

ST. PETERSBURG CITY COUNCIL
Consent Agenda
Meeting of September 9, 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 \$6,339,881.40 from the U.S. Department of the Treasury (“Treasury”); approving a supplemental appropriation in the amount of \$6,339,881.40 from the increase in the unappropriated balance of the Operating Grant Fund (1720), resulting from these additional grant revenues, 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 March 11, 2021, President Biden approved the second Emergency Rental Assistance (“ERA2”) program established by section 3201 of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, Pub. L. No. 117-2 (the “Act”). Funding was approved to ensure that one or more persons in the household who qualified for unemployment, experienced a reduction in household income, incurred significant costs or experienced other financial hardship during or due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic continued to have the resources to pay their rent/utilities preventing homelessness and maintaining housing stability.

Funding in the amount of \$6,339,881.40 will be made available to those persons/households with incomes not to exceed 80% of Area Median Income (“AMI”) and provide support to those economically suffering because of COVID-19. 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. Such assistance shall be provided for a period not to exceed 18 months, retroactive to March 13, 2020, and combined with any assistance provided under the first Emergency Rental Assistance (“ERA1”) program.

The Act provides that at least seventy-five percent (75%) of the ERA2 funding may be used for rent, utilities, and other housing expenses, ten percent (10%) for housing stability services and fifteen percent (15%) for administrative costs.

Furthermore, the City needs to demonstrate that fifty percent (50%) of the funding needs to be fully obligated to eligible persons/households by March 31, 2022, otherwise any unobligated funding is subject to recapture at that time. In addition, all funds need to be fully expended by September 30, 2025, and any unused funds will be required to be returned to the Treasury.

The Treasury disbursed \$2,535,952.56, representing forty percent (40%) of the approved ERA2 allocation, to the City within 60 days of enactment of the Act. The remaining \$3,803,929.14 is expected to be disbursed upon the City demonstrating to the Treasury a seventy-five (75%) obligation rate of the City’s existing ERA1 program by September 30, 2021.

Administration is requesting a supplemental appropriation in the amount of \$6,339,881.40 in Treasury funding from the increase in the unappropriated balance of the 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 \$6,339,881.40 from the U.S. Department of the Treasury (“Treasury”); approving a supplemental appropriation in the amount of \$6,339,881.40 from the increase in the unappropriated balance of the Operating Grant Fund (1720), resulting from these additional grant revenues, 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 \$6,339,881.40 will be received from the U.S. Department of the Treasury (“Treasury”) and deposited into the Operating Grant Fund (1720). Funds will be available after the approval of a supplemental appropriation in the amount of \$6,339,881.40 from the increase in the unappropriated balance of the Operating Grant Fund (1720), resulting from these additional grant revenues to the Housing and Community Development Department, Administration Division (082-1089).

Attachments: Resolution

APPROVALS:

Administration: Robert Gardes

Budget: mfz

Legal:

Resolution No. 2021 - _____

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OR HIS DESIGNEE TO ACCEPT GRANT FUNDING IN THE AMOUNT OF \$6,339,881.40 FROM THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY (“TREASURY”); APPROVING A SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$6,339,881.40 FROM THE INCREASE IN THE UNAPPROPRIATED BALANCE OF THE OPERATING GRANT FUND (1720), RESULTING FROM THESE ADDITIONAL GRANT REVENUES, 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 March 11, 2021, President Biden approved the second Emergency Rental Assistance (“ERA2”) program established by section 3201 of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, Pub. L. No. 117-2 (the “Act”); and

WHEREAS, ERA2 funding was approved to ensure that one or more persons in the household who qualified for unemployment, experienced a reduction in household income, incurred significant costs or experienced other financial hardship during or due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic continued to have the resources to pay their rent/utilities preventing homelessness and maintaining housing stability; and

WHEREAS, funding will be made available to those persons/households with incomes not to exceed 80% of Area Median Income (“AMI”) and provide support to those economically suffering because of COVID-19; 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 18 months, retroactive to March 13, 2020, and combined with any assistance provided under the first Emergency Rental Assistance (“ERA1”) program; and

WHEREAS, at least seventy-five percent (75%) of the ERA2 funding may be used for rent, utilities, and other housing expenses, ten percent (10%) for housing stability services and fifteen percent (15%) for administrative costs; and

WHEREAS, the Treasury has already disbursed \$2,535,952.56 of the total amount, representing forty percent (40%) of the approved ERA2 allocation, to the City within 60 days of enactment of the Act and the remaining \$3,803,929.14 is expected to be disbursed upon the City

demonstrating to the Treasury a seventy-five (75%) obligation rate of the City's existing ERA1 program by September 30, 2021; and

WHEREAS, as Administration remains deeply engrossed in the assisting those in need under the ERA1 program in order to meet the Treasury ERA1 obligation deadline, Administration will subsequently bring to Council a plan detailing the use of the ERA2 funding; and

WHEREAS, to start the ERA2 program process, Administration is requesting a supplemental appropriation of \$6,339,881.40 in Treasury funding from the increase in the unappropriated balance of the Operating Grant Fund (1720) resulting from the grant revenue 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 the grant funding in the amount of \$6,339,881.40 from the Treasury.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that there is hereby approved from the unappropriated balance of the Operating Grant Fund (1720), resulting from these additional grant revenues, the following supplemental appropriation for FY21.

Operating Grant Fund (1720)

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

\$6,339,881.40

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 Gardes