RESOLUTION NO. 24120

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RIVERSIDE, CALIFORNIA, AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF THE FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024 CERTIFICATIONS AND ASSURANCES AND AUTHORIZED AGENT FORM FOR THE LOW CARBON TRANSIT OPERATIONS PROGRAM, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$48,938 FOR THE FREE FARE PROGRAM BY THE CITY MANAGER, OR HIS DESIGNEE.

WHEREAS, the Low Carbon Transit Operations Program ("LCTOP") is one of several programs that are part of the Transit, Affordable Housing, and Sustainable Communities Program established by the California Legislature in 2014 by Senate Bill 86; and

WHEREAS, the LCTOP was created to provide operating and capital assistance for transit agencies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve mobility, with a priority on serving disadvantaged communities; and

WHEREAS, approved projects in LCTOP are intended to support new or expanded bus or rail services, expand intermodal transit facilities, and may include equipment acquisition, fueling, maintenance and other costs to operate those services or facilities, with each project reducing green house gas emissions; and

WHEREAS, the Free Fare Program ("FFP") is intended to support transit operations and promote the use of public transportation; and

WHEREAS, the FFP meets the LCTOP's goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions and improving mobility within many disadvantaged communities and low-income populations within Riverside; and

WHEREAS, prior to the pandemic, Riverside Connect was averaging 650 rides per day and ridership has drastically declined since COVID-19, despite outreach efforts; and

WHEREAS, using the LCTOP allocation for a three-year FFP, Riverside Connect's goal is to increase ridership by providing free ride vouchers to qualified new riders and offering free ride days over a 36-month period; and

WHEREAS, a portion of the allocation will also be used for promotional and large-scale marketing purposes to spread awareness and communicate the benefits of using Riverside Connect.

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