

**CITY COUNCIL RESEARCH DIVISION
LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY**



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Bill Type and Number: Ordinance 2022-370

Introducer/Sponsor(s): Council President at the request of the Mayor

Date of Introduction: May 10, 2022

Committee(s) of Reference: NCSPHS, TEU, F, R

Date of Analysis: May 12, 2022

Type of Action: Appropriation; authorization to execute amended federal subrecipient agreement; Ordinance Code waiver; designation of oversight agency

Bill Summary: The bill appropriates \$2,935,060.96 in supplemental Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) funds received from the federal government to provide emergency rent and utility assistance to eligible households affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. It authorizes execution of an amended federal subrecipient agreement between the City and Civitas Community Development, LLC (Civitas) to administer and distribute the funds to applicants. The bill waives Ordinance Code Section 110.112 – Advance of City funds; prohibition against – to permit the City to make some payments in advance to Civitas. The Housing and Community Development Division of the Neighborhoods Department is designated as the City’s oversight agency for the contract and expenditures.

Background Information: The U.S. Treasury Department is reallocating ERAP funds left unused by some jurisdictions to others that still have needs and can ensure that they are expended for authorized purposes. The City is receiving an additional \$2.93 million and will be amending its existing subrecipient agreement with Civitas LLC (previously authorized by Ordinance 2021-670-E) to reflect the allocation of additional funding. \$220,129.57 of the new funds will be used for Civitas’ administrative costs, the remainder will be allocated to payment of rent, rent arrears, utilities and home energy costs, utilities and home energy costs arrears, and other expenses related to housing incurred due, directly or indirectly, to the COVID-19 pandemic. The ERAP Funds may be used to cover costs incurred by eligible households between March 13, 2020 through September 30, 2022 and can be applied to cover up to fifteen (15) months of rent and utility and home energy costs, including arrears, for an eligible household and may also be used to cover up to three (3) months of prospective rent payments, subject to certain limitations provided in the Act.

Policy Impact Area: COVID pandemic response

Fiscal Impact: The bill appropriates \$2,935,060.96 in additional ERAP funds, of which \$220,129.57 will pay the expenses of the distribution administrator.

Analyst: Clements