

**CITY COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION**

Ordinance ratifying and confirming Order #2 Pursuant to Proclamation of Emergency of March 3, 2020, and amending Ordinance 6493, adopted December 2, 2019, as previously amended, to increase appropriation to the 2019-2020 Human Services Fund budget by \$450,000 in order to increase funding under contracts with nonprofit organizations to provide emergency financial assistance.

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**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Adoption of this Ordinance would ratify and confirm Order #2 Pursuant to Proclamation of Emergency of March 3, 2020 (Attachment A), issued by the Mayor and would increase the 2019-2020 Human Services Fund budget appropriation by \$450,000 in order to provide additional money under existing contracts with five non-profit agencies to fund additional emergency financial assistance. Current funding awarded to these agencies through 2020 was limited to expenses identified prior to the COVID-19 pandemic and is now inadequate to meet the need. Pursuant to Bellevue City Code (BCC) 9.22.020, the Order must be presented to the Council for ratification and confirmation. If not so ratified and confirmed, the Order shall be void.

**RECOMMENDATION**

Move to adopt Ordinance No. 6507.

**BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS**

The COVID-19 virus has been classified by the World Health Organization as a worldwide pandemic. The rapid spread of the virus has led federal, state, and local governments to take a number of actions to slow the spread. Those actions have progressed from guidance encouraging social distancing to orders issued by the Washington State Governor and the King County Local Health Officer prohibiting certain events. Most recently, on March 23, 2020, Governor Inslee issued a "Stay Home – Stay Healthy" Order directing all Washingtonians, with limited exceptions, to stay in their homes until midnight on April 6, and ordering all nonessential businesses to cease operating until midnight on April 8.

The COVID-19 virus and the government's necessary public health response have had significant adverse impacts on the health and financial stability of people in communities throughout our state. Residents of Bellevue are no exception. City staff as well as Bellevue School District Wraparound Coordinators providing front-line service have received reports of immediate financial impacts on individuals and families. Marginalized families in particular are being significantly affected. These

impacts are largely due to decreases or elimination of hours for hourly employees within the service industry. As the Governor's Stay Home-Stay Healthy order continues to be implemented, even more residents from other sectors will likely be impacted.

The most prominent needs that families are reporting to service providers are a lack of funds to pay for rent and a lack of funds for food. Research shows that one of the most significant factors in preventing homelessness is providing emergency assistance to prevent eviction. This type of assistance is typically provided by non-profit human services organizations who screen applicants to determine eligibility and then distribute appropriate funds to provide relief. The City of Bellevue currently provides human services grants to five such organizations to serve Bellevue residents: Hopelink, Lifewire, Solid Ground, Catholic Community Services and Salvation Army. These organizations currently provide financial assistance with payment of rent and utilities, as well as assistance with food and other emergency financial needs.

On March 3, 2020, the City of Bellevue's Mayor, pursuant to the authority granted by BCC 9.22.010, proclaimed that a civil emergency exists within the City of Bellevue due to the COVID-19 outbreak. BCC 9.22.020 authorizes the Mayor, during the existence of such proclaimed emergency, to issue orders as are imminently necessary for the protection of life and property.

Given the significant emergency needs identified, on March 24, 2020, the Mayor issued Order #2 Pursuant to Proclamation of Emergency of March 3, 2020. The Order increased the Human Services Fund by \$450,000, by transferring funds from the General Fund. It also authorized the City Manager or his designee to enter into amendments to the existing contracts with the five above-referenced service providers to provide an additional \$90,000 to each contract.

BCC 9.22.020 requires that Order #2 be presented to the City Council for ratification and confirmation at the earliest practicable time. If the Order is not so ratified and confirmed, it will be void. This Ordinance, if adopted, would ratify and confirm Order #2, and would amend the 2019-2020 Human Services Fund appropriation to increase it by \$450,000.

## **POLICY & FISCAL IMPACTS**

### **Policy Impact**

The City Council vision includes a commitment to creating a caring community where all residents enjoy both a high quality of life and a wide variety of housing types. The City's Comprehensive Plan identifies strategies and goals that allow the City to achieve and maintain this vision, even as the City grows and changes over time. These include:

- HS-5: Maintain the City's role as a human services planner and facilitator by engaging service providers and community organizations in dialogue regarding the functioning of the present service systems, emerging needs, and the building of a complete system of services.
- HS-6: Facilitate the community response to human service needs. Involve the City in direct delivery of human service needs when delivery is consistent with a department's mission or as a last resort when the City is the most equitable and effective provider, or there are no other qualified providers.
- HS-9: Improve access to services throughout the community by removing physical and systems barriers and empowering individuals to overcome other barriers that might exist.

**Fiscal Impact**

Emergency Grants and Administrative Costs: The City holds contracts for fiscal year 2020 with five agencies that provide emergency financial assistance and have the infrastructure that would allow rapid ramp-up to serve additional Bellevue residents. These funds were added to each agency's existing contract. Agencies funded with this additional money were the following: Hopelink, Solid Ground, the Salvation Army, Catholic Community Services, and Lifewire.

Total Allocated Funds: Each agency was awarded an additional \$90,000 for a total of \$450,000.

This Ordinance increases the budget authority for the Human Services fund by \$450,000. The increase is funded by a transfer from the General Fund.

**OPTIONS**

1. Adopt the Ordinance ratifying and confirming Order #2 Pursuant to Proclamation of Emergency of March 3, 2020, and amending Ordinance 6493, adopted December 2, 2019, as previously amended, to increase appropriation to the 2019-2020 Human Services Fund budget by \$450,000 in order to increase funding under contracts with nonprofit organizations to provide emergency financial assistance.
2. Do not adopt the Ordinance and provide alternative direction to staff.

**ATTACHMENTS & AVAILABLE DOCUMENTS**

A. Order #2 Pursuant to Proclamation of Emergency of March 3, 2020  
Proposed Ordinance No. 6507

**AVAILABLE IN COUNCIL LIBRARY**

N/A