

*City of Arts & Innovation*

April 20, 2020

Honorable Dianne Feinstein  
United States Senate  
331 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Honorable Kamala Harris  
United States Senate  
112 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Honorable Mark Takano  
United States House of Representatives  
420 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

**SUBJECT: ECONOMIC RELIEF PACKAGE**

Dear Senator Feinstein, Senator Harris and Representative Takano:

On behalf of the City of Riverside, we write to urge your support for the proposals under consideration that would provide a direct funding allocation for local governments as part of any future COVID-19 related relief package. As is being widely reported, local governments across the country are facing significant budget shortfalls that will impact the delivery of services to our communities at a time when they are needed most.

The scale of this global crisis is unprecedented and so is the scope of the local government response. Local governments are coordinating with one another across jurisdictional lines, enacting difficult and fiscally challenging emergency measures to slow the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic, spending local funds as necessary to protect the public health and welfare of our residents and businesses. To date, the City has expended approximately \$2.8 million in response to the pandemic – and only \$26,000 is eligible for reimbursement from FEMA – and is expecting a measurable impact to revenues moving forward as the livelihoods of our residents and businesses have been disrupted. These revenues fund comprehensive City services including fire, police, utilities (electric, water, sanitation, sewer), homeless outreach, and many other critical services.


The City applauds the efforts of Congress to reach a bipartisan deal on the CARES Act, which has provided much needed financial assistance to meet the immediate needs of individuals and

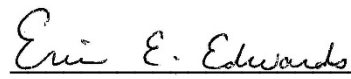
small businesses, as well as \$150 billion in direct aid to states and local governments with a population greater than 500,000 to help offset the costs directly related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Unfortunately, given the population threshold, only a limited number of jurisdictions will receive this much-needed assistance; Riverside, as the 12<sup>th</sup> largest city in the state with a population of 330,000, is not eligible to receive this funding.

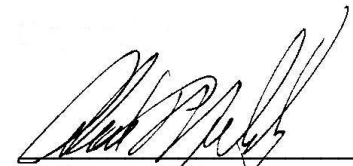
As Congress works to develop additional relief measures to address the impact of COVID-19, the City strongly urges that it include a direct allocation for local governments with a population of 300,000 or greater to cover anticipated losses in revenue resulting from the pandemic, while allowing local governments the flexibility to determine how these funds can be used most effectively.

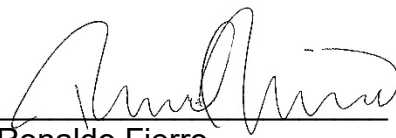
Local leaders are on the frontlines of responding to the COVID-19 pandemic in our communities, doing what is necessary to ensure the health and safety of our residents – and we will continue doing that. But it is also true that the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic will force local governments across the country to make difficult decisions at a time when they are needed to begin laying the groundwork for an economic recovery that benefits everyone. As Congress continues to work on an additional and much needed relief package, the City of Riverside urges you to ensure local governments have the resources to maintain the essential services the residents we all serve need during this unprecedented time.


Sincerely,


  
 William R. Bailey, III  
 Mayor

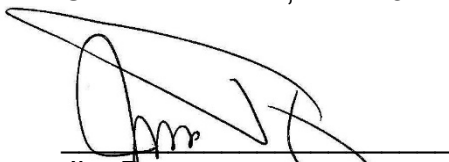
  
 Erin E. Edwards  
 Councilmember, Ward 1

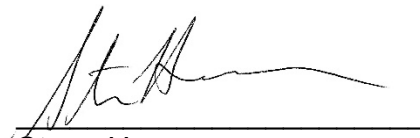
  
 Andy Melendrez  
 Councilmember, Ward 2

  
 Ronaldo Fierro  
 Councilmember, Ward 3

  
 Chuck Conder  
 Councilmember, Ward 4

  
 Gaby Plascencia  
 Councilwoman, Ward 5

  
 Jim FERRY  
 Councilmember, Ward 6

  
 Steve Hemenway  
 Councilmember, Ward 7