

RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DIAMONDHEAD, MISSISSIPPI, URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO SUPPORT DIRECT FEDERAL FUNDING TO ALL MUNICIPALITIES IN MISSISSIPPI TO HELP FIGHT COVID-19 AND PROTECT LOCAL CITIZENS FROM THE EFFECTS OF THE NOVEL CORONAVIRUS.

WHEREAS, on January 31, 2020, the United States Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar declared a public health emergency for COVID-19 beginning on January 27, 2020; on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization characterized COVID-19 as a pandemic; and on March 13, 2020, the President of the United States declared a nationwide state of emergency due to the coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, on April 5, 2020, the President of the United States declared the State of Mississippi a “major disaster area,” and on April 1, 2020, the Governor of the State of Mississippi declared a Shelter in Place Order pursuant to Executive Order No. 1466, which was extended on April 17, 2020 via Executive Order No. 1473; and

WHEREAS, on March 27, 2020 the President of the United States signed into law the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (the “CARES Act”), which created the Coronavirus Relief Fund; and

WHEREAS, only municipalities of more than 500,000 residents were eligible to receive direct funding from the Coronavirus Relief Fund, which represents only 0.5% of municipalities nationwide and only 14% of the country’s total population; and

WHEREAS, only 36 of 19,000 American cities, towns and villages have populations over 500,000; and

WHEREAS, no Mississippi municipality qualified for direct funding from the Coronavirus Relief Fund, and the CARES Act did not mandate that state governments share their portion of the revenue received from the fund; and

WHEREAS, 96% of all municipalities nationwide report that budget shortfalls are the result of unanticipated revenue declines that will negatively impact the important services municipalities provided to their citizens, including fire and police protection; and

WHEREAS, municipal leaders are best positioned to make emergency management decisions related to allocation of resources because they understand the needs of their citizens; and

WHEREAS, Mississippi’s municipal leaders need the flexibility to use any federal funding that might be provided to not only address unbudgeted expenses, but also losses in revenue.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF DIAMONDHEAD, AS FOLLOWS:

1. That the United States Congress must act to ensure every municipality impacted by this pandemic – regardless of size – has direct access to federal emergency funding.
2. That the Mayor and City Council of City of Diamondhead], Mississippi, hereby respectfully requests that the United States Congress support direct federal funding to all municipalities in Mississippi to help us fight COVID-19 and to alleviate budget shortfall in order to protect local citizens from the effects of the coronavirus.

Following the reading of the foregoing resolution, Councilmember Morgan moved, seconded by Councilmember L'Ecuyer for its adoption. The Mayor put the question to a vote, and the members voted to adopt the Resolution.

	Aye	Nay	Absent
Councilmember Depreo	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Councilmember Moran	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Councilmember Morgan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Councilmember Clark	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Councilmember L'Ecuyer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mayor Schafer	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

The motion having received the affirmative vote of a majority of all of the members of the Governing Body, the Mayor declared the motion carried and the resolution adopted, this the 5th day of May, 2020.



MAYOR

ATTEST:



CITY CLERK



