of Portland, ME

Edward Novick
Mayor of Old Westbury, NY

Michael M. Vargas
Mayor of Perris, CA

Frank Podbielniak
Mayor of Posen, IL

Cheryl L. Selby
Mayor of Olympia, WA

Teresa Barrett
Mayor of Petaluma, CA

Jorge O. Elorza
Mayor of Providence, RI

John Deschamps
Mayor of Oneida Castle, NY

Ambrosio 'Amos' Hernandez
Mayor of Pharr, TX

Glenn A. Johnson
Mayor of Pullman, WA

Gary Herzig
Mayor of Oneonta, NY

Jim Kenney
Mayor of Philadelphia, PA

Mary-Ann Baldwin
Mayor of Raleigh, NC

Buddy Dyer
Mayor of Orlando, FL

Kate Gallego
Mayor of Phoenix, AZ

Garrett Gatewood
Mayor of Rancho Cordova, CA

John Zaragoza
Mayor of Oxnard, CA

Brian C. Wahler
Mayor of Piscataway, NJ

Keith D. Pierson
Mayor of Ranson, WV

Christy Holstege
Mayor of Palm Springs, CA

William Peduto
Mayor of Pittsburgh, PA

Angela Birney
Mayor of Redmond, WA

Steven D. Hofbauer
Mayor of Palmdale, CA

Adrian O. Mapp
Mayor of Plainfield, NJ

Hillary Schieve
Mayor of Reno, NV

Robert S. Straz
Mayor of Palos Heights, IL

Harry LaRosiliere
Mayor of Plano, TX

Thomas K. Butt
Mayor of Richmond, CA

Gerald R. Bennett
Mayor of Palos Hills, IL

Rex Hardin
Mayor of Pompano Beach, FL

Levar Stoney
Mayor of Richmond, VA

Peggy Lemons
Mayor of Paramount, CA

Thurman 'Bill' Bartie
Mayor of Port Arthur, TX

Richard Reinbold
President of Richton Park, IL

Timothy J. DeGeeter
Mayor of Parma, OH

Gregory J. Oravec
Mayor of Port St. Lucie, FL

Patricia Lock Dawson
Mayor of Riverside, CA

Kim Norton
Mayor of Rochester, MN

Lovely A. Warren
Mayor of Rochester, NY

Thomas P. McNamara
Mayor of Rockford, IL

Bridget Donnell Newton
Mayor of Rockville, MD

Jacqueline M. Izzo
Mayor of Rome, NY

John D. Noak
Mayor of Romeoville, IL

Sandra Armenta
Mayor of Rosemead, CA

Darrell Steinberg
Mayor of Sacramento, CA

Kimberley Driscoll
Mayor of Salem, MA

Kimbley Craig
Mayor of Salinas, CA

Karen K. Alexander
Mayor of Salisbury, NC

Erin J. Mendenhall
Mayor of Salt Lake City, UT

Ron Nirenberg
Mayor of San Antonio, TX

Todd Gloria
Mayor of San Diego, CA

Sylvia Ballin
Mayor of San Fernando, CA

London N. Breed
Mayor of San Francisco, CA

Denise Menchaca
Mayor of San Gabriel, CA

Sam Liccardo
Mayor of San Jose, CA

John Taylor
Mayor of San Juan Capistrano,
CA

Pauline Russo Cutter
Mayor of San Leandro, CA

Heidi Harmon
Mayor of San Luis Obispo, CA

Kate Colin
Mayor of San Rafael, CA

Donna Meyers
Mayor of Santa Cruz, CA

Alan Webber
Mayor of Santa Fe, NM

Sue Himmelrich
Mayor of Santa Monica, CA

Hagen Brody
Mayor of Sarasota, FL

Van R. Johnson, II
Mayor of Savannah, GA

Tom Dailly
Mayor of Schaumburg, IL

Gary R. McCarthy
Mayor of Schenectady, NY

Nick Caiafa
President of Schiller Park, IL

Tom Gifford
Mayor of Scotia, NY

David D. Ortega
Mayor of Scottsdale, AZ

Paige G. Cagnetti
Mayor of Scranton, PA

Ian N. Oglesby
Mayor of Seaside, CA

Jenny A. Durkan
Mayor of Seattle, WA

Jason Ashmore
Mayor of Sesser, IL

Michael Vandersteen
Mayor of Sheboygan, WI

Adrian Perkins
Mayor of Shreveport, LA

Jeffrey Z. Slavin
Mayor of Somerset, MD

William 'Bill' Edwards
Mayor of South Fulton, GA

Maria Davila
Mayor of South Gate, CA

Mark Eisenberg
President of Spring Grove, IL

James O. Langfelder
Mayor of Springfield, IL

Bill Krebs
Mayor of Springville, NY

Charles Straney
Mayor of St. Johnsville, NY

Mayors Letter on American Rescue Plan

February 11, 2021 (Update #5)

Page 11

Lyda Krewson
Mayor of St. Louis, MO

Jane Castor
Mayor of Tampa, FL

Glenn Ryback
Mayor of Wadsworth, IL

Melvin Carter
Mayor of St. Paul, MN

Robert Kolosh
President of Thornton, IL

Kevin Wilk
Mayor of Walnut Creek, CA

Rick Kriseman
Mayor of St. Petersburg, FL

Jason B. Snider
Mayor of Tigard, OR

William 'Doug' Franklin
Mayor of Warren, OH

David Martin
Mayor of Stamford, CT

Wade Kapszukiewicz
Mayor of Toledo, OH

James R. Fouts
Mayor of Warren, MI

Michael C. Taylor
Mayor of Sterling Heights, MI

Michelle De La Isla
Mayor of Topeka, KS

Bradley D. Sellers
Mayor of Warrensville Heights,
OH

William H. Joyce
Mayor of Stillwater, OK

Patrick J. Furey
Mayor of Torrance, CA

Muriel Bowser
Mayor of Washington, DC

Laura Hoydick
Mayor of Stratford, CT

Nancy Young
Mayor of Tracy, CA

Quentin M. Hart
Mayor of Waterloo, IA

Joe R. Zimmerman
Mayor of Sugar Land, TX

Greg Luisi
Mayor of Tuckahoe, NY

Charles Patricelli
Mayor of Watervliet, NY

Lori Wilson
Mayor of Suisun City, CA

Regina Romero
Mayor of Tucson, AZ

Lincoln F. Knight
Mayor of Wauconda, IL

David P. Merchant
Mayor of Sumter, SC

Allan Ekberg
Mayor of Tukwila, WA

Stephen Bergenfeld
Mayor of West Amwell, NJ

Larry Klein
Mayor of Sunnyvale, CA

Carol Dutra-Vernaci
Mayor of Union City, CA

Letty Lopez-Viado
Mayor of West Covina, CA

Michael J. Ryan
Mayor of Sunrise, FL

Vince R. Williams
Mayor of Union City, GA

Shari Cantor
Mayor of West Hartford, CT

Ben Walsh
Mayor of Syracuse, NY

Diane W. Marlin
Mayor of Urbana, IL

Lindsey P. Horvath
Mayor of West Hollywood, CA

Victoria Woodards
Mayor of Tacoma, WA

Ashley C. Curry
Mayor of Vestavia Hills, AL

Keith A. James
Mayor of West Palm Beach, FL

John E. Dailey
Mayor of Tallahassee, FL

Judy Ritter
Mayor of Vista, CA

Martha Guerrero
Mayor of West Sacramento, CA

Mayors Letter on American Rescue Plan

February 11, 2021 (Update #5)

Page 12

William C. Reichelt
Mayor of West Springfield, MA

Michael S. Purzycki
Mayor of Wilmington, DE

Peggy Huang
Mayor of Yorba Linda, CA

William R. Wild
Mayor of Westland, MI

Chris Rintz
Mayor of Winnetka, IL

Jamael Tito Brown
Mayor of Youngstown, OH

Glenn F. Elliott, Jr.
Mayor of Wheeling, WV

James Allen Joines
Mayor of Winston-Salem, NC

John F. Dunbar
Mayor of Yountville, CA

Thomas M. Roach
Mayor of White Plains, NY

Tom Stallard
Mayor of Woodland, CA

Douglas J. Nicholls
Mayor of Yuma, AZ



Emily Larson
Mayor

Room 422
411 West First Street
Duluth, Minnesota 55802



218-730-5230



elarson@duluthmn.gov

February 5, 2021

To the members of the U.S. House of Representatives:

Thank you for your service to this country and for all that you do.

For nearly a year, public service workers – nurses, teachers, correctional officers and security counselors, EMS, general maintenance workers, child care providers, city inspectors and water treatments professionals, clerical workers, and so many more – have stood courageously on the front lines of the fight against the pandemic, doing everything in their power to keep our communities safe, healthy and strong. Despite risking their lives to save us, 1.4 million of these front-line public service workers have been laid off due to budget shortfalls caused by the pandemic, nearly double the total number of jobs lost during the entire Great Recession. We can't beat this pandemic, distribute the vaccine or get our country back to work if we thank these everyday heroes with pink slips.

President Joe Biden has put forward a bold \$1.9 trillion stimulus plan that has exactly the right priorities. Robust, unrestricted aid is critical to quickly distribute the COVID-19 vaccine, preventing our children from falling behind in school, reopening shuttered small businesses, and eliminating cuts to essential public services that will prolong the health and economic crisis we are facing. We must truly build back better.

In communities like Duluth, Minnesota, we believe in putting public good, our dedicated workforce, and our communities first. This aid is not a red state or blue state issue, but a smart investment and the right thing to do, especially as we see cases continue to surge around the country. The budget shortfalls state and local governments are experiencing have happened because of the pandemic, through no fault of their own. We are truly all in this together and everyone is hurting as a result. Rural and smaller communities like Duluth with populations under 500,000 were not included in previous aid packages since the passage of the CARES Act. Our communities need and deserve additional relief.

Additional aid will keep our critically important city staff on the job and provide our city residents access to resources to recover and build our new future - together. Police officers, firefighters, public works employees, and essential city functions to inspect homes, keep our water safe to drink, maintain our roads and infrastructure rely on additional aid. We cannot afford to do anything less than President Biden's \$1.9 trillion plan.

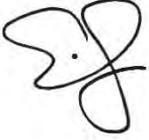
We urge the Oversight and Reform Committee to secure critical aid contained in President Biden's plan to state and local governments, tribes, school districts, and U.S. territories so we can keep public service workers on the job when we need them the most. We thank Chairperson Carolyn Maloney, Vice Chair Jimmy Gomez, Ranking Member James Comer and members of the committee for considering this critical component to ensure our country honors the work of public employees who often go into work every day and risking their lives in order for us to stay safe. We need them on the job and additional federal aid to state and local governments will greatly assist this effort.

www.duluthmn.gov

The City of Duluth is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Again, thank you for all that you do in service to this country, and for considering the needs of residents as we all find ways to come out of this pandemic.

Sincerely,

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several loops and a central dot.

Mayor Emily Larson





CITY OF SAINT PAUL

Mayor Melvin Carter

390 City Hall
15 West Kellogg Boulevard
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Telephone: 651-266-8510
Facsimile: 651-266-8521

February 11, 2021

U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Members of the U.S. House of Representatives,

As communities across our nation continue to struggle amid the enduring public health and economic crisis, we also continue to grappling with the impacts of George Floyd's murder, civil unrest, a national reckoning on race and racism, an attempted insurrection at the United States Capitol on January 6th, the rise of hate, extremism and disinformation, and a national division unlike anything in our lifetimes.

Throughout the course of these uncertain times, our public service workers have been on the frontlines supporting the health, safety and security of our communities. Yet with local governments facing revenue shortfalls due to the economic crisis, and incurring extensive response costs, we have seen 1.4 million front-line service workers laid off.

With no clear end in sight to these compounding crises, we need a bold federal investment that exhibits nothing short of a new national standard of care to ensure we can build a path forward for all of us. In addition to ongoing support for children, families, workers and businesses, we must also invest in direct aid to local governments so that our public servants can continue providing the services our residents rely on them to provide every day.

If we are to truly ensure our country gets through this together, the next stimulus must provide robust, unrestricted aid which is critical to distributing the COVID-19 vaccine, preventing our children from falling behind in school, supporting our small businesses, and eliminating cuts to essential public services that will prolong the health and economic crisis we are facing. Building back better means we must fundamentally reshape our thinking with how we care for each other. President Biden's bold \$1.9 trillion stimulus plan advanced by the Senate responds to these needs and will help to ensure all of us get through this crisis together.

