

ST. PETERSBURG CITY COUNCIL
Consent Agenda
Meeting of February 18, 2021

TO: The Honorable Ed Montanari, Chair, and Members of City Council

SUBJECT: A resolution authorizing the Mayor or his designee to accept grant funding in the amount of \$8,012,455.90 from the U.S. Department of the Treasury (“Treasury”); approving a supplemental appropriation in the amount of \$8,012,455.90 from the increase in the unappropriated balance of the Federal Operating Grant Fund (1720), resulting from additional grant revenue to be received during FY 2020/21, to the Housing and Community Development Department, Administration Division (082-1089); to execute all documents necessary for implementation of the grant; and providing an effective date.

EXPLANATION: On December 27, 2020, the prior President approved the Emergency Rental Assistance (“ERA”) program established by section 501(a) of Division N of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021, Pub. L. No. 116-260 (the “Act”). Funding was approved to ensure those persons/households who have lost their jobs, became underemployed or furloughed who could not pay their rent/utilities were provided resources in order to prevent homelessness and maintain housing stability.

Funding in the amount of \$8,012,455.90 will provide aid and relief to those economically suffering as a result of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. These funds are to address the needs of persons/households with incomes not to exceed 80% of Area Median Income (“AMI”), with priority given to persons/households under 50% AMI and households with one or more persons unemployed as of the date of the application for assistance and have not been employed for the 90-day period preceding such date. Such assistance shall be provided for a period not to exceed 12 months going back to March 13, 2020; except, that assistance may be provided for an additional three months only if necessary, to ensure housing stability for a household subject to the availability of funds.

Administration has determined funding breakdown as follows:

- \$7,211,210.90 for rental/utility assistance
- \$150,000.00 for program administration
- \$651,245.00 for City administrative costs

At this time, Administration would like to provide funding in the amount of \$1,000,000 for rental/utility assistance and \$150,000.00 for program administration which will be sub-granted to Boley Centers and Catholic Charities with each entity receiving the following: 1) \$500,000 for direct assistance, and 2) \$75,000 for program administration. The \$651,245 will be used to address administrative costs of the City and any other costs associated with partnering with an entity/vendor that may be able to assist. The remainder of the funding in the amount of \$6,211,210.90 will be set aside while staff research other options such as partnering with another entity/vendor to expedite the expenditure of these funds. The balance of \$6,211,210.90 will be brought back to City Council at a future date with other funding solutions.

Furthermore, the City needs to demonstrate that sixty-five percent (65%) of the funding needs to be fully obligated to eligible persons/households by September 30, 2021, otherwise any unobligated funding is subject to recapture at that time. In addition, all funds need to be fully expended by December 31, 2021, and any unused funds plus earned interest will be required to be returned to the Treasury.

Administration is requesting a supplemental appropriation in the amount of \$8,012,455.90 in Treasury funding from the increase in the unappropriated balance of the Federal Operating Grant Fund (1720) resulting from the grant funding.

RECOMMENDATION: A resolution authorizing the Mayor or his designee to accept grant funding in the amount of \$8,012,455.90 from the U.S. Department of the Treasury (“Treasury”); approving a supplemental appropriation in the amount of \$8,012,455.90 from the increase in the unappropriated balance of the Federal Operating Grant Fund (1720), resulting from additional grant revenue to be received during FY 2020/21, to the Housing and Community Development Department, Administration Division (082-1089); to execute all documents necessary for implementation of the grant; and providing an effective date.

COST/FUNDING/ASSESSMENT INFORMATION: Revenues of up to \$8,012,455.90 have been received from the U.S. Department of the Treasury (“Treasury”) and deposited into the Federal Operating Grant Fund (1720). Funds will be available after the approval of a supplemental appropriation in the amount of \$8,012,455.90 from the increase in the unappropriated balance of the Federal Operating Grant Fund (1720), resulting from additional grant revenue to the Housing and Community Development Department, Administration Division (082-1089).

Attachments: Resolution

APPROVALS:

Administration: Robert Gerdes

Budget: [Signature]

Legal: 00550194.doc v2

Resolution No. 2021 - _____

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OR HIS DESIGNEE TO ACCEPT GRANT FUNDING IN THE AMOUNT OF \$8,012,455.90 FROM THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY (“TREASURY”); APPROVING A SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$8,012,455.90 FROM THE INCREASE IN THE UNAPPROPRIATED BALANCE OF THE FEDERAL OPERATING GRANT FUND (1720), RESULTING FROM ADDITIONAL GRANT REVENUE TO BE RECEIVED DURING FY 2020/21, TO THE HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT, ADMINISTRATION DIVISION (082-1089); TO EXECUTE ALL DOCUMENTS NECESSARY FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GRANT; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, on December 27, 2020, the prior President approved the Emergency Rental Assistance (“ERA”) program established by section 501(a) of Division N of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021, Pub. L. No. 116-260 (the “Act”); and

WHEREAS, funding was approved to ensure those persons/households who have lost their jobs, became underemployed or furloughed who could not pay their rent/utilities due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic were provided resources in order to prevent homelessness and maintain housing stability; and

WHEREAS, funding in the amount of \$8,012,455.90 will provide aid and relief to those economically suffering as a result of pandemic and address the needs of persons/households with incomes not to exceed 80% of Area Median Income (“AMI”); and

WHEREAS, priority is to be given to persons/households under 50% AMI and households with one or more persons unemployed as of the date of the application for assistance and have not been employed for the 90-day period preceding such date; and

WHEREAS, assistance shall be provided for a period not to exceed 12 months, retroactive to March 13, 2020, except that assistance may be provided for an additional three months only if necessary to ensure housing stability for a household subject to the availability of funds; and

WHEREAS, Administration has determined the funding should be utilized as follows: 1) \$7,211,210.90 for rental/utility assistance, 2) \$150,000 for program administration, and 3) \$651,245 for City administrative costs; and

WHEREAS, Boley Centers and Catholic Charities will equally administer the rental/utility program, with a combined \$1,000,000.00 for direct assistance and \$150,000 for program administration; and

WHEREAS, the \$651,245 will be used to address administrative costs of the City and any other costs associated with partnering with an entity/vendor that may be able to assist; and

WHEREAS, funding in the amount of \$6,211,210.90 will be set aside while staff researches other options such as partnering with another entity/vendor to expedite the expenditure of funding; and will be brought back to City Council with other funding solutions; and

WHEREAS, sixty-five percent (65%) of the funding needs to be fully obligated to eligible persons/households by September 30, 2021, otherwise any unobligated funding is subject to recapture at that time; and

WHEREAS, all funds need to be fully expended by December 31, 2021, and any unused funds plus earned interest will be required to be returned to the Treasury; and

WHEREAS, Administration is requesting a supplemental appropriation of \$8,012,455.90 in Treasury funding from the increase in the unappropriated balance of the Federal Operating Grant Fund (1720) resulting from the grant to fund the program.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the City Council of the City of St. Petersburg, Florida, that the Mayor or his designee is hereby authorized to accept grant funding in the amount of \$8,012,455.90 from the Treasury.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that there is hereby approved from the unappropriated balance of the Federal Operating Grant Fund (1720), resulting from additional grant revenue received during FY 2020/21, the following supplemental appropriation for FY21.

Federal Operating Grant Fund (1720)

Housing and Community Development Department,
Administration Division (082-1089)

\$8,012,455.90

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor or his designee is authorized to execute all documents necessary for implementation of the grant.

This resolution shall become effective immediately upon its adoption.

Approvals:

Legal: /s/ Bradley Tennant

Administration: Robert Gerdes