

M O T I O N

On March 17, 2020, the City Council adopted a Motion to transfer \$20M from the Reserve Fund to General City Purposes under a new account entitled “COVID-19 Emergency Response” in order to provide City Departments additional resources to address and respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. In accordance with the Motion, the City Administrative Officer is authorized to spend these requested funds at the direction of the Mayor and provide reports to the City Council on expenses incurred and purposes for which the funds were authorized.

Since April 2020, the CAO has provided reports to Council detailing all expenditures from the COVID-19 Emergency Response account. Expenses have been incurred by several City Departments and include, but are not limited to the following: Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and disinfectant supplies, maintenance, custodial services and fuel for Recreation and Parks trailers, security for congregate shelters, testing site equipment and kits, consultant services for City resumption of economic and societal activities, emergency shelter staffing, Emergency Operations Center and field response overtime, annual Zoom licenses and the Senior Meals Delivery Program.

While all of these expenditures were necessary to respond to the COVID-19 emergency, the City expended significant amounts on testing sites and other items that are more properly the responsibility of Los Angeles County, the Los Angeles Unified School District and/or the State of California.

The CAO reports that to continue response efforts, the 2021-22 Adopted Budget includes additional funding in the amount of \$40M, of which \$15M is available in the COVID-19 Emergency Response account with \$25M available in the Unappropriated Balance. As of July 23, 2021, of the \$235M allocated, approximately \$230.251M has been spent leaving a balance of \$4.748M. A total of \$25M remains in the Unappropriated Balance.

In light of the news that more than 500 Americans are once again losing their lives to COVID-19 every day amid the rising number of cases fueled by the Delta variant, the need for greater expenditures related to COVID-19 emergency response is to be anticipated. However, given the passage of time since the onset of the pandemic, the State’s budget surplus, and the amount of federal and state funding that have flowed to the County for public health and other needs, the City should be able to focus its spending on functions that are part of its core responsibilities, and rely on the County and State to provide and fund those services that are part of their core responsibilities. In addition, while the situation remains fluid, the Council now should play a larger role in setting budget priorities for COVID-19 response.

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We THEREFORE MOVE that the City Administrative Officer be required to report on the methodology for proactive financial planning with regards to the types of expenses expected to be incurred as a result of stronger strains of COVID-19 including: what resources may be necessary, what safeguards should be in place to trigger whether we use those resources, and available funding sources, including the responsibilities of and funding available to other government entities.

PRESENTED BY: Monica Rodriguez
MONICA RODRIGUEZ

Councilwoman, 7th District

Bob Blumenfeld

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Councilmember, 3rd District

SECONDED BY: Paul Kutz

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