

RESOLUTION NO. 21 - 8
RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
TO CERTIFY LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELIGIBILITY FOR STATE
OR FEDERAL RELIEF, AND ECONOMIC STIMULUS

WHEREAS, on or about March 27, 2020, President Donald J. Trump signed the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act ("CARES Act") into law; and

WHEREAS, Title V of the CARES Act provides for a Coronavirus Relief Fund, and appropriated \$150,000,000,000 for States, Tribal governments, and units of local government, subject to some limitations;

WHEREAS, Pinellas County received in excess of \$170,000,000.00 for the benefit of Pinellas County residents;

WHEREAS, on or about December 27, 2020, the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021("Omnibus Bill") was signed into law which contains, among other things, funding available to state and local governments to provide relief for specific housing issues caused by COVID-19;

WHEREAS, both the CARES Act and the Omnibus Bill require a certification form from the Chief Executive Officer containing provisions that are required to receive the funds available under these acts;

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners previously adopted Resolution 20-29 authorizing the County Administrator to make the certification required to obtain the CARES Act funds;

WHEREAS, the Omnibus Bill makes direct funding available to local governments with a population in excess of 200,000 ("COVID Relief 2 Funds") which amounts to approximately \$21,000,000 to Pinellas County that may be used for the benefit of the county's residents; and

WHEREAS, there has been very little guidance or regulations from the Treasury Department on details relating to the COVID Relief 2 Funds; and

WHEREAS, the Omnibus Bill required acceptance of terms from the Chief Executive Officer of the county by January 12, 2021;

WHEREAS, given the timeframe required by the US Treasury for acceptance of the terms to access these substantial funds, the County Administrator, as Chief Executive Officer of the County, accepted the terms to receive the COVID Relief 2 Funds;

WHEREAS, as the COVID-19 pandemic continues, it is foreseeable that additional COVID-19 relief or economic stimulus will become available from the state or federal governments;

WHEREAS, any certification needed to acquire these funds will likely continue to include a statement to the effect that the person signing the certification or acceptance of terms has the authority to do so on behalf of the local government;

WHEREAS, the timeframe to provide the certification for the CARES Act and the Omnibus Bill have both been very short and clarity and certainty of the County Administrator's authority to act in this regard is important; and

WHEREAS, it is in the interest of the County to ensure that it is eligible to receive these significant funds.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Pinellas County, Florida, in a public meeting duly assembled this 26th day of January 2021, that:

- 1) The acceptance by the County Administrator of the terms necessary to accept the COVID Relief 2 Funds is hereby ratified.
- 2) Throughout the effective period of the ongoing State of Local Emergency (as may be extended by the County Administrator or the Board of County Commissioners) the County Administrator is authorized to certify to the appropriate state of Florida or federal agency that Pinellas County, Florida is an eligible local government, or accept such terms as may be required by a state or federal program, for the purposes of receiving any COVID-19 relief or economic stimulus where the analysis of County Administration shows that all requirements of such programs can be met.

Commissioner Peters offered the foregoing Resolution and moved its adoption, which was seconded by Commissioner Flowers, and upon roll call the vote was:

AYES: Eggers, Justice, Flowers, Gerard, Long, Peters, and Seel.

NAYS: None.

ABSENT AND NOT VOTING: None.

APPROVED AS TO FORM

By: Donald S. Crowell
Office of the County Attorney