

**CITY COUNCIL RESEARCH DIVISION
LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY**



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Bill Type and Number: Ordinance 2020-0379

Introducer/Sponsor(s): Council Member Dennis

Date of Introduction: June 23, 2020

Committee(s) of Reference: F, NCSPHS

Date of Analysis: June 23, 2020

Type of Action: Making certain findings; appropriation of funds; providing reverter; establishing oversight; establishing monthly reporting requirement; requesting emergency one-cycle passage

Bill Summary: The bill appropriates funds in the sum of \$1,000,000.00 to provide financial assistance to Duval County small businesses that have experienced additional expenses due to deep cleaning and sanitizing after the state-wide reopening on May 4, 2020 and necessitated after employees or customers were exposed to COVID-19 and the business had to close temporarily to create a sterile environment for the business reopening. The transfer of these funds will be as follows:

From:

Subfund Title: Emergency Incidents
Activity/Grant Title: TBD
Line Item: US Department of Treasury
Amount: \$1,000,000.00

To:

Subfund Title: Emergency Incidents
Activity/Grant Title: TBD
Line Item: Miscellaneous Grants & Aids
Amount: \$1,000,000.00

Background Information: For a period from the Effective Date of this Ordinance until November 1, 2020, the City is authorized to award Reimbursement Assistance to eligible Duval County small businesses in a one-time grant of up to \$10,000 to approved applicants. The program is designed to provide reimbursement of expenses to Duval County small businesses that experienced additional costs related to sanitizing and deep cleaning the building or premises after the state-wide reopening on May 4, 2020 and following an employee or customer testing positive for COVID-19 causing the business to temporarily close while taking heightened measures to disinfect or sterilize the building or premises. The funds can be used for the costs associated with deep cleaning and sanitization of the building, by the business or a third party. The Finance and Administration Department shall provide oversight for the Program and are required to make a report monthly to the City Council concerning the use of the funds authorized hereby for the Program, including the number of recipients and dollar amounts of the Grants. Emergency one-cycle passage of this legislation is requested. The nature of the emergency is that the Council Auditor's Office has identified additional CARES Act funding that must be used for COVID-19 purposes before December 31, 2020 and at the same time local small business owners have informed the Council that they have incurred significant additional costs from COVID-19 when they have had to deep clean and sanitize properties after employees or customers have tested positive to COVID-19 and the business must temporarily close in order to disinfect or sterilize the building or premises. These business interruption costs, in addition to the other economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, are putting a severe strain on local small businesses. As such, it is urgent that the funds be appropriated and expended as soon as possible, so that maximum use of the funds can be made in accordance with CARES Act requirements.

Policy Impact Area: Public health and safety; grants and aid

Fiscal Impact: Appropriates \$1 million in federal CARES Act funding to a small business recovery program

Analyst: Baltiero