In Saint Paul, direct aid will support our firefighters, paramedics, and police officers in continuing to provide the life-saving services our residents rely on every single day. Direct aid will support our city staff who inspect homes, keep our water safe to drink, and who maintain our roads and infrastructure. Since we also serve residents who too often fall through the cracks of federal programs, like those experiencing homelessness,

direct aid will also help us continue to respond to our housing crisis which led to a 10-fold increase in the number of individuals living outdoors during the pandemic.

I urge the Oversight and Reform Committee to secure the critical aid contained in President Biden's plan for local governments, tribes, school districts, and U.S. territories so our public institutions can continue providing the vital services our residents, workers, and businesses need, now more ever.

We thank Members of the U.S. House of Representatives for considering this critical component as we work together to ensure no one is left behind.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. W. Carter'.

Melvin Carter
Mayor



**OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY OF ST. LOUIS
MISSOURI**

**LYDA KREWSON
MAYOR**

January 28, 2021

CITY HALL - ROOM 200
1200 MARKET STREET
SAINT LOUIS, MISSOURI 63103-2877
(314) 622-3201
FAX: (314) 622-4061
KREWSONL@STLOUIS-MO.GOV

Congresswoman Cory Bush
U.S. House of Representatives
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Re: President Biden's COVID Relief Legislation

Dear Congresswoman Bush:

As Congress considers President Biden's COVID relief legislation, I wanted to revisit the City of St. Louis' financial challenges as we continue to deal with the repercussions of the pandemic on City revenues. We are in great need for economic relief in the next COVID package.

For your reference, the attached chart, prepared by our Budget Director, documents that we are experiencing a \$90 million deficit. While we greatly appreciate the COVID relief funds approved by Congress in December, it failed to include the much-needed direct aid to local governments.

As such, I am renewing our call for \$350 billion in State and local government assistance, as included in the "American Rescue Plan," offered by President Biden. I hope that you will consider supporting this proposal that will deliver desperately needed relief directly to St. Louis. The funds would allow our city to continue to provide the health services to the most vulnerable during this crisis, preserve critical public sector jobs, and drive our economic recovery.

All American cities are in the same position. Our essential workers have been serving on the frontlines of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic for nearly a year. We have been charged with executing herculean public health efforts and an unprecedented emergency response. Despite immense fiscal pressure, our cities oversaw those response efforts, while continuing to maintain essential services and increase our internal capacity to provide support for residents and businesses who have been crippled by a tanking economy. And yet, as the economic engines of our country, local governments will be relied upon to lead the long-term economic recovery our nation so desperately needs, even as, with few exceptions, cities have been largely left without direct federal assistance. The lack of adequate support has resulted in budget cuts, service reductions, and job losses. Sadly, nearly one million local government jobs have already been lost nationally during the pandemic. Our essential workers deserve federal relief like any other sector.



I urge Congress to act quickly to provide direct, flexible aid to cities. It is the most efficient and immediate way to help families and their communities who have been suffering for far too long. I appreciate your consideration of my urgent request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lyda Krewson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Lyda Krewson
Mayor, City of St. Louis

FY21 Revenue Estimates

Post COVID-19 IMPACT

FY20 FY21

Fund Dept Account Description	Actual Receipts FY19	Official Estimate FY20	Revised 3rdQ Estimate (Pre-COVID)	Actual Receipts FY20	Difference From Pre-COVID Estimate	Official Estimate FY21	FY21 1stQ Guidance?	Difference From Pre-COVID Estimate
-------------------------------	----------------------	------------------------	-----------------------------------	----------------------	------------------------------------	------------------------	---------------------	------------------------------------

General Fund Revenue Summary

Taxes								
Earnings Tax	184,405,968	179,970,000	193,094,000	175,759,726	-17,334,274	158,904,000	172,524,000	-20,570,000
Real Property Tax	49,944,261	50,170,000	52,236,000	52,083,396	-142,604	52,816,000	52,816,000	560,000
Personal Property Tax	12,162,449	12,285,000	12,361,000	11,964,815	-396,185	12,206,000	12,206,000	-155,000
Sales Tax - 1 Cent	39,635,166	39,861,000	39,375,000	38,539,208	-835,792	30,667,000	31,395,000	-7,860,000
Sales Tax - 3/8 Cent	14,833,328	14,936,000	14,766,000	14,437,155	-328,845	11,501,000	11,773,100	-2,992,900
Gasoline Tax	8,602,434	8,500,000	8,674,000	8,433,169	-240,831	8,500,000	7,548,200	-1,125,800
Automobile Sales Tax	3,263,329	3,361,000	3,424,000	3,266,704	-157,296	3,532,000	3,851,500	427,500
Intangible Tax	533,672	500,000	976,000	976,337	337	500,000	500,000	-476,000
Payroll Tax	39,592,511	40,165,000	42,399,000	42,360,695	-38,305	35,768,000	36,770,000	-5,629,000
	352,973,118	349,748,000	367,305,000	347,831,205	-19,473,795	330,594,000	329,383,800	-37,921,200
Licenses								
Amusement/Admissions	521,308	340,000	500,000	1,050,251	550,251	500,000	500,000	0
Cigarette	1,447,834	1,434,000	1,545,000	1,711,705	166,705	1,515,000	1,528,500	-16,500
Graduated Business	6,746,613	6,900,000	6,748,000	6,041,829	-706,171	6,497,500	6,498,500	-249,500
Manufacturer	331,981	285,000	214,000	299,205	85,205	303,000	327,700	113,700
Motor Vehicle	1,463,409	1,433,000	1,481,000	1,384,793	-86,207	1,481,000	1,481,000	0
Public Garage and Parking Lots	2,839,643	2,939,000	2,909,000	2,787,416	-121,584	1,606,000	1,112,700	-1,796,300
Restaurant	3,385,044	3,501,000	3,325,000	3,293,298	-31,702	1,829,000	1,859,000	-1,466,000
Other Licenses	1,167,114	1,250,100	1,136,398	1,197,596	61,198	1,135,830	1,190,500	54,102
Commissions	-719,031	-786,000	-741,000	-730,908	10,092	-741,000	-532,600	208,400
	17,183,815	17,296,100	17,117,398	17,035,185	-82,213	14,126,330	13,965,300	-3,152,098
Franchise Fees								
Airport	6,761,984	6,882,000	6,882,000	6,081,474	-800,526	5,870,000	3,470,000	-3,412,000
Electric	31,890,669	33,115,000	29,659,000	29,361,785	-297,215	29,852,000	27,449,000	-2,210,000
Natural Gas	7,545,914	7,739,000	6,940,000	6,845,545	-94,455	6,871,000	6,559,100	-380,900
Railroads	19,000	19,000	19,000	19,000	0	19,000	19,000	0
Steam	516,347	480,000	167,000	384,884	217,884	236,000	257,000	90,000
Telephone	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Water	5,029,829	5,004,000	5,003,000	4,710,886	-292,114	5,023,000	4,672,900	-330,100
	51,763,743	53,239,000	48,670,000	47,403,574	-1,268,426	47,871,000	42,427,000	-6,243,000
Departmental Receipts								
General Government	443,684	414,400	439,100	423,611	-15,489	419,100	402,900	-36,200
Finance	6,332,318	6,393,350	6,307,905	6,537,403	229,498	6,317,555	6,314,935	7,030
Parks, Recreation and Forestry	1,089,434	1,137,500	1,131,378	1,097,097	-34,281	1,121,100	988,900	-142,478
Judicial Offices	5,997,964	5,749,875	5,956,720	5,758,681	-198,039	5,962,701	4,908,600	-1,048,120
County Offices	2,616,935	2,646,600	3,035,963	3,146,185	110,222	2,874,500	2,877,500	-158,463
Streets	22,548,789	22,136,950	22,006,311	21,711,764	-294,547	21,650,284	21,872,100	-134,211
Public Safety	28,478,571	25,441,830	23,657,400	24,380,200	722,800	29,447,465	27,971,141	4,313,741
Police	494,292	573,100	905,000	578,298	-326,702	710,500	700,000	-205,000
Health and Human Services	811,764	837,400	872,074	792,516	-79,558	850,550	717,900	-154,174
Board of Public Service	317,790	426,800	249,857	297,553	47,696	247,700	371,100	121,243
	69,131,541	65,757,805	64,561,708	64,723,308	161,600	69,601,455	67,125,076	2,563,368



METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT OF NASHVILLE AND DAVIDSON COUNTY

JOHN COOPER
MAYOR

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
METROPOLITAN COURTHOUSE
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37201
PHONE: (615) 862-6000
EMAIL: mayor@nashville.gov

February 8, 2021

The Honorable Carolyn B. Maloney
Chairwoman
House Committee on Oversight and Reform
2157 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Maloney,

Nashville is grateful to have been a direct recipient of State and Local Stabilization Funds from the Coronavirus Relief Fund, part of the original CARES Act. Of the \$121.1M received, all funds were expended by December 30, 2020, the original expiration of the funds. Use of those funds were carefully monitored by a Covid-19 Financial Oversight Committee, as well as approvals coming from our Metro Council. Those funds were optimized to serve not only the city's emergency response to the pandemic, but also to reach out to our community and provide critical assistance to residents and small businesses. Additionally, we provided a significant amount of funds to our public schools to assist with distance learning. What first sounded like a significant amount of funding quickly turned out to be far short of what we needed to meet additional, emergency needs of our city and community.

We appreciate the opportunity to share how additional funds would be used for Nashville and our recovery from the pandemic. Nashville's pace of recovery will determine the trajectory of Tennessee's economic recovery, and we seek to work together to achieve those shared goals.

Tourism & Hospitality Industry - Tennessee's economy relies heavily on Nashville, and Nashville's economy relies heavily on the hospitality and entertainment industry, which has been crushed by COVID-19. Critical local services are overwhelmed while Nashville's ability to meet those needs is impeded by insufficient local tax revenues generated by Nashville's previously booming hospitality and entertainment economy.

- **Restaurants & Hotels.** Nashville is home to 246 hotels and over 2,500 restaurants that employ 150,000 people. As with all businesses, restaurants and hotels are now required by law to provide PPE equipment for all of their employees (face masks, hand sanitizer, thermometers) and are taking on additional expenses to retrofit doors, registers, and handwashing stations for guests. Frequent and rapid testing are also key to keeping these businesses open and safe. These additional expenses come at a time when revenues/occupancy is at 20-40% of their pre-covid business. While the additional PPP loans will greatly help these businesses, we are being asked to do provide more funding in the form of grants to ensure that the businesses survive this pandemic.



METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT OF NASHVILLE AND DAVIDSON COUNTY

JOHN COOPER
MAYOR

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
METROPOLITAN COURTHOUSE
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37201
PHONE: (615) 862-6000
EMAIL: mayor@nashville.gov

- **Music & Entertainment.** Nashville's international entertainment and music industry alone creates 48,600 direct and indirect jobs, and many of those work for small and micro-businesses that have been completely shut down and largely will remain hampered indefinitely. Not all of these businesses qualify for the shuttered venue grants offered in the second stimulus package.
- **Arts Organizations.** More than 16,000 Nashvillians work for music, arts, and cultural organizations. Those entities generate \$50 million in state and local tax revenues annually. These arts organizations provide direct services to more than 100,000 school children each year, and they are hurting. Again, many do not qualify for the shuttered venue grants, and PPP loans may not be enough, some will not survive.

Expanded Social Safety Net— While certain sectors of the social safety net are receiving the resources they need to respond adequately to the pandemic, other sectors are not receiving critical resources. The pandemic is shining a spotlight on the previously precarious social safety net here. Stretched pre-COVID, the pandemic is highlighting the weaknesses in essential services that are critical to our speedy recovery:

- **Workforce Development.** Unemployment, including a shift to remote and automated work, will permanently displace many of our most vulnerable, low-skilled workers. To address this, Metro seeks to bolster existing workforce development efforts, but also to implement a rational, comprehensive, and effective structure to rapidly assist with job training and job placement. Employers of good-paying jobs are calling our office weekly for this assistance and we can provide it with additional resources.
- **Behavioral Health.** The COVID-19 pandemic has triggered brutally high levels of behavioral health distress that are exacerbating our public health crisis. Fatal overdoses are up 42% over last year's rates, with an average of eleven deaths per week. Requests for mental health counseling for children have doubled during the pandemic. Depression and anxiety screening requests are up more than 370% since January 2020. Telemedicine behavioral health therapies have increased from 2% to 85% as a result of the pandemic and they are working. The long-term financial and societal implications for schools, employers, law enforcement, and our State of failing to address the current mental and behavioral health crisis are well documented. Funding is urgently needed to expand services to children and adults so that they are prepared for work and school.
- **Childcare/Distance Learning.** An alarming 42% of Nashville families lived in a childcare desert *before* Covid, and that statistic has only become worse during the pandemic. Numerous centers have closed or dramatically reduced capacity, despite state and federal efforts. We are seeking to grow the number of childcare centers as well as to increase capacity of currently licensed providers.

