

Wilmington, Delaware
June 3, 2021

#0075

WHEREAS, the coronavirus disease 2019 (“COVID-19”) has taken an unprecedented

Sponsor:

public health and economic toll on communities across the United States; and

**Council
Member
Johnson**

WHEREAS, amid this once-in-a-century crisis, local governments have been called on to respond at an immense scale; and

WHEREAS, although the pandemic’s impacts have been widespread, both the public health and economic impacts of the pandemic have fallen most severely on communities and populations that were already disadvantaged before it began; and

WHEREAS, low-income communities, people of color, and Tribal communities have faced higher rates of infection, hospitalization, and death, as well as higher rates of unemployment; and

WHEREAS, pre-existing social vulnerabilities magnified the pandemic in low-income communities, and among people of color, where a reduced ability to work from home and, frequently, denser housing amplified the risk of infection; and

WHEREAS, communities or households facing economic insecurity before the pandemic were less able to weather business closures, job losses, or declines in earnings and were less able to participate in remote work or education due to the inequities in access to reliable and affordable infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2021, the American Rescue Plan Act (the “ARPA”) was signed into law by the President of the United States; and

WHEREAS, Section 9901 of the ARPA amended Title VI of the Social Security Act to add section 603, which establishes the Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund; and

WHEREAS, the Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund is intended to provide support to local governments in responding to the impact of COVID-19, and in the efforts of local governments to contain COVID-19 in their communities; and

WHEREAS, the City, as a designated metropolitan city, will receive \$55,345,780.00 of the Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund from the United States Treasury (the “Fiscal Recovery Funds”); and

WHEREAS, the Fiscal Recovery Funds will be sent to the City in two equal payments, the first to arrive in May 2021, and the second approximately one year after receipt of the first payment; and

WHEREAS, the ARPA provides a substantial infusion of resources to meet pandemic response needs and rebuild a stronger, more equitable economy as the country recovers; and

WHEREAS, Section 603(c)(1) of the amended Title VI of the Social Security Act provides that the Fiscal Recovery Funds may be used:

- a. To respond to the public health emergency or its negative economic impacts, including assistance to households, small businesses, and nonprofits, or aid to impacted industries such as tourism, travel, and hospitality;
- b. To respond to workers performing essential work during the COVID-19 public health emergency by providing premium pay to eligible workers;
- c. For the provision of government services to the extent of the reduction in revenue due to the COVID-19 public health emergency relative to revenues collected in the most recent full fiscal year prior to the emergency; and
- d. To make necessary investments in water, sewer, or broadband infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, the Fiscal Recovery Funds lay the foundation for a strong, equitable economic recovery, not only by providing immediate economic stabilization for households and businesses, but also by addressing the systemic public health and economic challenges that may have contributed to more severe impacts of the pandemic among low-income communities and people of color.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WILMINGTON that the City’s receipt of the Fiscal Recovery Funds from the United States Treasury is hereby authorized.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City is authorized to use the Fiscal Recovery Funds in accordance with Section 603(c)(1) of the amended Title VI of the Social Security Act.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Administration shall provide to City Council’s Finance and Economic Development Committee (the “Finance Committee”) a monthly report regarding all grants that are allocated from the Fiscal Recovery Funds containing the following information:

1. The name of the entity that will receive the Fiscal Recovery Funds (the “Recipient”);
2. The amount of the Fiscal Recovery Funds that the Recipient will receive;
3. The purpose for which the Recipient will use the Fiscal Recovery Funds;
4. The approximate date upon which the City will disburse the Fiscal Recovery Funds to the Recipient;
5. A running balance of the Fiscal Recovery Funds; and
6. Any expenditure of the Fiscal Recovery Funds that has been authorized.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Administration shall provide written or email notification to City Council prior to the disbursement or allocation of any Fiscal Recovery Funds.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Treasurer shall provide an update at the monthly Finance Committee meetings, either in writing or in person, regarding the cash balance of the Fiscal Recovery Funds.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Administration shall post a running update to display expenditures of and the available balance of the Fiscal Recovery Funds on the City’s website, which may be accessed through the OpenGov portal.

Passed by City Council,

ATTEST: _____
City Clerk

SYNOPSIS: This Resolution approves the City’s receipt of \$55,345,780.00 in Fiscal Recovery Funds from the Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund created by the United States government through the American Rescue Plan Act, authorizes the City to use the funds in accordance with Section 603(c)(1) of the amended Title VI of the Social Security Act, and establishes certain notice and reporting requirements regarding the use of the funds.

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