

A POLICY RESOLUTION

Committing to Invest 100% of the City's American Rescue Plan Act Funds in Providing Direct Assistance to those Most Disproportionality Impacted by the Pandemic, Relieving the Conditions of Systemic Poverty, Racial Inequity, and to Building Robust Pathways to Economic Security and Public Health Capacity

WHEREAS ... About 27,500 Columbia residents (22% of the city population) live below the federal poverty level and 7,800 children attending Columbia Public Schools (41%) qualify for free or reduced lunch based on household incomes at or below 130-185% of the poverty threshold thereby creating food-insecurity at home; and

WHEREAS ... About 13,000 rental households (52%) are "cost-burdened" such that rent and utility costs amount to more than 30% of total household income which puts them at risk for eviction, and the City of Columbia had identified 238 individuals as homeless in 2020 although the current number may be higher; and

WHEREAS ... The conditions of homelessness, systemic poverty, and racial inequity are public health issues, and the resulting economic, physical, and mental health care problems create life-threatening challenges for individuals and significant problems for society, such as the formation of unsanctioned camps, untreated mental illness, and increases in community violence which can be addressed by our local government; and

WHEREAS ... The City of Columbia has been awarded approximately \$25 million through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), to "deliver immediate economic relief to families" and "those most disproportionately impacted by the pandemic" with funds used to "support the public health response and lay the foundation for a strong and equitable economic recovery;" and

WHEREAS ... The City Council has directed the City Manager to utilize ARPA funds to develop contracts for service with private organizations which address homelessness, community violence, behavioral health, and workforce development; and

WHEREAS ... Other proposals for the expenditure of ARPA funds such as hazard pay for City employees and the installation of broadband infrastructure are eligible for funding from other viable sources, and these proposals do not specifically address the disproportionate impact of racial inequity, systemic poverty, economic disadvantage, workforce development, homelessness, community violence; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLUMBIA, MISSOURI, AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. The City Council hereby commits to investing 100% of the City of Columbia's American Rescue Plan Act funds in providing direct assistance to those most disproportionately impacted by the pandemic, relieving the conditions of systemic poverty, racial inequity, food insecurity, and building robust pathways to economic security and public health capacity.

ADOPTED this _____ day of _____, 2022.

ATTEST:

City Clerk

Mayor and Presiding Officer

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

City Counselor