



RESOLUTION NO. 2020-105

A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FRESNO, CALIFORNIA, CREATING A HOUSING RETENTION GRANT PROGRAM TO ASSIST FRESNO FAMILIES IMPACTED BY JOB LOSS OR REDUCTION IN WORKING HOURS RELATED TO COVID-19, AND ADDING SMALL BUSINESS GRANTS TO THE EXISTING SAVE OUR SMALL BUSINESS PROGRAM

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization declared a COVID-19 world-wide pandemic, and on March 16, 2020, Mayor Brand declared a Local Emergency, ratified by the Council; and

WHEREAS, as a result of those declarations, and the growing number of people affected by the disease, day to day life has been significantly impacted for many Fresno residents; and

WHEREAS, working families are experiencing financial impacts and many of Fresno's small businesses have already seen a major drop in gross receipts since the COVID-19 outbreak; and

WHEREAS, businesses and nonprofits are instructing employees to stay home, many without pay, and gig workers and those with performance contracts will no longer be working and garnering income; and

WHEREAS, Congress has enacted several relief packages to address some of the economic fallout of the pandemic, but most Fresnoans who rent their homes still need help and many will experience challenges in paying back the missed rent, which may worsen their long term financial stability and even lead to being evicted; and



WHEREAS, the missing rent payments will also negatively impact local rental property owners, leading to an adverse domino effect in our community and to our local economy; and

WHEREAS, on March 25, 2020, via Ordinance No. 2020-012, Council created the Fresno COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund, and on March 25, 2020, Council passed the Save our Small Businesses Act to provide relief to small businesses impacted by COVID-19, and on April 23, 2020, Council approved Resolution No. 2020-091 directing appropriations to the COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund to create a consumer grant program to assist Fresno families impacted by job loss or reduction in working hours and directing appropriations to the Save our Small Business Program; and

WHEREAS, the Council now wishes to create, and provide direction for, a Housing Retention Grant Program, and provide further direction for the additional small business grants under the Save our Small Business program; and

WHEREAS, the goal of the Housing Retention Grant Program is to mitigate financial impacts and prevent future homelessness by ensuring Fresno residents have the ability to pay their owed rent to their current landlord; and

WHEREAS, to mitigate these impacts, the Council directs the City Administration and staff to appropriate funding to the Fresno COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund to award Housing Retention grants pursuant to the criteria in this Resolution, and increase the allocation to the Save our Small Business Program.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Fresno as follows:



1. An additional appropriation of \$2 million to the Save our Small Business program. Funds shall be issued as grants and reimbursed with Federal funding to the extent legally permissible. The program will be administered by our Economic Development Department. The program shall be administered on substantially the same terms as the first round of funding, including criteria such as equal distribution among Council districts, and random drawing of applicants. A Council subcommittee shall convene to determine criteria.
2. An appropriation of \$1.5 million to the Fresno COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund to be used for Housing Retention grants as described in this Resolution.
3. The Council hereby creates the COVID-19 Housing Retention Grant Program. Grants shall be used to prevent eviction or support housing related financial assistance, and are available to households that meet the eligibility criteria below, and as further determined by Council subcommittee. Submitting an application does not guarantee financial assistance. Application approval requires each program requirement be met and supporting verifiable documentation provided.
 - a. Applicant must be a City of Fresno resident.
 - b. Applicant must have a signed rental agreement or an alternate form of documentation verifying applicant's tenancy and monthly rent.
 - c. Provide evidence the Grant will be used to prevent eviction or support housing related financial assistance. This may include, but is not limited to, payment of rent, future rent, utilities, and needed health and safety related



home repairs that, if left unaddressed, will jeopardize occupancy. Applicant must provide documentation such assistance is required due to loss of income during the COVID-19 crisis.

d. Applicants must be at or below 80% of Area Median Income (AMI). Income must be verified by documentation from a third party or an affidavit signed by the applicant stating current income during the COVID-19 crisis.

e. Applicants must meet one or more of the following requirements during the COVID-19 crisis, as verified by supporting documentation. Acceptable documentation may include an affidavit from the Applicant.

i. Decrease in income.

ii. COVID-19 related financial losses.

iii. Applicant has fallen behind on rent due to other factors related to COVID-19 to be approved at the discretion of the fund administrator.

f. Housing Retention Grants may be awarded:

i. To an individual as a one-time \$500 assistance grant, or a household as a one-time \$1,000 assistance grant, to cover housing related expenses (either rent or mortgage); or

ii. Directly to a participating landlord, covering 80% of their back rent due.

g. The Housing Assistance Grant program will be administered by local nonprofits that already work with the affected population.



