



City of Coral Gables
CITY COMMISSION MEETING
June 29, 2020

ITEM TITLE:

A Resolution of the City Commission of Coral Gables, Florida (“City”) urging Miami-Dade County Mayor Carlos A. Gimenez and the Board of County Commissioners of Miami-Dade County, Florida (“Board of County Commissioners”) to transfer Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (“CARES”) Act federal funds received by Miami-Dade County to the City of Coral Gables and to other municipalities within the county based on population and further directing the City Clerk to transmit a copy of this resolution to the officials named herein.

BRIEF HISTORY:

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (“CARES”) Act was signed into law on March 27, 2020 and appropriated \$150 billion of direct federal funding for state and local governments to address unforeseen financial needs and risks created by the Novel Coronavirus (“COVID-19”) public health emergency. Only units of local government with more than 500,000 residents received direct federal funding through the Coronavirus Relief Fund. In the State of Florida, twelve (12) localities received direct federal funds, but NO city in Florida (except the combined city/county government of Jacksonville /Duval County) received a direct allocation.

On June 10, 2020, Governor DeSantis announced the State of Florida’s plan to disburse up to \$1.275 billion in CARES Act funds to counties with a population below 500,000 through the Florida Division of Emergency Management, and stated that all counties, including counties that already received direct payment from the U.S. Department of the Treasury, should provide funds to municipalities located within their jurisdiction on a reimbursement basis for expenditures eligible under the CARES Act and related guidance.

The Governor’s guidance indicates in no uncertain terms that the nearly half a billion dollars (\$474,085,078.50) Miami-Dade County (“County”) received through the CARES Act, should be shared with the municipalities within the County.

The City has taken necessary and costly steps to mitigate and respond to the impact of the COVID-19 public health emergency on our community, including hosting a testing site and engaging in other reimbursable activities during the eligible period that runs from March 1, 2020 to December 20, 2020. These activities, though necessary, caused the City to incur expenditures that were not accounted for in the most recently approved budget. As a result, the City is now seeking financial assistance in the form of reimbursements and grants to address the unbudgeted expenditures and financial risks created by the COVID-19 public health emergency.

While the City has been made aware of productive conversations between the Miami-Dade County League of Cities, the Miami-Dade County City and County Management Association and the Office of Mayor Gimenez regarding the potential distribution of CARES Act funds to cities, the City Commission desires to communicate a clear statement regarding its position through the passage of this resolution.

ATTACHMENT(S):

1. Draft Resolution