

Resolution #20-0203
Resolution Book, Volume 2, Page 101

RESOLUTION STATING THE CITY OF WINSTON-SALEM IS ESSENTIAL AND IN SUPPORT OF FAIR, DIRECT FEDERAL EMERGENCY SUPPORT TO REOPEN AND REBUILD LOCAL AMERICAN ECONOMIES

WHEREAS, America's cities, towns and villages face unprecedented threats due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic emergency; and

WHEREAS, municipalities are essential to America's economic recovery and without funding support for local governments, municipalities may go from being a critical part of the economic solution, to becoming a major obstacle to long-term stabilization and recovery; and

WHEREAS, America's cities, towns and villages will experience budgetary shortfalls of up to \$134 billion in fiscal year 2020 alone, and the negative effects of the pandemic emergency on local communities will continue long after this year; and

WHEREAS, three million critical municipal worker jobs are at risk, threatening cuts to basic community services, including 9-1-1 response, sanitation, and maintenance; and

WHEREAS, communities have taken extraordinary measures to protect health, safety, and the continuation of essential services throughout the emergency; and

WHEREAS, the City of Winston-Salem is facing a revenue shortfall exceeding \$18 million over the next two years from declining sales taxes, water and sewer fees, and occupancy taxes. The City is facing a budget deficit next fiscal year that has not been seen since the Great Recession. In order to continue providing essential services to the City's residents, the upcoming budget will need austere measures to control spending and will rely heavily on cash reserves to balance; and

WHEREAS, the City of Winston-Salem acted quickly in the early days of the economic shutdown, contributing \$1 million to the COVID-19 Response Fund for Forsyth County, approving relief to small business owners and utility customers and providing shelter to homeless and medically fragile; and

WHEREAS, America's rural communities and small towns are struggling just as much as big cities and risk being left behind or wiped out entirely.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Winston-Salem calls on Congress to allocate fair and direct federal support to all of America's communities, regardless of population size; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this funding must be flexible and address not only the additional expenses incurred by communities to respond to the pandemic emergency, but also the dramatic budgetary shortfalls resulting from pauses in commerce, tourism, other economic engines; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that local governments will ensure federal funds are immediately used to rebuild and reopen the national economy; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that funding will keep middle class workers employed and critical services operating; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Winston-Salem has been part of the emergency response and now calls on Congress to build a united national partnership for a safe, healthy, prosperous life.

Winston-Salem City Council
APPROVED
May 18, 2020