In addition to childcare needs, remote learning had created a need for a safe environment for children to have access to proper technology and adults who can assist with their schoolwork.



METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT OF NASHVILLE AND DAVIDSON COUNTY

JOHN COOPER
MAYOR

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
METROPOLITAN COURTHOUSE
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37201
PHONE: (615) 862-6000
EMAIL: mayor@nashville.gov

Recent reports are over 3,500 MNPS students are not logging in daily and falling further behind. The Nashville Afterschool Zone Alliance has a program in place but cannot serve those seeking the service due to lack of funds.

- **Eviction Mediation.** Thousands of evictions are expected in Nashville as eviction moratoria expire. In order to reduce the numbers of evictions (and the ensuing long-term consequences to tenants of an eviction history), we propose providing free mediation services to landlords and tenants. While the goal of mediation would be to prevent evictions (and ensuing homelessness) by establishing a viable payment path for landlords and tenants, mediation can also devise a move-out and re-payment plan without a formal court-ordered eviction. This will go a long way toward ensuring that our struggling families will eventually be able to secure new housing and avoid homelessness. The funds requested here would enable the hiring of four trained mediators by Nashville Conflict Resolution Center.
- **Interpersonal Violence.** In the first half of 2020 alone, Nashville saw a 250% increase in domestic violence homicides, a 280% increase in requests for telephonic and in-person advocacy assistance for victims of domestic violence by advocates at our community based Family Safety Center, and a 30% increase in professional partners needing additional domestic violence prevention and response training. We attribute this to COVID-19 related difficulties for victims accessing services. The assistance requested here would enable the hiring of four case managers, four therapists, and one professional development trainer to undertake a robust public education and outreach campaign. It also would require significant additional funding to nonprofits to partner with Metro to provide the services at scale.
- **Food Insecurity.** Food insecurity has doubled in Nashville. Families continue to struggle to cover rent, utilities and food on their reduced income.

Ongoing emergency response - As this pandemic continues past a full year, so does our city's emergency response. It is more critical than ever to not let our guards down or reduce the safety of public buildings and emergency health order enforcement.

- Technology needs continue as employees continue to work from home and repairs and maintenance are needed for purchases made one year ago.
- We will continue to need funds for overtime for public safety and health personnel, PPE and sanitization, temporary labor at testing sites and homeless shelter.
- Our emergency response infrastructure has endured endless hours of use. It will be critical for us to replenish and replace safety equipment, medical supplies/gear, and fleet so we do not find ourselves in a weakened or limited position as we come out of this pandemic.
- Weakness in our public health response have been exposed. We could enhance our response and future responses with upgraded technology, communication and IT equipment, including electronic health records.
- We envision greater safety and security for our community. Not only did Nashville endure a pandemic in 2020, but also a tornado, damage and safety concerns from civil unrest, and



METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT OF NASHVILLE AND DAVIDSON COUNTY

JOHN COOPER
MAYOR

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
METROPOLITAN COURTHOUSE
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37201
PHONE: (615) 862-6000
EMAIL: mayor@nashville.gov

- crippling damage from a Christmas Day bombing. We need to reinforce our emergency management infrastructure (improved OEM facility), and create safer public buildings and fleet, and invest in greater technology support for safety.

Madam Chair, we thank you for taking the time to consider our needs. We are indeed grateful for the funds we did receive, but they were not sufficient to cover all the requests we received. Nor did those funds provide the flexibility we needed. With additional funding, we could make investments in our city's continued and future responses. We could also invest in our community and small businesses who need it more now than ever.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John Cooper".

Mayor John Cooper

President
Kathy Maness
Councilmember
Lexington, South Carolina

First Vice President
Vince Williams
Mayor
Union City, Georgia

Second Vice President
Victoria Woodards
Mayor
Tacoma, Washington

Immediate Past President
Joe Buscaino
Councilmember
Los Angeles, California

Chief Executive Officer/
Executive Director
Clarence E. Anthony

January 15, 2021

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
S-230, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
United States House of Representatives
H-232, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Minority Leader
United States Senate
S-221, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives
H-204, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

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

The National League of Cities (NLC) is the nation's foremost resource and non-partisan advocate for municipal governments and their leaders, representing all of America's 19,000 cities, towns, and villages. For nearly a year, local leaders have persevered against unavoidable fiscal decline to maintain essential government operations and services. At the same time, local governments have diligently implemented federal emergency aid to stabilize households and small businesses harmed by the coronavirus pandemic.

We are grateful for programs and funding that have been enacted under prior emergency appropriations packages. The fact remains, however, that most municipalities still have not received meaningful levels of federal aid. By separating, and ultimately dropping, state and local aid from the omnibus appropriations and emergency spending bill, Congress has injected significant uncertainty into the capability of local governments to carry out their operations just as a third wave of COVID-19 infections threaten to spread uncontrollably.

Consequences of Local Government Decline

Without any form of emergency federal aid whatsoever, NLC calculated the worst possible outcome for municipal governments would likely have been a \$360 billion decline in revenues over three years from the start of the pandemic. Fortunately, the three emergency appropriations packages approved by Congress has improved the outlook for local revenues, but they remain far below normal collections. **NLC's revised estimate, based on the most recently available fiscal data and updated survey results, is that municipal governments are still facing a \$90 billion blow to their current year revenues.**¹

¹ [Over Two Thirds of Cities Say Condition Will Worsen Without Federal Stimulus, NLC](#)

For local governments, the unmet urgent need for federal aid strikes at the heart of their capacity to both carry out emergency response and participate in economic recovery. Loss of capacity is directly related to local government job losses. U.S. labor market data reported on January 8th showed that state and local governments are still cutting jobs to offset revenue losses and pay for measures taken in response to new waves of COVID-19. According to the Bureau of Labor Statics December 2020 jobs report, local governments shed 32,000 jobs². Moreover, state and local government employment is still down by 1.385 million jobs compared to February 2020, just before major actions to control the spread of coronavirus went into effect.³

Municipal job cuts, and the resulting loss of capacity, has real-world consequences for residents, households, and small businesses. When residents lose jobs, demand for state and local government services increase. According to a recent Brookings report, COVID-19 triggered unprecedented increases in unemployment that overwhelmed state unemployment programs.⁴ Residents are relying on local governments for stabilization services through the long wait for unemployment assistance. Federal programs such as CDBG, Homeless Assistance Grants, and the Coronavirus Relief Fund under the CARES Act provided cities with additional resources to stabilize residents but did little to ensure local governments had the capacity to carry out those programs quickly or efficiently. Without federal aid for all local governments, there is no question that local capacity to administer emergency stabilization aid such as rent, utility assistance, and anti-hunger programs will decline.

Household services are also being scaled back, resulting in quality-of-life declines. According to NLC's City Fiscal Conditions 2020 report, nearly 8 in 10 finance officers say their cities are less able to meet the needs of their communities in 2020 than in 2019.⁵ A December update to NLC's survey of municipal officials found that 90% of municipal governments have experienced a revenue decrease of 21%, and 76% have experienced an expenditure on average increase of 17%.⁶ For households, among other things this means reductions in waste collection and recycling programs, delays in permitting for home construction and renovation, longer wait times for inspections and licensing, reduced services for households that rely on public transit, and pausing plans for utility build-out and upgrades such as water and sewer lines and broadband infrastructure.

Contractors that do business with local governments are also being harmed by the unavoidable decline in local government operations. NLC research shows that the deepest cuts from the pandemic are not showing on the stock market but on the Main Streets of cities and towns across America. According to NLC's Local Impact Survey⁷, 65 percent of cities have been forced to delay or cancel capital and infrastructure projects because of COVID-19 related revenue losses. Given that local governments contract months and years ahead, this means that the cuts will increasingly reveal themselves to businesses that bid for work in the months ahead. For small businesses that were unable to access Treasury aid like the Paycheck Protection Program, local governments served as their last resort for access to credit. NLC is documenting⁸ steps local governments have taken to support small businesses including halting or deferring the collection of taxes, utility payments, and licensing fees; offering zero-interest loans to those unable to access credit from financial institutions; and offering technical assistance to small-business owners applying for SBA loans. Conversely, slow-downs in inspections means costly opening and re-opening day delays and associated loss of wages for employees.

Direct Intervention for Local Governments

The fiscal decline associated with the coronavirus pandemic has placed unprecedented stress on both states and localities, as evidenced by intergovernmental infighting over CARES Act Coronavirus Relief Funds. Of the 19,000 cities, towns, and

² [Bureau of Labor Statics December 2020 Jobs Report](#)

³ [Hilltop Securities Municipal Commentary January 11, 2020: State and Local Government Job Losses in Three of Last Four Months Illustrate Continued Budget Pressures](#)

⁴ [The social safety net: The gaps that COVID-19 spotlights](#)

⁵ [City Fiscal Conditions 2020, NLC](#)

⁶ [Over Two Thirds of Cities Say Condition Will Worsen Without Federal Stimulus, NLC](#)

⁷ [Congress' Delay Slashes Main Street Investments Amid COVID-19, NLC](#)

⁸ [Five Ways Local Governments are Supporting Small Businesses During COVID-19, NLC](#)

villages in the United States, only 36 municipalities, each with more than 500,000 residents, were provided direct assistance under the CARES Act CRF. Specifically, the 36 municipalities with populations over 500,000 received about \$7.9 billion of the \$150 billion. As a result, the majority of the 19,000 municipalities below the 500,000-population threshold were excluded from a guaranteed minimum level of assistance. In May, NLC raised the alarm that more than half the states had not at that point allocated any CRF funds to small and rural localities.⁹

The lag in state action to share federal aid with local governments can be attributed to several factors, including unclear authorizing language and inconsistent rolling guidance from the Treasury Department. But the largest factor was likely the fact that the overall aid made available under CRF was less than the pandemic related losses for states alone. As of last November, NLC estimated 29%, or about 6000 municipal governments, had not received any CRF, HUD, or FEMA funds from the CARES Act.¹⁰

The lesson for Congress is that federal aid for localities should not be contingent on time-consuming state determinations and processes. Rather, federal intervention to prevent the decline of local government operations should take the form of direct allocations of aid to all local governments to ensure all cities, towns, and villages have the opportunity to access federal aid where it is needed to maintain essential government operations and services.

Hard-won lessons learned from the opioid addiction crisis reinforce this conclusion. Too often, desperately needed addiction treatment and recovery funds provided by Congress were delayed or made unavailable to local governments as a result of complex or unclear instructions between federal, state, and local authorities. To the extent that federal resources are allocated to state governments for use by states and localities, the federal government should include iron-clad language requiring states to clearly and efficiently pass-through funds to local governments within a defined period of time.

Appropriate, Fair, and Equitable Funding for All Municipal Governments

Federal lawmakers should adhere to the following principles for direct intervention and prevention of local government fiscal decline resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic:

1. **Emergency funding should be fair and appropriate for each and every local government, with no minimum population threshold for eligibility.** Residents, households, and small businesses should not tolerate a preventable decline in local government operations as a result of being excluded from emergency federal assistance.
2. **Aid should be directly allocated through familiar and proven government revenue sharing programs.** We recommend an allocation formula based on the Community Development Block Grant program (CDBG) as approved by the House in the HEROES Act. Relying on a CDBG framework would eliminate the time-consuming need to stand up a completely new administrative or regulatory framework as was required by the CRF. CDBG is also the most familiar revenue sharing mechanism for states and localities operating at reduced capacities due to staff furloughs and layoffs.
3. **Entanglement of state and local funding should be minimized.** A lack of clarity burdened the Coronavirus Relief Fund from the start, resulting in confusion, delays, and infighting among primary and secondary grant recipients. Federal aid for states and localities should be allocated through three distinct funding streams for state government, municipal government, and county government. Overall federal aid for municipal governments and county governments should be provided at equal levels.

⁹ [Local Governments Report Progress on Coronavirus Relief Funds, But Few Unobligated Dollars Remain for Cities and Towns Waiting for Aid, NLC](#)

¹⁰ [Cities are Essential, The COVID-19 Recession, NLC](#)

4. **Eligible expenditures should be targeted to the widespread health and economic consequences of COVID-19**, including unavoidable revenue shortfalls resulting from federal, state, and local measures to contain the spread of coronavirus.

Appropriate Guardrails

Appropriate guardrails can ensure federal assistance is appropriately allocated and spent to address losses and recovery related to COVID-19.

