



CITY OF RIVIERA BEACH – MEMORANDUM

TO: HON. MAYOR, CHAIRPERSON AND CITY COUNCIL

FROM: JONATHAN EVANS, CITY MANAGER, MPA, MBA, ICMA-CM

SUBJECT: **ECONOMIC RECOVERY PLAN OUTLINE – COVID-19**

DATE: APRIL 15, 2020

CC: GENERAL PUBLIC

Background:

This memorandum begins a discussion of steps to infuse capital into the local economy and expedite construction projects to create jobs within the local economy. On March 18, 2020, the City of Riviera Beach declared a local state of emergency. With this action, the city implemented multiple steps to combat COVID-19 while still providing municipal services. This ongoing pandemic and sweeping state, federal, and local mandates have greatly impacted the City of Riviera Beach’s local businesses and recreational and tourist amenities. Economic conditions prior to this pandemic showed signs of slow growth, as the city’s other major revenue streams did not meet their minimal growth projections—in actuality, the revenues declined. The only growth was associated with ad valorem property tax revenue, and information provided by financial experts and property appraisers throughout the state shows that this pandemic will impact ad valorem property tax revenue. A best-case scenario of maintaining the status quo would be a positive result.

One of the six categories is to be assigned to each member of the elected body to spearhead recovery efforts and to address the needs associated with each category. These particular circumstances are unique, and it will take months of help from the private, public, nonprofit, and religious sectors to facilitate this particularly challenging road to recovery. A seventh category omitted from this memorandum as a community focus is capital construction projects. That initiative will be directly administered and managed by the city manager to quickly advance with municipal facilities and to leverage alternative service delivery models to bring these facilities online as quickly and as cost-effectively as possible.



This memorandum's premise is to request volunteers from the elected body to spearhead a committee addressing one of the below categories. These committees will facilitate the economic recovery and provide policy recommendations and resources, whether in-kind or monetarily, to help the community bounce back from the conditions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

These initiatives coincide with multiple strategic focus areas adopted by the City Council from the Riviera Beach 2030 plan. This plan calls for achieving a sustainable economy, building great neighborhoods, accelerating operational excellence, enhancing government stewardship, and strengthening community engagement.

COMMUNITY FOCUS AREAS

Please note, these definitions are broad and not all-inclusive of the duties of the committee and its designees.

Health and Human Services (At-risk populations) - This initiative intends to strategically assist in resource deployment based on community residents' specific needs. Look at support services not only offered by the city, but proffered by county, state, and federal governments. Advocate for and leverage resources from public, private, and nonprofit sectors.

Public Safety – This committee will look at community-oriented policing and address nuisance properties and derelict vehicles and vessels and take proactive stances and policy recommendations to eradicate loitering and other problematic activities throughout the city. Educational and informative initiatives should also be taken to better prepare the public and the city for accidents, incidents, or pandemics.

Hospitality/Tourism and Maritime Industries – This committee or designee shall work with the Port of Palm Beach and with maritime industries to facilitate import and export commerce while helping to recruit and retrain the local workforce to fill vacant maritime positions. This designee will also work with the hospitality industry to increase tourism-related investments from the state and county while collaborating to encourage individuals to experience everything the City of Riviera Beach has to offer.

Small/Medium Business Assistance - This business assistance program will consider the needs, concerns, and ideas of businesses to formulate policy recommendations and find potential resources that could facilitate economic growth and reinvestment in the city. This designee or committee will look at the feasibility of incentives for economic growth and of reinvestment in readiness training and private-sector development. It will also look for



archaic, arbitrary, and capricious processes and procedures that stunt private-sector growth and development. In addition, it will combine and facilitate resources from the city and from the community redevelopment agency to bring more resources that could benefit the whole community.

Fast-Track Permits – Business/Residential - This particular designee or committee shall help create protocols to guide permits, speed up plan reviews, and facilitate a pathway to help fulfill the expectations of the planning and zoning board. It will also bring about good projects in an expedited and responsible fashion.

Clergy and Community Faith-Based Services - This particular designee or committee will work with religious faith-based leaders to coordinate and facilitate social, spiritual events to bring the community together and work toward a common good. This committee/designee will also help provide other services to augment the services provided by the Health and Human Services designee/committee.

City staff will be assigned to help coordinate efforts, and additional resources shall be assigned if deemed necessary for the work of the committee/designee. Monthly reports will be communicated via multiple platforms at the city’s disposal. This outline will be refined as individuals select their areas of focus and as the meetings commence.

Citywide/Organizational Goal(s):

Riviera Beach 2030 - Achieve a sustainable economy, build great neighborhoods, accelerate operational excellence, enhance government stewardship, and strengthen community engagement.

Fiscal/Budget Impact:

No fiscal impact is reported at this time, but the staff is looking to set aside funding to address the concerns derived from the work associated with relief efforts.

Recommendation(s):

The staff recommends the City Council to self-select a committee/area of focus to assist as part of the relief efforts.

Attachment(s):

- N/A