

RESOLUTION NO. 2020 - 20

THE CITY OF SEARCY, ARKANSAS, IS ESSENTIAL: IN SUPPORT OF FAIR, DIRECT FEDERAL EMERGENCY SUPPORT TO REOPEN AND REBUILD LOCAL AMERICAN ECONOMIES

WHEREAS, America's cities, towns and villages face unprecedented threats due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic emergency; and

WHEREAS, municipalities are essential to America's economic recovery and without funding support for local governments, municipalities may go from being a critical part of the economic solution, to becoming a major obstacle to long-term stabilization and recovery; and

WHEREAS, America's cities, towns and villages will experience budgetary shortfalls in fiscal year 2020 alone, and the negative effects of the pandemic emergency on local communities will continue long after this year; and

WHEREAS, three million critical municipal worker jobs are at risk, threatening cuts to basic community services, including 9-1-1 response, sanitation, and maintenance; and

WHEREAS, communities have taken extraordinary measures to protect health, safety, and the continuation of essential services throughout the emergency; and

WHEREAS, The City of Searcy has been impacted by Covid-19 resulting in the following:

- a hiring freeze has been implemented
- the purchase of personal protection equipment (PPE)
- a reduction of County and Municipal Aid (Turnback) distributions
- loss of revenue as a result of the closure of Parks and Recreation Facilities; and

WHEREAS, America's rural communities and small towns are struggling just as much as big cities and risk being left behind or wiped out entirely.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Searcy calls on Congress to allocate fair and direct federal support to all of America's communities, regardless of population size; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this funding must be flexible and address not only the additional expenses incurred by communities to respond to the pandemic emergency, but also the dramatic budgetary shortfalls resulting from pauses in commerce, tourism, other economic engines; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that local governments will ensure federal funds are immediately used to rebuild and reopen the national economy; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that funding will keep middle class workers employed and critical services operating; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Searcy has been part of the emergency response and now calls on Congress to build a united national partnership for a safe, healthy, prosperous life.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 14th day of July, 2020.

/s/ Kyle Osborne
Mayor of Searcy

ATTEST:

/s/ Jerry Morris
City Clerk