1. **Congress should enact guardrails to ensure additional federal intervention does not exceed reasonable levels of assistance to any municipal government**; and that the public can be confident that taxpayer funds are appropriately spent.
2. **To safeguard against funding levels greater than appropriate to meet the responsibilities delineated to municipal governments**, allocations for non-entitlement municipalities ought to be capped at 75% of their total annual budget.
3. **To safeguard against incentives to use federal aid as an offset for unwarranted cuts in state or local aid, a maintenance of effort requirement should be included to prevent any level of government** from imposing eligibility standards, methodologies, procedures, or other constraints on any other unit of government that are more restrictive than those that were in place upon enactment of the bill, in order to receive aid under this title.
4. **To safeguard against expenditures for long-standing unfunded liabilities**, pension funds should be designated an ineligible expenditure.

Additional Federal Aid

To help local governments offset the costs associated with the current national emergency response to this ongoing pandemic, Congress should include key provisions within H.R. 8266, the FEMA Assistance Relief Act of 2020, including adjusting the FEMA cost-share for all COVID-19 related Emergency and Major Disaster declarations to 100 percent. Additionally, Congress should include provisions within H.R. 8266 that would adjust the FEMA cost-share for all emergencies and major disaster declared in 2020 to not less than 90 percent federal and 10 percent non-federal, as well as a vital provision that would clarify that FEMA – under COVID-19 declarations – should continue to reimburse for certain expenses including personal protective equipment (PPE) for public schools, public transit, public utilities, courthouses and other government buildings and services.

Lastly, states and localities need more flexibility to use already appropriated CRF funding than is provided by the CARES Act. Amending CARES Act language to enhance flexibility for CRF by making “replacement of lost revenue” an eligible expenditure would meaningfully aid state, county, and municipal governments. We recommend CARES Act language be revised to read: *Title VI, Sec 601 (d):(1) are necessary expenditures or lost revenue incurred due to the public health emergency with respect to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19).*

Conclusion

To be clear, we are not seeking federal assistance to “bail-out” local governments. Local governments do not expect the federal government to make up for every loss of local revenue. Rather, NLC is seeking an additional lifeline for local governments to put off and ultimately avoid options of last resort, including making temporary cuts permanent at a time when communities need local services most, laying-off furloughed municipal employees who comprise a large share of America’s middle class, and indefinitely cancelling capital projects that will further impact local employment, business contracts and overall investment in the economy. In other words, we are seeking federal assistance to save America’s cities, towns, and villages; and to make local leaders part of the solution to economic recovery.

Thank you for considering our urgent request for additional emergency aid to stabilize residents and maintain local government operations. If NLC can be of further help to you, please contact Irma Esparza Diggs, NLC Senior Executive and Director of Federal Advocacy, at 202-626-3176 or diggs@nlc.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Clarence Anthony", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Clarence Anthony
CEO and Executive Director
National League of Cities

Cc: Office of President-Elect Biden
U.S. House of Representatives



February 5, 2021

The Honorable Virginia Foxx
U.S. House of Representatives
2462 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Foxx:

We appreciate your service to the State of North Carolina and our country, never more so than now in these turbulent and challenging times. Your attention to this letter is appreciated.

The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic **on America's economic stability and future recovery** continues. Municipalities like the Town Morrisville (Wake County, population approximately 30,000) still have not received meaningful levels of federal aid. By separating, and ultimately dropping, state and local aid from the omnibus appropriations and emergency spending bill in December, there continues to be significant uncertainty into the capability of local governments to carry out their operations, just as a third wave of COVID-19 infections threaten to spread uncontrollably.

The **National League of Cities' (NLC) latest revised** estimate, based on the most recently available fiscal data and updated survey results, is that municipal governments are still facing a \$90 billion blow to their current year revenues.

Local elected leaders like the Morrisville Town Council have been working directly with our community stakeholders to manage our emergency response. We strive to manage resources to support the efforts of our first responders, coordinate regionally with other leaders across jurisdictional lines, reduce and limit town operations, especially community programs to stave off future spread of the virus, and pass ordinances to limit the worst economic outcomes for residents and small businesses on the margins.

At the same time, the still urgent, unmet need for federal aid has struck at the heart of local capacity to both carry out emergency response and participate in economic recovery. The Town of Morrisville has experienced approximately \$535,000 in lost revenue this fiscal year, primarily from our parks and recreation programming (projected to be \$1 million by fiscal year end), with only limited offsetting expenditure savings. To date, we have spent more than \$410,000 in COVID-19 response, and recently appropriated an additional \$115,000 to install touchless features to our parks and buildings to maintain future public health guidelines for management of this disease. While these numbers may seemingly seem small, they are not insignificant to the overall impact on our \$37.9 million **annual budget. The pandemic was the singular reason for Town Council's decision to**

defer a needed bond referendum to support needed capital infrastructure in town due to **our concern about our citizen's inability to support such a measure during** a pandemic.

Without additional aid and an appropriate, fair, and equitable allocation of this aid for all municipal and county governments, a preventable setback in household and economic stability, services, and vaccination distribution, will be unavoidable.

For the next package, we ask that you adhere to the following principles for direct intervention and prevention of local government fiscal decline resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic:

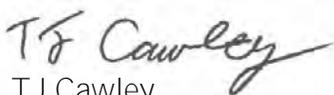
- Emergency funding should be fair and appropriate for each and every local government, with no minimum population threshold for eligibility.
- Aid should be directly allocated through familiar and proven government revenue sharing programs.
- Entanglement of state and local funding should be minimized.

To be clear, communities like ours **are not asking for a “bail-out” of local governments.** Local governments do not expect the federal government to make up for every loss of local revenue. Rather, we are seeking an additional lifeline for local governments to put off and ultimately avoid options of last resort, including making temporary cuts permanent at a time when our communities need local services most, potentially needing to reduce staff who comprise a **large share of America's middle class, and indefinitely cancelling capital** projects that will further impact local employment, business contracts and overall investment in the economy.

We seek your consideration of **federal assistance to save America's cities** and counties; and to make local leaders part of the solution to economic recovery.

Thank you for your swift action during this truly unique moment in American history. As partners working hand-in-hand both within our communities and also with the federal government and states, we are ready to continue to ensure that America emerges from this pandemic stronger than we were before.

On Behalf of the Morrisville Town Council,



TJ Cawley
Mayor

cc: Senator Richard Burr
Senator Thom Tillis
Congressman David Price, 4th District
Congresswoman Deborah K. Ross, 2nd District

Wake County Mayors Association

Mayor TJ Cawley, President

Mayor Ronnie Currin, Vice President

February 4, 2021

Dear Senators Richard Burr and Thom Tillis, and Representatives Deborah Ross and David Price:

The Wake County Mayors Association consists of the mayors of the twelve municipalities in Wake County, representing more than 1 million residents. We unite to improve the lives of our residents and advocate for the needs of our communities and region. Today we come together to urge you to lead and support efforts to include local emergency fiscal assistance, which is currently under consideration.

We recognize and appreciate all that you have done for our region in recent years, and your recent efforts to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. We especially thank you for being part of ongoing conversations and bi-partisan efforts in the U.S. Senate to build a coalition to support local governments.

Municipal governments, along with our state and county partners, continue to participate on the frontlines in combatting the COVID-19 virus. While fighting the pandemic to mitigate its spread, we are working to safely reignite our economies and reimagining how to bring back social engagement with a sense of certainty to our communities. Simultaneously, we are addressing potentially catastrophic decreases in revenues that support the critical services provided to our citizens and the state's economy. Our cities are facing dire long-term budget forecasts as the country faces the growing threat of a recession.

We implore you to provide **direct and flexible emergency stabilization funding to municipal and county governments** that can help us meet ongoing needs and mitigate loss of revenue. We can best serve our residents, and shared constituents, with funds directed to local governments in a way that avoids delays or redirections. We need the flexibility to rebuild our economy and ensure that we can continue to provide essential services, including police, fire, community development and public works as this crisis continues.

We want our municipalities to be a part of bringing our economy back rather than being a drag on the local efforts to recover. We appreciate the leadership our Congressional delegation provides in Washington, we need our Senators to help, now more than ever!

Sincerely,



TJ Cawley
Mayor, Morrisville, NC
2021 President Wake County Mayors Association

CC: Hon. Nancy Pelosi, Speaker, United States House of Representatives
Hon. Kevin McCarthy, Republican Leader, United States House of Representatives
Hon. Charles E. Schumer, Majority Leader, United States Senate
Hon. Mitch McConnell, Republican Leader, United States Senate.





City of Winston-Salem

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

POST OFFICE BOX 2511 • WINSTON-SALEM, NC 27102

J. ALLEN JOINES
MAYOR

May 20, 2020

The Honorable Thom Tillis
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Tillis:

Cities Are Essential and we are proving it every day. Right now, the City of Winston-Salem and all local governments are doing what we do best – caring for our residents. During the pandemic, residents have depended on the City of Winston-Salem, like other cities across the nation, to continue to provide essential services, even while the city's finances are beginning to buckle under the strain of plummeting revenues.

But we need a federal partner and direct economic relief to fully respond to, recover from and reopen after COVID-19. The first federal Coronavirus legislation was passed almost two months ago – yet during the last four packages passed by Congress during the COVID-19 crisis, economic relief has not been included for America's municipalities like the City of Winston-Salem. Now, many in Congress are pushing back on the next package even though the work is not done.

We need help and we need it now. We are facing a two-year impact of over \$18 million in revenue shortfalls (see attached charts). This will force dramatic budget cuts beginning July 1 if we don't get federal support as soon as possible in June. Therefore, please make the following your highest priority:

- \$500 billion in direct federal aid and economic relief from the COVID-19 pandemic for local governments of all sizes over the next two years;
- Flexibility to allow past funding for the Coronavirus Relief Fund and this additional \$500 billion to be used for revenues lost due to COVID-19; and
- Eligibility for payroll tax credits to help offset the costs mandated by federal COVID-19 leave policies.

These funding and policy adjustments are not a request for a handout, nor a call for a federal bailout – this is the extension of a partnership we must have in order to rise together in rebuilding and restoring our nation. Cities are the engine of the American economy. Relief for them is in reality an investment in the quality of life for residents. Without it our communities will be less safe, less healthy, and less prosperous.

In addition, as you know, the City in partnership with the Housing Authority of Winston-Salem (HAWS) was successful this year in receiving a \$30 million dollar Choice Neighborhood Implementation (CNI) grant. The CNI approach has demonstrable results. In addition to improvement of housing conditions for low-income residents each of the completed Choice Neighborhoods show a reduction in crime, increased employment rates, higher educational achievement, better health outcomes and increased social ties.

Although each award is \$30 million dollars in federal grants, each development leverages substantially more than that. In the case of Winston-Salem, it is estimated that we will see a total neighborhood change of nearly \$800 million.

Unlike CBDG and HOME, the HUD CNI program has a 5-year statutory limitation. Only Congress can extend this statutory limitation. To ensure current grantees can respond to the housing, supportive services and resource needs of families further stressed by the current pandemic, we request the following for all current CNI grants (FY2013 – FY2019):

- A 12 to 18-month extension on deadlines to allow time for grantees to complete the identified activities outlined in project timelines and respond to changing financial and construction markets and delays caused by COVID19; and
- An additional \$250 million to be allocated and evenly distributed among all current CNI grantees for administration (5%), the People component (15%), and to cover additional construction costs, delays, supportive services and coordination (80%).

I am also attaching for your information an Op-Ed from the Winston-Salem Journal and a City Resolution passed May 18. If you need more information from the City on this issue, please contact Assistant City Manager Evan Raleigh at evanr@cityofws.org or (336) 317-3807.

As you work through Phase 4 of federal coronavirus aid, please do so with a sense of urgency and remember that **Cities Are Essential**.

Sincerely,

Mayor Allen Joines
Mayor Pro Tempore Denise Adams
Council Member Dan Besse
Council Member Robert Clark
Council Member John Larson
Council Member Jeff MacIntosh
Council Member Annette Scippio
Council Member James Taylor

President
Kathy Maness
Councilmember
Lexington, South Carolina

First Vice President
Vince Williams
Mayor
Union City, Georgia

Second Vice President
Victoria Woodards
Mayor
Tacoma, Washington

Immediate Past President
Joe Buscaino
Councilmember
Los Angeles, California

Chief Executive Officer/
Executive Director
Clarence E. Anthony

February 11, 2021

The Honorable Carolyn Maloney,
Chairwoman
Committee on Oversight and Reform
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable James Comer,
Ranking Member
Committee on Oversight and Reform
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Maloney and Ranking Member Comer:

We write today to offer our strong support of the budget reconciliation language providing \$350 billion in flexible aid for our states, cities, counties, tribes, and territories. We thank you for your support in championing legislation for State and Local Coronavirus Fiscal Recovery Funds, which would provide relief to America's state and local governments on the front lines of the coronavirus pandemic. This bill recognizes the damage this crisis has done to local government budgets and employment, and our role in mitigating the public health and economic impacts of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, including the essential frontline services we provide.

