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| **LEANNA M.G. CUMBER**  Council Member  District 5  EMAIL: LCUMBER@COJ.NET |  | 117 West Duval Street  City Hall, Suite 425  Jacksonville, Florida 32202  OFFICE: (904) 255-5205 |
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| **OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL** |
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May 8, 2020

11:00am

**Meeting Minutes**

**Small Business Mortgage and Rent Relief and other Relief**

**Meeting date**: May 5, 2020

**Start Time**: 8:15am

**Topic:** To discuss further relief measures for for-profit and not-for-profit small businesses

**Location**: Remote Meeting

**Attendance**: Council Member LeAnna Cumber (District 5), Council Vice President Tommy Hazouri (At-Large – Group 3), Council Member Ron Salem (At Large – Group 2), Council Member Aaron Bowman (District 3), Council Member Al Ferraro (District 2), Council Member Dan Becton (District 11), Council Member Terrance Freeman (At Large – Group 1), Council Member Joyce Morgan (District 1), Council Member Matt Carlucci (At Large – Group 4)

**Meeting Convened**: 8:15am

Council Member Cumber called the meeting to order, welcomed all in attendance and thanked them for attending. CM Cumber said there are many small businesses who need additional relief, including some that did not qualify for the Vystar/City program.

Her vision is to have a program for small businesses that mirrors the program for individual relief. Reinvesting in small businesses will help the process, leveraging funds to help small businesses and non profits. She would like to make it a one cycle emergency.

CM Bowman shared that we missed a lot of people in the individual program and thanked CM Cumber for thinking about the people of Jacksonville.

CM Ferraro said this has a domino effect. Even businesses that are operating are hurting as their customers aren’t able to pay these businesses for services they are receiving. We need to figure out a way to do this without creating another problem.

CM Boylan would like to take $1,000,000 for the First Coast Relief Fund, which is managed by United Way. The United Way would distribute the funds to help people make rent payments and feed families in need. He said we need to lead by example and it encourages others, including philanthropists, to participate.

CM Becton shared that he is passionate about this issue. Landlords are forgoing rent but eventually they will need to be paid back. These funds will help but they won’t solve the problem.

CM Cumber stated that $9,000,000 is money available, as these funds were originally committed to the Vystar/City program and were reimbursed as part of the funds received as reimbursement from the Federal Government. Because it was previously committed to small business, she believes that it is important that the funds get into the community to help small businesses.

CM Salem stated that we are responsible for the next 3 years but not to sacrifice the City down the road. We need to figure out the most effective way to give out the funds.

CM Becton says that he is introducing a zoning resolution to help relax outside seating.

CVP Hazouri says we are going to need to address the loss of funds such as sales tax that the City will lose. He says We need to make sure we are not putting the City in a deficit and is looking forward to working with the auditors.

CM Morgan asked what the criteria is for relief.

CM Cumber stated that it will be modeled after the personal funding program, Sole proprietors will be included, must be in business for one year, independent contractors will be included. This will be a shot in the arm for Small Businesses.

CM Morgan says we need to open the City in a slow and methodical method. So far the Mayor has been on point.

CM Carlucci is concerned about payroll taxes. Businesses are having trouble paying rent and payroll taxes. He says When budget time comes, the $9,000,000 will need to be replenished. There will be a lot of other needs out there and come budget time, we will need to replenish these funds.

CM Boylan was wondering if the bill should be separated into $1,000,000 into the First Coast Relief Fund and $8,000,000 into the Small Business Mortgage/Rent Relief Fund.

CM Ferraro stated that we need to make sure that the auditors are comfortable with this bill.

CM Cumber thanked everyone for coming and said there will be a follow-up meeting scheduled. (Next meeting scheduled for Friday May 8th from 3:00 to 4:00pm.)

**Meeting adjourned**: 9:00am

**Minutes**: Minutes completed by Debbi Pataky, ECA District 5

***The written minutes for this meeting are only an overview of what was discussed. For verbatim comments of this meeting, please listen to the audio recording.***

The following items have been submitted for Public Record. Please contact legislative services for these items: 1) Meeting Notice 2) Meeting Minutes 3) Audio CD

For additional information or correspondence, please contact Debra Pataky, Executive Council Assistant at (904) 255-5184.

LC/drp

cc: Council Members and Staff

Cheryl L. Brown, Director/Council Secretary

Jessica Matthews, Chief, Legislative Services Division

Crystal Shemwell, Supervisor, Legislative Services Division

Jeff Clements, Chief, Research Division

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