

File #: 65933 –

An Amended Resolution Providing a One-Time Emergency Stimulus Payment to General Municipal Employees

Sponsors: Sheri Carter, Arvina Martin, Tag Evers, Charles Myadze, Christian A. Albouras, Barbara Harrington-McKinney

Summary -
Amend from floor to:

- Authorize the one-time payment under ARPA’s “Government Services” category
- Remove references to Premium Pay
- Acknowledge contributions of the General Municipal Employees to the City’s pandemic response
- Add language to amend the 2021 budget accordingly

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has been ravaging our county, state, and world for over a year and has put City employees in unimaginable situations to navigate and balance work, family, and health concerns. President Biden signed the American Rescue Plan (“ARPA”) into law on March 11, 2021, to bring solutions that offer relief from some of these unmitigated circumstances and direct financial assistance to local government. The ARPA provides over \$47 million dollars to the City of Madison; and

~~WHEREAS, one of the allowable uses for this \$47,000,000 in relief money is to provide premium pay to workers performing essential work who are serving during this pandemic, in amounts up to \$13 per hour or \$25,000 per employee; and~~

WHEREAS, there are four categories of spending eligible for ARPA’s Local Fiscal Recovery Funds and the implementing regulations, and one of the categories is “For the provision of government services, to the extent of the reduction in revenue of such recipient due to the COVID–19 public health emergency, relative to revenues collected in the most recent full fiscal year of the recipient prior to the emergency;” and

WHEREAS, the Mayor has recommended in File No. 65935 allocating \$24.4 of the total \$47.2 in relief funding toward the category of Government Services; and

WHEREAS, City employees are the very people who provide those necessary and important government services, and the general municipal employees have been doing so throughout the pandemic, maintaining continuity of operations across all service areas of City government; and

WHEREAS, the City’s general municipal employees are 6% percent behind the City’s protective service employees, having received lower or no wage increases in the recent past, but all working families have suffered increased to costs and hardships, both personally and in the workplace, resulting from the pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the City’s protected services employee groups are receiving a 3.75% wage increase in 2021 while the wages of the City’s general employees were not raised in 2021 at all; and

WHEREAS, the decision not to provide a cost-of-living increase for the general employees in 2021 was made before the American Rescue Plan or its dollar allocations to Madison were announced; and

WHEREAS, the City's general municipal employees provide essential, critical services to maintain continuity of operations across all areas of City operations and infrastructure, providing services that are critical to protect the health and well-being of all residents, and the Common Council recognizes the importance of these contributions during the pandemic;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Common Council of the City of Madison directs appropriate staff to make a one-time ~~essential worker premium~~ municipal employee stimulus payment, in 2021, in a dollar amount equal to 3.75% of the average yearly wage of all permanent general municipal employees, to each of the City's permanent General Municipal Employees as defined by state law; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED the 2021 adopted operating budget is amended accordingly.