



**COUNCIL PRESIDENT PRO TEM BARBARA BRY
CITY OF SAN DIEGO
DISTRICT 1
MEMORDANDUM**

DATE: April 30, 2020

TO: Alexandra Berenter, Policy Manager, Department of Government Affairs

FROM: Council President Pro Tem Barbara Bry

SUBJECT: Input on Coronavirus Relief Funding

Thank you for inviting my suggestions on how our City's \$248 million in Coronavirus Relief Funds should be used. This is a difficult time in the history of San Diego and the world, and I believe with proper fiscal management and smart use of federal stimulus funding, our City can emerge stronger than ever. We must meet this challenge head-on. Now is the time to be bold, thoughtful and creative in how we solve the complex and difficult problems our City faces.

Before any meaningful input can be given on how these funds can be used, it is necessary for us to understand the following:

1. How much money has the City already expended in COVID-19 related responses?
2. How much money is committed as ongoing expenses through December 31st, 2020 related to COVID-19?
3. How much remains for additional expenditures?

We need to understand what we've already spent, what has been planned to be spent, and what funds actually remain in order to develop a responsible spending strategy. Here are some suggestions on how to spend the funding to ensure we build a foundation for a successful recovery for our city.

Broadband Internet Access for All

The way we work, learn, and connect to information and our loved ones has changed due to the impact of COVID-19 and related safety orders. It is critical for ensuring every resident – whether worker, single-parent, elderly or student, is able to make the transition to the new normal. Ensuring fair and equitable access to the internet should be a top priority for our City. A public-private partnership working with organizations that already provide electronic devices and education is an important part of this initiative.

Leasing Hotel Rooms for the Homeless

As one of the groups most vulnerable to the COVID-19 crisis, the virus could spread quickly in this population and contribute to a region-wide resurgence of the virus. Isolated shelter is the appropriate method in slowing and halting the spread of COVID-19.

Re-configuring City Facilities

Parks, libraries and recreation centers may need to be strategically re-configured to implement social distancing requirements so we can better protect the safety of the public and our employees while providing these key city services.

Improving Government Participation

In order to support public participation and transparency we must appropriately upgrade the City's technology to allow the public to connect to officials and City staff seamlessly. Doing so can actually enhance public input to levels higher than we are used to, since attending meetings virtually can be more convenient than a trip to City Hall.

Funding for Public Safety

This is necessary to meet the impact that Coronavirus has made on these critical resources.

Local Small Business and Non-Profit Relief

The City should continue to provide financial assistance to small businesses and non-profits that have been impacted by COVID-19. In upcoming rounds of funding, I respectfully request increased transparency in the application process and more attention to the applicant experience. The Council should receive an update on the distribution of the initial funds.

City Operations

All of our city operations are under stress because of COVID-19. Because of this, funding should also be allocated to making sure our city has the resources to deliver core services to residents at a time they need us more than ever.

cc:

Honorable Mayor Faulconer

Chief of Staff Aimee Faucett

Director of Finance Matthew Vespi

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