America's 19,000 cities, towns, and villages have seen their revenues plummet as a result of the pandemic while their expenses have risen sharply to fight the virus, help millions of people who lost their jobs, and support the local businesses that are struggling to keep open. Our research shows that municipal governments alone are still facing a \$90 billion shortfall for one-year revenues. This figure is only for municipalities and does not include any of the losses facing county, state, tribal, or territorial governments. This figure also does not reflect losses over multiple years. The \$65 billion for municipal governments in this legislation will reach every city, town, and village in every Congressional district. The difference between municipalities \$90 billion shortfall and the \$65 billion provided under this bill means there is little chance for aid to be allocated above any localities level of need.

As their average revenue collection drops by 21 percent, municipalities of all sizes, and especially those of small to medium sized cities and towns, have been forced to freeze hiring, lay-off, or furlough local government employees and cut back on essential services to their residents. Municipalities are also delaying or canceling vital infrastructure projects to meet their balanced-budget obligations.

For local elected officials, this pandemic and the resulting economic crisis is not a partisan issue. In municipalities across this country, local officials are working desperately to get residents vaccinated, healthy, and back to work. Local government employees are truly on the frontlines, enforcing measures that protect residents from catching and spreading COVID-19. Local community and economic development departments are stabilizing households and small businesses harmed by losses from COVID-19. Local elected officials are making painful budget cuts to preserve essential day-to-day operations that sustain cities as economic engines and places of opportunity, while residents are relying more than ever on safety net programs that local governments are responsible for putting into action.

However, the dire reality is, the loss of more than 1.3 million front-line public service workers hurts our local government's ability to quickly get shots in arms, prevent our children from falling behind, and help save businesses by delivering essential services like sanitation, clean water and safe roads.

We appreciate the thoughtful work of your committee to ensure that aid to our states, cities, counties, tribes, and territories will be distributed as fairly and equitable as possible, so communities of all sizes can receive the help they need. The National League of Cities endorses this legislation and urges every Member of the House Oversight and Reform Committee to support its passage and swift enactment.

Sincerely,



Kathy Maness
NLC President
Councilmember, Lexington, South Carolina



Vince Williams
NLC First Vice President
Mayor, Union City, Georgia



Victoria Woodards
NLC Second Vice President
Mayor, Tacoma, Washington



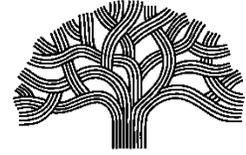
Joe Buscaino
NLC Immediate Past President
Councilmember, 15th district, Los Angeles



Clarence Anthony
CEO and Executive Director
National League of Cities

CITY OF OAKLAND

1 FRANK H. OGAWA PLAZA • 3RD FLOOR • OAKLAND,
CALIFORNIA 94612



Office of the Mayor
Libby Schaaf
Mayor

(510) 238-3141
FAX: (510) 238-4731
TDD: (510) 238-3254

February 5, 2021

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

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

On behalf of the City of Oakland, I want to thank you for passing coronavirus legislation in December 2020, and urge you to include state and local funding in the next coronavirus relief package. State and local funding is key to any comprehensive legislative package, and is one of the most significant actions you can take to help our nation address its immediate needs due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

We urge Congress to address the needs of local governments by providing direct aid to local governments, without placing states in an intermediary position. The formula should provide maximum flexibility, and should cover the widest set of eligible activities, which must include forgone revenue. Finally, we need robust assistance, and ask that Congress appropriate additional funds no less than the \$350 billion included in the American Rescue Plan.

Additionally, Oakland supports the third round of Economic Impact Payments included in the American Rescue Plan. However, we ask you to recognize that cost of living varies wildly across the nation, and factor this into the income levels at which direct financial support begins to phase out. Cost of living in Oakland is much higher than in other parts of the country, and if the phase out and cut off levels are set based on lower cost of living areas, Oakland residents and millions of other struggling families will be excluded. We strongly believe that all future Economic Impact Payments should take into account disparate costs of living across the nation.

Thank you for all your hard work and dedication during this crisis. I look forward to continuing to work with you in the coming months.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Libby Schaaf", enclosed in a thin black rectangular border.

Libby Schaaf
Mayor

CC: Congresswoman Barbara Lee
Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Alex Padilla



City of Lima, Ohio

50 Town Square Lima, Ohio 45801-4900

David J. Berger, Mayor

419/228-5462 Fax 419/221-5199

www.cityhall.lima.oh.us

February 4, 2021

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Senate President Chuck Schumer:

I write with a sense of great urgency on behalf of the citizens and organizational members of my community. The Covid 19 crisis has dramatically damaged individual well-being, crippled family circumstances, and sapped organizational vitality across a broad spectrum of entities, large and small, including churches, small businesses, non-profit charities, industries, hospitals, public sector agencies, theaters, schools, and of course city governments. Those persons and organizations left unaffected are few and far between. And the fact that there remain many months of continuing need to manage under constrained and socially distanced protocols creates the expectation that the damages already incurred will complex, grow and further threaten and devastate my community. The negative social and economic effects of COVID will be long lasting and structural for our community.

The irony is that only a year ago, January 2020, Lima, Ohio was experiencing an economic high point of the last 4 decades, with low unemployment, a surplus of jobs, exciting economic development projects, a balanced budget and very healthy carry-overs in the General Fund and proprietary funds of the city. The picture today is totally opposite. The ravages of Covid 19 must be understood in that context.

My purpose in writing is to urge immediate action on the local government assistance that is contained in President Biden's proposal for the federal response to Covid 19. Direct, flexible funding from the federal government to localities, large and small, must be made available in order to forestall long term damage which may take a generation to heal.

Please act immediately for all of us.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

David J. Berger
Mayor



Kathy Catazaro-Perry, Mayor

Massillon

City of Champions

February 5, 2021

Congressman Bob Gibbs
2217 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Gibbs:

I am writing to you today asking for your support for the \$350 billion direct relief included in President Biden's American Rescue Plan. These funds are vital for cities like Massillon to preserve critical public sector jobs and help drive our economic recovery.

Massillon like many cities is working to improve infrastructure, revitalize our downtown historic district, increase economic development and increase population in our community. Providing direct, flexible aid is the most efficient and immediate way to help our families and our city.

Your vote of support for this plan will keep Massillon moving forward.

Sincerely,



Kathy Catazaro Perry
Mayor



FEBRUARY 5, 2021

The Honorable Sherrod Brown,
United States Senate

The Honorable Rob Portman,
United States Senate

The Honorable Steve Chabot,
Ohio Congressional District 1

The Honorable Brad Wenstrup,
Ohio Congressional District 2

The Honorable Joyce Beatty,
Ohio Congressional District 3

The Honorable Jim Jordan,
Ohio Congressional District 4

The Honorable Bob Latta,
Ohio Congressional District 5

The Honorable Bill Johnson,
Ohio Congressional District 6

The Honorable Bob Gibbs,
Ohio Congressional District 7

The Honorable Warren Davidson,
Ohio Congressional District 8

The Honorable Marcy Kaptur,
Ohio Congressional District 9

The Honorable Mike Turner,
Ohio Congressional District 10

The Honorable Marcia Fudge,
Ohio Congressional District 11

The Honorable Troy Balderson,
Ohio Congressional District 12

The Honorable Tim Ryan,
Ohio Congressional District 13

The Honorable David Joyce,
Ohio Congressional District 14

The Honorable Steve Stivers,
Ohio Congressional District 15

The Honorable Anthony Gonzalez,
Ohio Congressional District 16

DEAR MEMBERS OF THE OHIO CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION:

As a bipartisan coalition of mayors in over two dozen of Ohio's largest cities, we are urging swift action and bipartisan support for a recovery package that provides direct, flexible fiscal assistance to frontline communities. We understand there are numerous proposals being suggested and difficult funding decisions to be made, but we were heartened to see that the January Biden Administration outline included \$350 billion for state and local governments.

As you know, our communities have been supporting critical aspects of our national response to this pandemic for many months, while also dealing with uncertain fiscal conditions and significant revenue reductions. Many of our cities have furloughed workers, shrunk their workforce through attrition, cancelled police and fire recruitment efforts, and frozen capital budgets that build community infrastructure—all while absorbing additional expenses to respond to COVID, delivering essential services, and reaching out to our communities that have been disproportionately affected.

It is also important to note that the CARES Act relief provided last year for COVID-related expenses was helpful, but it will not address the challenges ahead for our communities. Furthermore, these funds could not be used to address revenue impacts and, until the last days of 2020, they were required to be utilized before the end of the last calendar year.

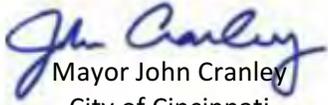
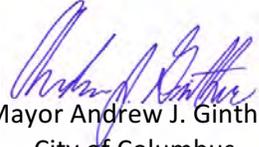
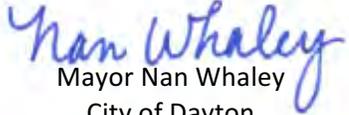
We have two significant challenges ahead if we are to turn the corner from response to recovery. This includes ensuring that our local communities can support and facilitate a safe, equitable, and accessible mass-vaccination process. We must also ensure that our communities are positioned for a

strong and swift economic recovery. To achieve these goals, we know we must continue working together. It is in this spirit that we urge our congressional leaders to provide additional bipartisan support for direct, flexible fiscal relief for our frontline communities.

Thank you for all the work that you have done in 2020 to respond to this crisis. These actions were important and have helped stave off an even worse public health and economic crisis. However, there is more critical work to do and we urge you to take one more important step and support this request for direct, flexible emergency aid to local communities.

Respectfully,

OHIO MAYORS ALLIANCE BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

 Mayor John Cranley City of Cincinnati	 Mayor Tim J. DeGeeter City of Parma	 Mayor Andrew J. Ginther City of Columbus	 Mayor Christina Muryn City of Findlay
 Mayor Don Patterson City of Kettering	 Mayor David Scheffler City of Lancaster	 Mayor Nan Whaley City of Dayton	

OHIO MAYORS ALLIANCE MEMBERS

Mayor Daniel Horrigan, City of Akron	Mayor Richard "Ike" Stage, City of Grove City
Mayor Steve Patterson, City of Athens	Mayor Don Patterson, City of Kettering
Mayor Bob Stone, City of Beavercreek	Mayor Meghan George, City of Lakewood
Mayor Tom Bernabei, City of Canton	Mayor David Scheffler, City of Lancaster
Mayor John Cranley, City of Cincinnati	Mayor David J. Berger, City of Lima
Mayor Jason Stein, City of Cleveland Heights	Mayor Jack Bradley, City of Lorain
Mayor Andrew J. Ginther, City of Columbus	Mayor Nicole Condrey, City of Middletown
Mayor Don Walters, City of Cuyahoga Falls	Mayor Tim DeGeeter, City of Parma
Mayor Nan Whaley, City of Dayton	Mayor Warren R. Copeland, City of Springfield
Mayor Chris Amorose Groomes, City of Dublin	Mayor Thomas Perciak, City of Strongsville
Mayor Frank Whitfield, City of Elyria	Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz, City of Toledo
Mayor Kirsten Holzheimer Gail, City of Euclid	Mayor William D. Franklin, City of Warren
Mayor Steve Miller, City of Fairfield	Mayor Tito Brown, City of Youngstown
Mayor Christina Muryn, City of Findlay	Keary McCarthy, Executive Director

CC:

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the United States House of Representatives

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer, Majority Leader of the United States Senate

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy, Republican Leader of the United States House of Representatives

The Honorable Mitch McConnell, Republican Leader of the United States Senate

February 11, 2021

Dear Members of Congress:

We are writing as on behalf of Pennsylvania's municipalities to express our strong support for President Biden's American Rescue Plan which contains \$350 billion in aid to state and local governments.

It is clear the COVID-19 pandemic will leave Pennsylvania with long-term, negative social and economic impacts that we will be living with for years to come: long-term unemployment, education gaps, financially devastated and closed businesses, increased mental health issues, addiction, eviction, and most tragically the loss of loved-ones. All of these, coupled with the fact that our low-income and communities of color have disproportionately been effected by COVID-19, puts tremendous strain upon Pennsylvania's residents and communities at a time when we are just digging out from the Great Recession. Pennsylvania cannot afford to be set back another decade.

