

**RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARPA) TO ALLOCATE \$2,211,232 TO THE CITY OF MEMPHIS ADMINISTRATION FOR THE CREATION OF A PILOT PROGRAM**

**WHEREAS**, on March 11, 2021, the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) was signed into law by the President. Section 9901 of ARPA amended Title VI of the Social Security Act to add section 602, which established the Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund, and section 603, which established the Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (together, the Fiscal Recovery Funds). The Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Funds was established to provide support to local governments (“recipients”) to respond to the impacts of COVID-19 on communities, residents, and businesses; and

**WHEREAS**, section 602(c)(1) and 603(c)(2) provides that funds may be used to:

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;

D. To make necessary investment in water, sewer, or broadband infrastructure; and

**WHEREAS**, it is the intent of the Memphis City Council to ensure that the funds are spent in support of programs that support the vulnerable population, including the youth population of Memphis; the Council recognizes that this group was negatively impacted by the effects of COVID-19, the ramifications of which are still being felt; and

**WHEREAS**, the Memphis City Council acknowledges that there is an influx of crime, particularly among children and teenagers, causing significant challenges and concerns in the City of Memphis; though the Memphis City Council and City of Memphis do not have direct oversight of the various school systems in the area, we recognize that the wellbeing and positive development of our children and youth are important priorities; and

**WHEREAS**, we have heard crime presentations from the Memphis Police Department, reporting the young ages of perpetrators, and the expressions of many citizens stating that the City of Memphis lacked positive activities and mentorship programs to keep the youth engaged and ultimately decrease youth crime rates; and

**WHEREAS**, Memphis has an extensive network of religious institutions and local non-profit organizations located in every neighborhood that all have a common goal of providing help and resources to high-need areas throughout the city and the communities in which they are located, making them accessible to children residing in the local neighborhoods; and

**WHEREAS**, it is imperative that the Memphis City Council act on this matter and provide the City of Memphis Administration the resources to offer Memphis City youth activities that will deter them from criminal involvement and promote positive decision-making.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Memphis City Council hereby allocates \$2,211,232 in ARPA funding to the City of Memphis Administration for the creation of a two-year pilot program for youth programming for children ages 5-17 to be facilitated by community religious institutions and non-profit organizations within the City of Memphis; the guidelines, evaluation tools, and parameters of the program shall be established by the Administration.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Memphis City Council requests that the City of Memphis Administration report on the pilot program's outcomes following its two-year completion.

Sponsor(s):

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