

# CITY COUNCIL RESEARCH DIVISION

## LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY



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**Bill Type and Number:** 2020-247

**Introducer/Sponsor(s):** Council Member Cumber and Co-Sponsored by Council Members Bowman, Hazouri and Ferraro

**Date of Introduction:** May 12, 2020

**Committee(s) of Reference:** NCSPHS, F

**Date of Analysis:** May 13, 2020

**Type of Action:** Appropriation, agreement authorization, designation of oversight agency and emergency passage

**Bill Summary:** This bill is an appropriation of \$9,000,000 from the General Fund/GSD Fund Balance to be used to provide economic incentive grants to small businesses located within Duval County. An agreement between the City and financial institution to manage the pay card payments is authorized. The Finance and Administration Department and Office of Economic Development will provide oversight. Emergency passage is requested because the negative health and economic impacts of COVID-19 are ongoing, and as such immediate economic assistance will assist in maintaining the viability of such businesses and associated employment and maintain the City's tax base and revenues.

**Background Information:** The purpose of this legislation is to provide financial support for small businesses during the COVID-19 public health crisis and encourage ongoing compliance with emergency measures. The grant funds will be distributed via pay cards to eligible small businesses located in Duval County to partially combat the economic impacts of the COVID-19 virus and encourage approved businesses to retain their employees for the duration of the declared emergencies. For a period of six months from the effective date of this Ordinance, the City is authorized to award one time COVID-19 Small Business Relief Grants to eligible small businesses in Duval County in the amount of \$2,000 to approved applicants.

To be eligible, applicants must: be located in Duval County; have been in business for at least one (1) year from February 29, 2020; have no more than 100 employees on February 29th 2020; document number of employees as of February 29, 2020; demonstrate that since February 29, 2020 the small business has experienced a reduction in revenue of 25% or more as a direct result of the COVID-19 crisis; fill out and sign a W-9 form; sign a certification that you have received the debit card; officer of the small business must sign an affidavit certifying the foregoing eligibility criteria.

**Policy Impact Area:** COVID-19 Emergency economic incentive grants to small businesses

**Fiscal Impact:** Appropriation of \$9,000,000 from General Fund Operating Fund Balance

**Analyst:** Hampsey