Our local governments, which are on the frontlines of delivering emergency and essential services, have also borne the brunt of these negative effects. We have had to furlough workers, freeze hiring, reduce our workforces through attrition, freeze capital budgets and assume the increased costs of responding to COVID-19 while our own workers are exposed to the virus. We are deeply concerned that the negative effects of COVID-19 will leave a structural deficit on our public finances, as well as weaken the strength of our non-profit and business sectors. And, now we are being called upon to assist in the most important phase of all—vaccinating our residents.

We therefore appeal to you to adopt the President's Plan which includes \$350 billion of aid to state and local governments. It is absolutely essential that this aid come directly to local governments and be flexible in its use, including assistance to address strained budgets and the social and economic impacts of the pandemic.

We strongly and sincerely urge your adoption of President Biden's American Rescue Plan. Any questions or comments can be directed to Rick Schuettler, Executive Director, at rschuettler@pml.org or Amy Sturges, Director of Governmental Affairs, at asturges@pml.org.

Sincerely,
The Pennsylvania Municipal League Executive Committee

Councilmember Derek Green, Philadelphia
Mayor Danene Sorace, Lancaster
Mayor Michael Lombardo, Pittston
Richard J. Schuettler, Executive Director
Mayor Doug Baker, Franklin

Mayor Derek Slaughter, Williamsport
Mayor Christopher Frye, New Castle
Mayor Ron Strouse, Doylestown
Mayor Paige Cognetti, Scranton
Mayor Matthew Pacifico, Altoona

Membership List

Allegheny Township
Allentown
Altoona

Bedford Borough
Bellefonte Borough
Bethel Park Municipality
Bethlehem
Bradford
Butler

Carbondale
Carlisle Borough
Chambersburg Borough
Coatesville
College Township
Corry
Crafton Borough
Cranberry Township

Derry Township
Dormont Borough
Doylestown Borough
DuBois

East Stroudsburg
Easton
Ebensburg Borough
Edinboro Borough
Ellwood City Borough
Erie
Etna Borough

Farrell
Ferguson Township
Forest Hills Borough
Franklin

Gettysburg Borough
Green Tree Borough
Greensburg

Halfmoon Township
Hampton Township
Harrisburg
Harris Township
Hatboro Borough
Hazleton
Hermitage
Hollidaysburg Borough
Homestead Borough

Indiana Borough

Jenkintown Borough
Kingston Municipality
Kutztown Borough

Lancaster
Latrobe
Lebanon
Lemoyne Borough
Lewisburg Borough
Ligonier Township
Lock Haven
Lower Burrell
Lower Merion Township
Lower Paxton Township

Malvern Borough
Mansfield Borough
Marcus Hook Borough
McCandless
Media Borough
Millersville Borough
Milton Borough
Monessen
Monongahela
Moon Township
Mt. Oliver Borough
Muhlenberg Township
Murrysville Municipality

Nanticoke
New Castle
New Kensington
Norristown Municipality
North Huntingdon Twp.

Oakmont Borough

Parker
Patton Township
Paxtang Borough
Peters Township
Philadelphia
Phoenixville Borough
Pittsburgh
Pittston
Plainfield Township
Plum Borough
Pottsville
Reading
Reserve Township
Robinson Township

Scranton
Sewickley Borough
Shamokin
Sharon
South Fayette Township
St. Marys
State College Borough
Steelton Borough
Sunbury

Tarentum Borough
Titusville

Upper Chichester Twp.
Upper Darby Township
Upper Providence Twp.
Upper St. Clair Township

Warren
Washington
Wellsboro Borough
West Chester Borough
West Norriton Township
Wilkes-Barre
Williamsport

Zelienople Borough

Count = 114 Members

Updated 2/11/2021

Township of Cheltenham

Montgomery County, Pennsylvania

Board of Commissioners

Daniel B. Norris, *President*
Baron B. Holland, *Vice President*
Matthew D. Areman
Irv Brockington
Brad M. Pransky
Ann L. Rappoport
Mitchell Zygmund-Felt

Township Manager

Bryan T. Havir



Administration Building

8230 Old York Road
Elkins Park, PA 19027-1589

Phone: 215-887-1000
FAX: 215-887-1561
www.cheltenhamtownship.org

May 13, 2020

U.S. Senator Pat Toomey
Attn: Christopher Gahan, Chief of Staff
248 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Support of HR 6800- The Heroes Act

Dear Senator Toomey:

As Congress considers additional federal assistance packages in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, it is critical that you include direct relief to cities, towns and villages. Businesses and community organizations across our country depend on the economic strength and vitality of municipalities. Not only do our nation's cities provide an anchor for local economic development, they also provide the essential services that businesses depend on to ensure we remain competitive, including access to clean water, public safety, reliable infrastructure and a strong workforce base. Without a lifeline to recover and restore local economic activity, cities, towns and villages will be forced to make cuts to essential services that will have a ripple effect across the public and private sectors.

For organizations such as Cheltenham Township, based in Elkins Park, Pennsylvania, it is because of our strong community partnership that we can thrive. The strong leadership of our local elected officials and the partnership they have provided to local businesses is critical to our success. If cities fail to thrive, we all fail to thrive. We know that you understand the importance of this relationship in our great state of Pennsylvania and we hope that we can rely on your support for legislation that includes:

- \$500 billion over two years of federal aid for local governments
- Fair and direct funding allocations to each and every local government, with no exclusions based on population
- Equal funding overall for municipal governments and county governments
- Maximum flexibility for the eligible use of funds to address the budget consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic

Thank you for your leadership on this important issue. Please contact Terry Fedorchak at 215-887-6200, ext. 112 or tfedorchak@cheltenham-township.org with any questions.

Sincerely,

Terry Fedorchak
Interim Township Manager

TF/aml

A Home Rule Charter Community

August 6, 2020

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
S-30, The Capitol
Washington DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader McConnell:

PLEASE reconsider your stance against direct funding our nations' cities, towns and villages. We are dealing with this national health crisis every day at the local level. But we need the partnership with our federal government, ***no more than ever.***

Here in my city of Easton, PA, like most cities across the country, we deliver public safety and essential services to our residents with a balanced budget – every year! Easton is experiencing a loss of revenue this year of more than \$5 million. We laid off 30% of our workforce, postponed needed capital projects and reduced all expenditures to emergency purchases only and have lowered the revenue gap this year to approximately \$2 million – and next year seems to be more of the same.

On top of that, yesterday we experienced severe flooding from the tropical storm Isaias.

Please Senator, we need direct funding to our local governments. Our records stand for themselves. Cities are managed with a fiscal responsibility that has been cited by financial regulators as being the most efficient and well-managed governments. Every year we balance our budgets, despite rising costs, by either raising taxes or cutting needed services.

We are cut to the bone. If we do not receive direct assistance from our federal partner we will be forced to layoff and reduce our police, fire and first responders. And without direct federal aid to cities there is no economic recovery to our nation.

Respectfully yours,

Salvatore J. Panto, Jr.
Mayor



CITY OF COLUMBIA
SOUTH CAROLINA
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

February 8, 2021

The Honorable James Clyburn
United States House of Representatives
Washington DC 20515
Via email: ashleigh.wilson@mail.house.gov

Dear Representative Clyburn:

Thank you for all that you and your colleagues have done to address the COVID-19 pandemic and its social and economic impacts. Extraordinary challenges call for extraordinary responses. Under your leadership, Congress has risen to the occasion, taking bold action to address the challenges our nation is facing. As we glimpse the end of the tunnel, we are pleased that Congress is moving quickly on the Administration's request for a bold pandemic relief package to ensure that we stride rather than stumble when we emerge from the tunnel later this year.

We are especially pleased that the Budget Resolution outlining the parameters the budget reconciliation bill includes \$350 billion in state and local fiscal assistance. You have heard several times from mayors across South Carolina that fiscal assistance be flexible and it should be provided directly to local governments. The pandemic and its social and economic impacts do not disappear in cities below a certain population threshold and I respectfully restate those requests. The fiscal assistance provided in the CARES Act left out almost all South Carolina cities and counties, leaving us at the mercy of the state and its cumbersome, bureaucratic, and unfair process of allocating those funds. The House leadership developed an efficient and equitable formula for allocating fiscal assistance in the HEROES Act and I urge you to stick with that approach in this next pandemic relief package.

Columbia is also pleased to see reports that the portion of the budget reconciliation bill that the House Financial Services Committee is preparing includes an additional funding for emergency rental assistance. This funding will build on the \$25 billion for emergency rental assistance provided by the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSA), helping vulnerable households stay in their homes and weather the pandemic. However, at the risk of sounding like a broken record, CRRSA limited allocation of rental assistance funds to the states and to cities and counties over 200,000 population, once again leaving out many South Carolina cities and counties, Columbia¹. Columbia and other South Carolina cities and counties have well developed community development programs and a long history of successfully

¹ Columbia's population stands at 131,674 per [2019 Census Bureau estimates](#).

Stephen K. Benjamin

1737 MAIN STREET · P.O. BOX 147 · COLUMBIA, SC 29217 · PHONE: (803)545-3075 · FAX: (803)733-8633



CITY OF COLUMBIA
SOUTH CAROLINA
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

managing CDBG and HOME funds. In addition, our professional housing and community development staff have detailed and specific knowledge of the housing situations in our communities and the resources to quickly and effectively provide aid to households in need. I therefore respectfully request that rental assistance be distributed directly to all CDBG entitlement cities and counties.

President Biden's plan also calls for \$5 billion for homeless assistance and \$5 billion for energy and water utility assistance, which the City of Columbia also supports. We respectfully request that Congress allocate as much of this assistance as possible directly to local governments, the best way to efficiently and effectively put it to work helping our vulnerable households. We are also pleased that the plan includes additional assistance to hard hit small businesses and schools and funding for aggressive vaccination and testing regime.

As you know, Columbia's firefighters, police officers, emergency medical technicians, and water and wastewater utility staff have been on the front lines in helping our community address this pandemic all the while continuing to provide core local government services. In addition, the pandemic has wreaked havoc on our small businesses, especially those in the hospitality industry, placing increased demands on the City's budget as we face a substantial decrease in revenue.

The bold action that Congress has taken under your leadership has been critical to helping Columbia residents and small businesses weather this terrible pandemic. It is heartening to see the President and Congress taking bold action to ensure that our nation emerges from this pandemic stronger than ever. Providing direct and flexible fiscal assistance and other resources directly to local governments will ensure that funds are used efficiently and effectively and that fiscally sound local governments are able to continue providing the core government services and infrastructure that are the foundation of our economy.

Thank you for your leadership and for all that you do for Columbia.

Sincerely,

Stephen K. Benjamin
Mayor
Columbia, SC



City of Seattle
Mayor Jenny A. Durkan

February 11, 2021

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20510

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

On behalf of the City of Seattle, we urge you to take immediate action on comprehensive coronavirus relief legislation, which must include direct fiscal assistance to cities as outlined in President Biden's American Rescue Plan. This critical aid will help us eradicate the virus and create a foundation for sustainable and inclusive recovery.

We appreciate the invaluable aid that our federal partners have provided to date, however, the immense scale and growing needs facing our city are outstripping our local resources as the unprecedented global health pandemic continues.

Nevertheless, the City of Seattle remains focused on addressing the devastating and enduring impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic. Our immediate charge remains to help mitigate the COVID-19 virus, keep our local businesses alive, and serve our most vulnerable residents and frontline heroes. Among the programs that could continue with direct local assistance:

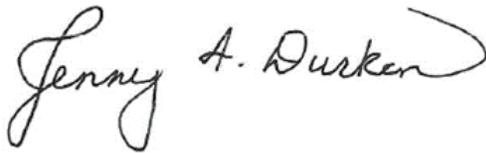
- Support for local food banks and grocery vouchers
- Small Business Stabilization
- Non-FEMA eligible activities for testing and vaccines
- Rental assistance and eviction prevention

American cities and our essential workers have been serving at the frontlines of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic for nearly a year. Despite immense fiscal pressure, local governments oversaw those efforts, while trying to maintain essential services and providing lifelines for

residents and businesses who have been crippled by the economic crash. The \$350 billion in direct relief to state and local governments included in President Biden's American Rescue Plan would allow Seattle and cities across the country to preserve critical public sector jobs and help drive our economic recovery.

We urge Congress and White House to act prudently and expeditiously to ensure our state and local governments have the resources and flexibility to overcome this national emergency.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jenny A. Durkan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "J" and a long, horizontal flourish at the end.

