

CITY OF NEWPORT

**RESOLUTION
OF THE
COUNCIL**

No. _____

WHEREAS, the Governor and municipal leaders across the state have declared a state of emergency as a result of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, municipal leaders have worked cooperatively and productively with the state administration to respond to and contain the virus; and

WHEREAS, the City of Newport has incurred expenses associated with its efforts to respond to and contain the virus; and

WHEREAS, cities and towns have been given guidance that there will be delays in receiving reimbursements from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for qualifying COVID-19-related expenses; and

WHEREAS, the state has received \$1.25 billion dollars under the CARES Act's Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) to cover state and municipal costs associated with the emergency; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of the Treasury has stated that the Coronavirus Relief Fund may be used for COVID-19 expenses not otherwise reimbursable by FEMA, including public safety expenditures, personnel costs associated with COVID-19 response, and the mandatory local match for expenses submitted to FEMA; and

WHEREAS, according to the National League of Cities, Rhode Island is one of only three states that have not distributed a portion of their Coronavirus Relief Fund to local governments; and

WHEREAS, cities and towns across Rhode Island face potential revenue risks resulting from the economic impacts of COVID-19, including a possible reduction in state aid programs, lower collection rates of property taxes, and other business activity revenue losses, all of which could exceed \$100 million; and

WHEREAS, the state has withheld scheduled state aid payments in the current fiscal year by over \$50 million dollars through the end of September 2020; and

WHEREAS, the state has not yet completed a budget for Fiscal Year 2021, creating even greater uncertainty about expected aid to local governments and schools;
NOWHEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED: that this Council calls on the Governor to execute a plan for distributing CRF funds to cities and towns, taking into account expenses incurred and revenues lost by each city and town as a result of the emergency; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED: that the Council urges the General Assembly to support total state aid to local governments at the same aggregate levels as in FY 2020.

SUSAN D. TAYLOR
JAMIE BOVA
LYNN UNDERWOOD CEGLIE
JEANNE-MARIE NAPOLITANO

IN COUNCIL
READ AND PASSED

Laura C. Swistak
City Clerk