

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-28

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF GULFPORT, FLORIDA, ESTABLISHING A "GULFPORT GATEWAY GRANT" PROGRAM; DECLARING A PRIMARY PUBLIC PURPOSE IN THE EXPENDITURE OF PUBLIC FUNDS; PROVIDING FOR A BUDGET AMENDMENT; ESTABLISHING APPLICATION AND GUIDELINES FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE GRANT PROGRAM; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) is a severe acute respiratory illness that can spread among humans through respiratory transmission; and

WHEREAS, the Governor of the State of Florida has promulgated Executive Orders wherein he found that a State of Public Health Emergency exists within the State of Florida and has ordered a Safer at Home Order for the State of Florida restricting public movement and business activity; and

WHEREAS, the Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners has declared a State of Emergency and has resolved a Safer at Home Order, further limiting non-essential activities and ordering non-essential businesses to close; and

WHEREAS, these orders have caused Gulfport small businesses to involuntarily close or others to severely limit their ability to operate; and

WHEREAS, as a waterfront community, small businesses in Gulfport rely heavily on revenues from residents and tourists and without those revenue may not be able to continue to operate; and

WHEREAS, state and federal loan programs are being made available for small businesses but it may take weeks and/or months to realize funds; and

WHEREAS, small businesses in Gulfport are in need of immediate relief; and

WHEREAS, the City is desirous of establishing a Gulfport Gateway Grant Program to provide direct, early, emergency relief to each eligible small business during this crisis in the amount of \$1,000.00 for businesses that employ between 3 - 50 full-time equivalent employees or \$500.00 for businesses that employ between 1 - 2 full-time equivalent employees; and

WHEREAS, the City Council finds that the financial assistance to small businesses is beneficial to the overall economic health of the City of Gulfport.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GULFPORT, FLORIDA:

Section 1.

The City Council hereby approves a Gulfport Gateway Grant Program in accordance with the program guidelines and application as attached hereto and made a part of this Resolution as Exhibit A and Exhibit B.

Section 2.

The City Council hereby declares a primary public purpose in the expenditure of public funds to establish a Gulfport Gateway Grant Program to provide direct, early and emergency relief to Gulfport small businesses during the COVID-19 Emergency and that such grant funding is beneficial to the overall economic health of the City of Gulfport.

Section 3.

The City Council hereby authorizes a Budget Amendment to fund the Gulfport Gateway Grant Program in an amount not to exceed \$50,000.00 as attached hereto and made a part of this Resolution as Exhibit C.

Section 4.

The City Manager, or designee, is authorized to administer the Gulfport Gateway Grant Program in compliance with the conditions of the attached program guidelines and applications.

Section 5.

This resolution shall become effective immediately upon its adoption.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 5th day of May, 2020 by the Council of the City of Gulfport, Florida.

Approved – 5-5-2020

Samuel Henderson, Mayor

ATTEST:

Lesley DeMuth, City Clerk