Mayor Jenny A. Durkan

Seattle, Washington

cc: Seattle Congressional Delegation; House Oversight Committee

February 3, 2021

Honorable Members of the Texas Delegation:

As Texas combats the third and largest surge of the COVID-19 pandemic, we once again write to request that Congress provide direct and flexible fiscal assistance to local governments of all sizes. Texas cities need help to continue to address the pandemic and its economic and social impacts and to weather budget shortfalls that we face through no fault of our own.

The budget calamity looming over local governments is real and requires extraordinary measures. As the numbers recently released by Comptroller Hegar illustrate, Texas is not immune from this pain. He reports that December 2020 general fund tax revenues were 9.26% below December 2019's figures. Please note that these numbers do not include delayed property tax revenue losses, the primary source of local government revenue in Texas. Property taxes are always a lagging economic indicator, and we therefore fear that it will be some time before our revenues rebound from the pandemic. All Texas cities are grappling with this devastating reduction in revenue as a result of an unprecedented pandemic. In addition, we are facing this fiscal crisis at the same time we continue to address major public health and public safety challenges and are incurring significant costs to ramp up vaccination efforts and other pandemic prevention and response activities. Cities have been, and will continue to be, the first responders to our pandemic – assistance cannot come at a more necessary time.

Texas cities are major employers that provide core local government services to tens of millions of Texans. However, we are all mandated to balance our budgets and cannot weather a budget deficit for long. Absent direct and flexible assistance, we fear that we will be forced to cut our workforce and reduce services, exacerbating the economic and public health crises created by this pandemic. Indeed, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that local governments have already cut 1 million jobs since the pandemic began, including 56,000 in Texas. Furthermore, without direct and flexible fiscal assistance, those unemployment numbers will only get worse, leading to a drag on economic recovery and hurting efforts to safely reopen our economy.

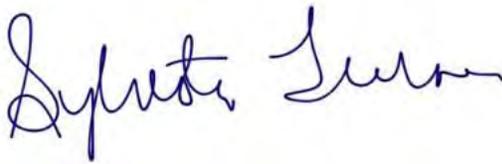
There is broad support for direct and flexible fiscal assistance to local governments. Federal Reserve Board Chairman Jerome Powell and Secretary of the Treasury Janet Yellen have endorsed it in testimony to Congress and in other public remarks, arguing that local government budget cuts threaten to stymie economic recovery and hurt core government services later this year, and potentially years following. Closer to home, Dallas Federal Reserve Bank President Robert Kaplan has repeatedly voiced strong support for fiscal assistance to local governments. In

addition, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and many other national organizations have called for fiscal assistance to state and local governments.

Texas metropolitan areas account for 93.1% of the Texas economy. Vibrant metropolitan areas with strong, fiscally stable local governments will be key to defeating the pandemic and managing the reopening of the Texas economy. Simply put, it will be impossible to have fiscally stable local governments without flexible fiscal assistance directly allocated from the federal government.

Thank you again for your efforts during this unprecedented time and for your attention to our request. We are confident that, working together, our nation can overcome this crisis.

Sincerely,



Sylvester Turner, Mayor
City of Houston



Ron Nirenberg, Mayor
City of San Antonio



Eric Johnson, Mayor
City of Dallas



Steve Adler, Mayor
City of Austin



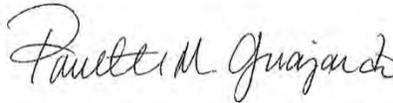
Jeff Williams, Mayor
City of Arlington



Oscar Leeser, Mayor
City of El Paso



Harry LaRosiliere, Mayor
City of Plano



Paulette M. Guajardo, Mayor
City of Corpus Christi



Mayor Ron Jensen
City of Grand Prairie



Pete Saenz, Mayor
City of Laredo



Dan Pope, Mayor
City of Lubbock



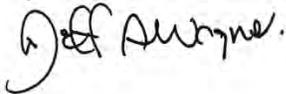
Rick Stopfer, Mayor
City of Irving



Ginger Nelson, Mayor
City of Amarillo



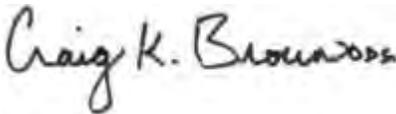
Paul Johnson, Mayor
City of Jonestown



Jeff Wagner, Mayor
City of Pasadena



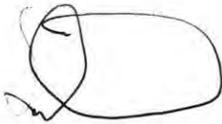
James E. Darling, Mayor
City of McAllen



Craig K. Brown, Mayor
City of Galveston



Karen Hunt, Mayor
City of Coppell



Joe Zimmerman, Mayor
City of Sugar Land



Josh Schroder, Mayor
City of Georgetown



Paul Voelker, Mayor
City of Richardson



Stephen L. Santellana, Mayor
City of Wichita Falls


Bill Blackburn, Mayor

Bill Blackburn, Mayor
City of Kerrville



Brenda Gunter, Mayor
City of San Angelo



Geary Smith, Mayor
City of Mexia



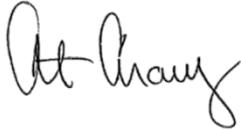
Sara Post Meyer, Mayor
City of Cuero



Dr. Ianthia Fisher, Mayor
City of Crockett



Sergio Coronado, Mayor
City of Hidalgo



Antonio Araujo, Mayor
City of San Elizario



Todd Wright, Mayor
City of Petronila



Al Turnage, Mayor
City of Hooks

Cissy Gonzalez-Dippel

Cissy Gonzalez-Dippel, Mayor
City of Floresville

Mike Hendricks

Mike Hendricks, Mayor
City of Luling



Spencer H. Smith, Mayor
City of Harker Heights



Clyde C. Hairston, Mayor
City of Lancaster



Connie Schroeder, Mayor
City of Bastrop

Olan Kelley

Olan Kelley, Mayor
City of Highland Haven



Terrill Bartlett, Mayor
City of Canadian



Tammy Dana-Bashian, Mayor
City of Rowlett



Tobe Shields, Mayor
City of Spearman



Lee Urbanovsky, Mayor
City of Buda

Willie Leal, Jr.

Willie Leal, Jr., Mayor
City of Poteet

Ricky Swick

Ricky Swick, Mayor
City of Bremond



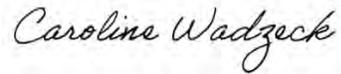
Ron Humphrey, Mayor
City of New Boston



Cathy Skurow, Mayor
City of Portland



George Galbreath, Mayor
City of Thorndale



Caroline Wadzeck, Mayor
City of Dayton



Arthur L. Miner, Mayor
City of Watauga



Sean Skipworth, Mayor
City of Dickinson



Leroy Hughes, Mayor
City of San Augustine



David Hoover, City Manager
City of Colorado City



Roger Shugart, Mayor
City of Brazoria



Gilbert Gomez, Mayor
City of Robstown



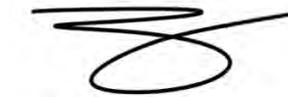
David Hillock, Mayor
Town of Little Elm



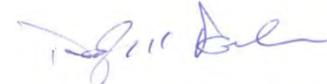
Sam R. Fugate, Mayor
City of Kingsville



Juan Jose Zamora, Mayor
City of Port Isabel



Tom Daly, Mayor
City of Selma



Doyle Robinson, Mayor
City of Panhandle



Barbra Pinner, Mayor
City of Levelland



Ricardo Guerra, Mayor
City of San Benito



Jane Hughson, Mayor
City of San Marcos



Tim Handren, Mayor
City of Boerne

William M. "Bill" Hastings, Mayor
City of Katy

Pam Gosline, Mayor
City of Vernon

Robert Williams, Mayor
City of Jourdanton

Ambrosio Hernandez, Mayor
City of Pharr

Olan Kelley

Olan Kelley, Mayor
City of Highland Haven

Manuel Baeza, Mayor
City of Marfa

Tom Hesse, Mayor
City of Brownfield

Vicki Sanson, Mayor
City of Lavon

Mary Parr, Mayor
City of Eagle Lake

C.R. Evans, Jr., Mayor
City of Overton

Michael Barnhart, Mayor
City of Lake Dallas

Sincerely,

Patrick Payton, Mayor
City of Midland

Mark McFadden, Mayor
City of Olton

Mark L. Stanfill, DVM, Mayor
City of Red Oak

Jim Olk, Mayor
City of Lucas

Joe Carlyle

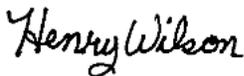
Joe Carlyle, Mayor
City of Troup



Sheila Petta, Mayor
City of Wilmer



Rick Carmona, Mayor
City of Terrell



Henry Wilson, Mayor
City of Hurst



Cathy Bennett, Mayor
City of Ivanhoe



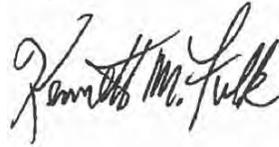
Larry Vernon, Mayor
City of Eastland



William L. Parten, Mayor
City of Madisonville



Mike Foreman, Mayor
City of Friendswood



Kenneth M. Fulk, Mayor
City of Allen

City Administrator
Rona Stringfellow

City Secretary
Mayra A. Ortiz



City of Wilmer
Serving Our Community

Mayor
Emmanuel Wealthy

Mayor Pro-Tem
Candy Madrigal

Council Members
Sergio Campos
Melissa Ramirez
Phyllis Slough
Jeff Steele

Office of the Mayor

May 12, 2020

U.S. Representative Eddie Bernice Johnson
Dallas District Office
1825 Market Center Blvd., Suite 440
Dallas, TX 75207

Dear Congresswoman Johnson:

As Congress considers additional federal assistance packages in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, it is critical that you include direct relief to cities, towns and villages.

Businesses and community organizations across our country depend on the economic strength and vitality of municipalities. Not only do our nation's cities provide an anchor for local economic development, they also provide the essential services that businesses depend on to ensure we remain competitive, including access to clean water, public safety, reliable infrastructure and a strong workforce base. Without a lifeline to recover and restore local economic activity, cities, towns and villages will be forced to make cuts to essential services that will have a ripple effect across the public and private sectors.

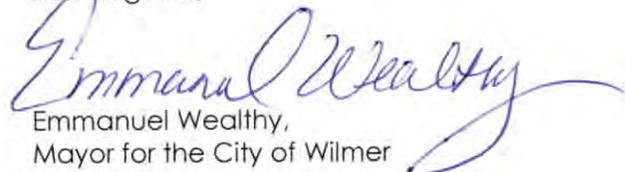
For organizations such as the City of Wilmer, based in Wilmer, Texas, it is because of our strong community partnership that we can thrive. The strong leadership of our local elected officials, and the partnership they have provided to local businesses is critical to our success. If cities fail to thrive, we all fail to thrive.

We know that you understand the importance of this relationship in our great state of Texas and we hope that we can rely on your support for legislation that includes:

- \$500 billion over two years of federal aid for local governments
- Fair and direct funding allocations to each and every local government, with no exclusions based on population
- Equal funding overall for municipal governments and county governments
- Maximum flexibility for the eligible use of funds to address the budget consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic

Thank you for your leadership on this important issue.

Best Regards,


Emmanuel Wealthy,
Mayor for the City of Wilmer

City of Wilmer
128 N. Dallas Avenue, Wilmer, Texas 75172
972-441-6373 (tele) / 972-441-3061 (fax)



The Honorable Carolyn B. Maloney
Chairwoman
House Committee on Oversight and Reform
2157 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable James Comer
Ranking Member
House Committee on Oversight and Reform
2105 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

February 5, 2021

Dear Chairwoman Maloney and Ranking Member Comer,

Salt Lake City contended with many challenges over the past year: an earthquake, police violence and civil unrest, and obviously the coronavirus pandemic that has devastated the world. As Mayor, I appreciate the efforts of federal lawmakers to deliver relief for our city and constituents as we respond to the public health and economic crises at hand. I am writing today to express my support for the American Rescue Plan introduced by the Administration. I would like to respectfully ask Congressional leaders to support the inclusion of \$350 billion worth of state and local assistance as proposed by President Joseph Biden. Direct federal relief for localities of all sizes will better enable Salt Lake City to vaccinate the public, contain the virus, curb the economic fallout, and maintain our essential workers and services, if we are allowed to cover costs and revenue losses.