- h. This requires the nonprofits to develop a process to confirm that the household has demonstrated inability to pay rent and develop a process to obtain the owner's consent to participate in the program. If the landlord agrees to participate, the landlord will **receive 80%** of the amount rent owed up to **June 2020**. The program may be extended by the Council upon additional funding being made available.
- i. Participating landlords would be prohibited from increasing the rent for the period of the program and prohibited from charging any late fees during the state of emergency.
- j. Participating landlords shall accept the payment as full payment of the missed or insufficient rent.

4. As these programs are COVID-19 related, the Council hereby directs the Administration to first use federal funds, to the extent legally available, first from the CARES Act, then CDBG, and to next use Low and Moderate Income Housing Asset Fund dollars or other eligible relief funds.

5. This Resolution hereby amends and replaces Resolution 2020-091.

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STATE OF CALIFORNIA)
 COUNTY OF FRESNO) ss.
 CITY OF FRESNO)

I, YVONNE SPENCE, City Clerk of the City of Fresno, certify that the foregoing resolution was adopted by the Council of the City of Fresno, at a regular meeting held on the 14th day of May, 2020.

AYES : Caprioglio, Chavez, Esparza, Karbassi, Soria, Arias
 NOES : Bredefeld
 ABSENT : None
 ABSTAIN : None

Mayor Approval: May 21st, 2020
 Mayor Approval/No Return: N/A, 2020
 Mayor Veto: N/A, 2020
 Council Override Vote: N/A, 2020

YVONNE SPENCE, MMC CRM
 City Clerk

By: Yvonne Spence 5/22/2020
 Deputy Date

APPROVED AS TO FORM:
 DOUGLAS T. SLOAN
 City Attorney

By: [Signature] 5/21/2020
 Laurie Avedisian-Favini Date
 Assistant City Attorney



May 18, 2020

Council Adoption: 5/14/2020

Mayor Approval:

Mayor Veto:

Override Request:

TO: MAYOR LEE BRAND
FROM: YVONNE SPENCE, MMC, CRM
City Clerk

YJS

SUBJECT: TRANSMITTAL OF COUNCIL ACTION FOR APPROVAL OR VETO

At the City Council meeting of May 14, 2020, Council adopted the attached Resolution No. 2020-105, entitled **Creating a Housing Retention Grant Program to assist Fresno families impacted by job loss or reduction in working hours related to COVID-19, and adding small business grants to the existing Save our Small Business Program.** Item 4-B (1), File ID 20-00609, as amended by the following vote:

Ayes : Arias, Caprioglio, Chavez, Esparza, Karbassi, Soria
Noes : Bredefeld
Absent : None
Abstain : None

Amendment by Councilmember Karbassi: To carry the continuing criteria, specifically the equal distribution of funding across the city and across council districts. Have a random drawing of qualified applicants. Create a council subcommittee that can create revised criteria to make sure the funding goes to the most impacted.

Please indicate either your formal approval or veto by completing the following sections and executing and dating your action. Please file the completed memo with the Clerk's office on or before May 26, 2020. In computing the ten day period required by Charter, the first day has been excluded and the tenth day has been included unless the 10th day is a Saturday, Sunday, or holiday, in which case it has also been excluded. Failure to file this memo with the Clerk's office within the required time limit shall constitute approval of the ordinance, resolution or action, and it shall take effect without the Mayor's signed approval

APPROVED / NO RETURN: _____

VETOED for the following reasons: (Written objections are required by Charter; attach additional sheets if necessary.)

Lee Brand, Mayor

Date: 5-21-20

COUNCIL OVERRIDE ACTION:

Date: _____

Ayes :
Noes :
Absent :
Abstain :

RECEIVED