

Proposed: 6/21/2021

ORDINANCE NO. 92-2021 (F), *First Reading*

By Council Member Russell

An Ordinance authorizing all actions necessary for initial uses of funds received pursuant to the American Rescue Plan Act, and declaring an emergency.

WHEREAS, on the 11th Day of March 2021, the President of the United States, Joseph R. Biden, signed into law the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (hereafter “ARPA”), Public Law 117-2, authorizing, among other things, payment of direct aid to the general revenue funds of cities, counties, school districts, and other governmental entities.

WHEREAS, the intended purpose of the direct aid payments to state and local governmental entities under the ARPA is to alleviate the effects of funding shortfalls, invest in state and local economic development, and provide relief from the economic and societal hardships sustained during the onset of the Coronavirus Pandemic and COVID-19 illness.

WHEREAS, the City of Cleveland Heights will receive approximately THIRTY EIGHT MILLION EIGHT HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS (U.S. \$38.8 Million) in direct payments from the enactment of the ARPA.

WHEREAS, employees of the City of Cleveland Heights in the service departments of sanitation, street maintenance, utilities, parks and recreation, and secretaries/clerical staff (including Department Heads, Managers, and City Administrators) throughout the City have been furloughed or had work hours reduced.

WHEREAS, front line employees in the Police, Fire, and EMS service departments have not been furloughed or sustained reductions in hours of work.

WHEREAS, certain neighborhoods in the City of Cleveland Heights, bounded by Taylor and Noble Roads, specifically being the South Taylor District from Cedar Road to Euclid Heights Boulevard and the Noble Road Corridor from Mayfield Road north to the City of East Cleveland, have been in urgent need of economic development assistance and business, residential, and infrastructure rehabilitation, which need for such funding has increased during the economic disruptions occasioned by the Coronavirus Pandemic and COVID-19 illness;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the City of Cleveland Heights, that:

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SECTION 1. No monies received from the proceeds of the ARPA shall be expended for any other purpose by the City of Cleveland Heights until both of the following have occurred:

- A. All City employees in the service departments of sanitation, street maintenance, utilities, parks and recreation, and secretaries/clerical staff (including Department Heads, Managers, and City Administrators) throughout the City who have been furloughed or had work hours reduced shall be made whole for wages and benefits lost on account of the Coronavirus Pandemic and/or COVID-19 illness. It is the intent of this legislation that City employees be made whole for lost income, and therefore monies recouped from other sources, such as unemployment or working other jobs while on furlough, are offsets mitigating any payouts under this provision; and,
- B. Council directs and funds economic development assistance and business, residential and infrastructure rehabilitation assistance as permitted by ARPA in the amount of not less than FIVE MILLION DOLLARS (U.S. \$5,000,000.00) for the following City neighborhoods:
  - a. TWO MILLION DOLLARS (U.S. \$2,000,000.00) for the Noble Road Corridor north of Mayfield Road to the City of East Cleveland; and,
  - b. TWO MILLION DOLLARS (U.S. \$2,000,000.00) for the South Taylor District from Cedar Road to Euclid Heights Boulevard;
  - c. ONE MILLION DOLLARS (U.S. \$1,000,000.00) to be spent in other districts in the City as the needs exist.

SECTION 2. Notice of the passage of this Ordinance shall be given by publishing the title and abstract of its contents, prepared by the Director of Law, once in one newspaper of general circulation in the City of the City of Cleveland Heights.

SECTION 3. This Ordinance is hereby declared to be an emergency measure immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety of the inhabitants of the City of Cleveland Heights, such emergency being the need to timely appropriate funding received from the ARPA, to make whole those City employees who have lost wages and benefits on account of being furloughed or reduced in work hours due to the Coronavirus Pandemic or COVID-19 illness, and to address the economic conditions of the neighborhoods bounded by Taylor and Noble

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Roads north of Mayfield Road in the City of Cleveland Heights which were particularly hard-hit by pandemic related economic conditions. Wherefore, provided it receives the affirmative vote of five (5) or more of the members elected or appointed to this Council, this Ordinance shall take effect and be in force immediately upon its passage; otherwise, it shall take effect and be in force from and after the earliest time allowed by law.

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JASON S. STEIN  
President of the Council

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AMY HIMMELEIN  
Clerk of the Council

PASSED: \_\_\_\_\_, 2021