Since the outbreak began and Congress passed the *Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES) Act* (P.L. 116-136) nearly a year ago, our city government worked diligently to protect the public health and economic vitality of our community. We have done so without a direct allocation from the Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) administered by the U.S. Department of Treasury because our population is under 500,000 people. We provided testing for the masses and increased critical services for the most vulnerable. There has been an increased need for first responders, specifically police, fire, and dispatchers. Salt Lake City absorbed a disproportionate share of cases from the region as our Utah neighbors sought treatment in our hospitals. While I am proud of these efforts, the undertaking had a real financial burden. I hope policymakers understand the inequitable outcomes stemming the CARES distribution formula and seek to correct that.

My team projects a budget shortfall exceeding \$24.6 million for Fiscal Years (FY) 2020-2021. Our local revenue losses are projected to triple from \$4.5 million in FY 2020 to \$15.2 million in FY 2021. The City has taken several measures to minimize this gap by reducing expenditures, implementing a hiring freeze, cutting nonessential programs, delaying capital projects, and transitioning employees to remote work. However, those measures cannot fully negate a precipitous decline in revenues and increased costs associated with the prolonged emergency response, including overtime pay and new responsibilities to support vaccinations.

It is imperative that any forthcoming legislation provides direct, flexible relief to local governments of all sizes, not just those with more than 500,000 residents. When federal funds are allocated only to the upstream jurisdictions, cities are not guaranteed an equitable sub-allocation, and any forthcoming federal funds are often delayed or accompanied by additional, burdensome



restrictions that limit our ability to respond dynamically. Salt Lake City – the most populous city in Utah – experienced those complications firsthand. Localities are leading the public health emergency response, and federal funding formulas ought to reflect that reality.

Recent funds distributed by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) for vaccine administration underscore this point. Only four cities nationwide received direct allocations because funds were distributed using Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) cooperative agreements. Uncertainty and bureaucracy at the state level impedes our ability to scale local sites and vaccinate the population as fast as possible. As legislative text is drafted, I respectfully ask for your advocacy of distribution formulas that ensure all local governments receive direct, equitable resources to support our response.

Please let me know if I can provide any more information that would be helpful to the House Committee on Oversight and Reform as your work on the next coronavirus relief package advances. I appreciate this opportunity to share our City’s priorities as we work to protect the public and provide relief to families, workers, and businesses. Thank you for your leadership and your consideration of our local concerns and experience to date.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "E. Mendenhall".

Mayor Erin Mendenhall
Salt Lake City, Utah



City of Tacoma

Mayor Victoria Woodards

The Honorable Carolyn B. Maloney
Chairwoman
House Oversight and Reform Committee
2157 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable James Comer
Ranking Member
House Oversight and Reform Committee
2105 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

February 5, 2021

Dear Chairwoman Maloney and Ranking Member Comer,

On behalf of the City of Tacoma, I write to voice support for the American Rescue Plan. As a mayor, I firmly believe that passing the plan is the critical first step in providing support for state and local partners to protect the public, defeat the virus, and promote healing in communities across the country. As you engage with the White House and negotiate with your colleagues on Capitol Hill, I urge you to maintain the \$350 billion worth of federal relief for state and local governments and utilize a distribution formula that ensures that cities of all sizes, like Tacoma, can keep our essential workers on payroll and continue delivering municipal services to our residents in this hour of need. The legislative text that emerges from the House Oversight and Reform Committee will shape how effectively thousands of municipalities in the United States respond to and recover from this devastating pandemic.

A resident of Washington State became the first person in the U.S. to test positive for COVID-19 one year ago. Since then, the City of Tacoma and surrounding communities have overseen the local public health response, providing substantial dedicated personnel and absorbing administrative costs across every municipal department addressing community needs. Preexisting problems have been exacerbated by the pandemic. Far too many constituents are experiencing job loss, income insecurity, housing insecurity or homelessness, food insecurity, mental health issues, and declining business. We incurred unforeseen expenses, while experiencing a precipitous decline in revenues. The National League of Cities (NLC) reports that local revenues decreased by 21 percent, while expenditures increased by 17 percent on average. Cities have been asked to do far more, like ensuring the successful vaccination of the public, without adequate support.

The City is appreciative of the *Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act* (P.L. 116-136), which provided some initial relief to Washington State and Pierce County. However, the City of Tacoma did not receive a direct allocation from the Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) because our population is under 500,000 residents. The City of Tacoma accounts for 24% of Pierce County's population, but we received only \$9 million worth of reimbursement (or 5.7%) of the County's \$157 million allocation from the U.S. Department of Treasury. It does not cover \$10.1 million expended on the public health response last year, and it is certainly not

an equitable outcome for our 217,000 residents, especially our most vulnerable and marginalized communities. Given your leadership positions on the House Oversight and Reform Committee, I respectfully ask for your support of a formula that will distribute equitable, flexible relief to localities of all sizes.

The Tacoma City Council recently passed a biennial budget with a variety of personnel and spending reductions. The City is contending with a \$20 million budget shortfall for Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 and projecting revenue shortfalls in our General Fund exceeding \$32 million in FY 2021 and \$35 million in FY 2022. Our public facilities district lost an additional \$15.4 million last year due to event cancellations at the Tacoma Dome and Convention Center. Because of the shortfall, we implemented a two-percent reduction to our police department and recently took one fire engine out of commission. My colleagues and I are very concerned about the cuts to our fire department given their primary role in the emergency response and the fact that it took years to restore our service levels after the Great Recession. Federal relief can help undo some of this damage, avoid further reductions, and maintain essential workers on our payroll.

As you draft legislative text in committee and engage with the Administration, I ask you to fight to keep the \$350 billion worth of state and local assistance proposed in the American Rescue Plan. Now is the time for Congress to finally stand up for our emergency medical personnel, police officers, firefighters, and other municipal workers serving on the frontlines in Tacoma, as well as in your own communities.

Thank you for your earlier actions to combat the coronavirus. Please let me know how the City of Tacoma can most effectively serve as your partner in passing additional pandemic relief that meets the moment and provides a lifeline to state and local governments. I wish you good health and great strength as you guide our nation through difficult days and historic challenges.

Yours in Service,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Victoria R. Woodards".

Mayor Victoria R. Woodards
City of Tacoma, Washington



February 4, 2021

Honorable Nancy Pelosi
United States House of Representatives
H-222 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Honorable Kevin McCarthy
United States House of Representatives
H-204 The Capitol
Washington DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Leader McCarthy:

I am writing this letter of support on behalf of the residents of the City of Sheboygan located in America's heartland to implore you to pass the American Rescue Plan that includes urgently needed financial relief for cities and towns that have borne the brunt of the impact from the pandemic. With infections, hospitalizations, and deaths at unprecedented levels, and economic recovery stalling, our citizens are looking for immediate action from Washington and we urge you to avoid further delay and approve a new relief package that includes revenue replacement for local governments.

Cities are on the front lines confronting the pandemic and suffering from the damage it has caused to our local economies and the revenue shortfalls that threaten our ability to maintain vital services for our constituents. Our Midwest cities reflect the national impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, where on average cities have seen revenues decline by more than 20 percent while expenditures have increased by 17 percent.

Without federal financial assistance, our nation's economic recovery will stall and cities and towns—both urban and rural—will be further challenged in rebuilding healthy local economies. Federal aid will also enable our cities to sustain joint response efforts from the public and private sector, and support partnerships between local governments, businesses and their communities to mitigate the economic, health and public safety impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

We stress to you the urgency of this request and the need for action now to avoid delays in administering critically needed federal assistance that will impact the health and livelihoods of millions of our citizens. Our residents appreciate your support for our efforts to maintain public health and safety and keep us on a sustained path to economic recovery.

Sincerely,

Mike Vandersteen, Mayor

MAYOR'S OFFICE

CITY HALL
828 CENTER AVE.
SHEBOYGAN, WI
53081

920-459-3317
sheboyganwi.gov



The Honorable Carolyn B. Maloney
Chairwoman
House Oversight and Reform Committee
2157 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable James Comer
Ranking Member
House Oversight and Reform Committee
2105 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

February 11, 2021

Dear Chairwoman Maloney and Ranking Member Comer,

On behalf of the five most populous cities in Wisconsin and our 1.1 million residents, we write to convey our support for the American Rescue Plan, including \$350 billion worth of federal assistance for state and local governments as proposed by President Joseph R. Biden. As mayors, we are proud of our public health, emergency medical personnel, police officers, firefighters, teachers, sanitation workers, and other civil servants who have worked tirelessly throughout the pandemic to protect public health and deliver essential services to our communities. We ask the House Committee on Oversight and Reform to maintain this level of funding for state and local aid and to develop an equitable distribution formula that provides direct, flexible aid to all localities tasked with managing the emergency response and vaccination efforts on the ground, regardless of size.

For nearly a year, localities have led the public health emergency response and efforts to prevent homelessness, support small businesses, ensure no family goes hungry, and continue providing other essential services. We have managed to undertake those efforts with fewer public employees on staff and without promise of future federal support. Moving forward in 2021, local governments are being tasked with vaccine distribution and spearheading an economic recovery.

Our communities are still reeling from the impact of the virus. There have been 550,000 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Wisconsin and nearly 25,000 have been hospitalized since the onset of the pandemic.¹ Tragically, over 6,000 people in Wisconsin have succumbed to the virus, and we mourn those lives lost and grieve with those families and communities forever changed.

As local officials, we must also consider the economic burden of this pandemic, including the steep decrease in public sector employment since last spring. Between December 2019 and December 2020, Wisconsin experienced 33,900 public sector job losses – during this moment when our residents are counting on public employees and the services provided by our municipalities more than ever.² While there is modest recovery in employment in some industries, state and local governments will need to continue implementing cost-savings measures. Without federal relief, many jurisdictions will be forced to lay off and furlough workers to balance our budgets that will continue seeing revenue decreases this year and next.

The story is the same for communities across Wisconsin and the rest of the country. Public sector employment in the U.S. is down 1.3 million since last February. For the vast majority of municipal governments, according to a survey by the National League of Cities, local government expenses have increased by an average of 17 percent during the pandemic while revenues have declined by an average of 21 percent.

¹ "COVID-19 Summary Data," Wisconsin Department of Health Services, updated February 8, 2021, <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/data.htm#summary>.

² U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, "Employees on nonfarm payrolls by state and selected industry sector, seasonally adjusted," U.S. Department of Labor, updated January 26, 2021, <https://www.bls.gov/news.release/laus.t03.htm>.

We appreciate the relief that Congress provided by passing the *Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act* (P.L. 116-136) last March; however, while that legislation established the Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) for state and local governments with populations of more than 500,000 residents, it left an overwhelming majority of city governments and our municipal employees behind. Of the 72 counties and 585 municipalities in Wisconsin, only two counties and one city were eligible to receive a direct allocation from the CRF because of the 500,000-population threshold.³ Only three local jurisdictions were afforded the opportunity to have total authority making spending decisions to determine the fates of their communities. We ask policymakers to reject that approach this time and instead empower all localities to determine the most effective use of federal funds without bureaucracy at the state or county level.

Here in Wisconsin, the State government received \$2 billion in CRF funds and made only \$200 million – or 10 percent – available to cities and counties through the “Routes to Recovery” grant program.⁴ This outcome was inequitable and unacceptable for the 70 counties and 584 local governments in Wisconsin that did not receive a direct allocation from the *CARES Act*. It was frustrating when our partners in State government then imposed additional restrictions on the use of these funds, thereby hindering our ability to be as dynamic as possible, as federal lawmakers intended within the statute.

Therefore, we respectfully ask the Committee to draft legislation that utilizes a distribution formula that ensures cities of all sizes receive an adequate share of relief funds. The Committee might consider the formula included in the HEROES Act introduced in the 116th Congress or other formulas like that used by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to allocate Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds to all localities.

We are confident that our city governments are the best positioned to protect public health and jumpstart our local economies with direct, flexible, and equitable federal support. We appreciate your consideration of these requests intended to help your intergovernmental partners to continue to protect our essential workers and provide essential services to our residents. Thank you for your leadership and your work on behalf of the American people.

Sincerely,



Mayor Tom Barrett
City of Milwaukee, Wisconsin



Mayor Satya Rhodes-Conway
City of Madison, Wisconsin



Mayor Eric Genrich
City of Green Bay, Wisconsin



Mayor John Antaramian
City of Kenosha, Wisconsin



Mayor Cory Mason
City of Racine, Wisconsin

³ Payments to States and Eligible Units of Local Government,” U.S. Department of the Treasury, updated May 11, 2020, <https://home.treasury.gov/system/files/136/Payments-to-States-and-Units-of-Local-Government.pdf>.

⁴ “Routes to Recovery: Program Guidance for Local Governments,” State of Wisconsin Department of Administration, updated November 4, 2020, <https://doa.wi.gov/Secretary/RRG-ProgramGuidance.pdf>.