

OFFICE OF THE CITY ATTORNEY
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RESOLUTION NO. RES-20-0116

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE
CITY OF LONG BEACH SUPPORTING THE UNIVERSAL
BASIC INCOME INITIATIVE AS WELL AS FEDERAL AND
STATE EFFORTS TO SUPPORT RESIDENTS
DISADVANTAGED BY THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

WHEREAS, Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) first appeared in December
2019 and has spread throughout the world, and on March 11, 2020, the World Health
Organization declared the outbreak a global pandemic; and

WHEREAS, on March 10, 2020, Long Beach City Manager Thomas B.
Modica declared a state of emergency in the City of Long Beach to prepare for and respond
to local cases of coronavirus; and

WHEREAS, the City of Long Beach and the State of California are
responding in strong and definitive ways to slow the spread of Covid-19 and save lives,
ordering residents to shelter-in-place and cease non-essential activities; and

WHEREAS, in order to comply with shelter-in-place orders for public health,
many businesses have shut their doors, temporarily or permanently, and laid off or
terminated thousands of employees; and

WHEREAS, it has been reported that due to the coronavirus, record levels of
Americans are experiencing unemployment, affecting their ability to pay housing costs; and

WHEREAS, the US Congress passed the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and
Economic Security (CARES) Act at the end of March, which includes a package of relief
and stimulus programs including \$500 billion for large corporations and one-time \$1,200
checks to individuals; and

WHEREAS, those workers who are eligible for unemployment insurance are
still getting only a fraction of what they would otherwise earn, and the additional Pandemic

1 Unemployment Compensation provided through the CARES Act is a short-term
2 augmentation that has ended; and

3 WHEREAS, some self-employed workers and independent contractors are
4 now eligible for Pandemic Unemployment Assistance provided through the CARES Act,
5 but those payments are capped at \$167 per week; and

6 WHEREAS, neither of the unemployment benefit programs established
7 through CARES are adequate to cover the extent and likely duration of loss of income; and

8 WHEREAS, even prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, a significant portion of
9 the population of the United States were living in poverty and did not have the resources
10 to cover even the most basic necessities-food, housing, education and childcare; and

11 WHEREAS, without providing the entire country with immediate financial
12 assistance, there will be a risk of worsening the health and economic crisis related to
13 COVID-19 and, the sooner that assistance is provided to all people, the quicker they will
14 return to work and get the economy and communities thriving again; and

15 WHEREAS, unlike a payroll tax cut, which would do little to benefit our most
16 vulnerable workers, ongoing, direct cash payments would put “real money” in the pockets
17 of people across the country, including those living in the City of Long Beach; and

18 WHEREAS, according to polling released by Data for Progress and the
19 Justice Collaborative Institute, there is strong bipartisan support among people in the
20 country for payments on a recurring basis, with 66% of the public preferring recurring
21 payments of \$2,000 until a year after the President declares an end to the Covid-19 related
22 federal state of emergency; and

23 WHEREAS, the organization Mayors for Guaranteed Income has established
24 a universal basic income initiative in support of this concept;

25 NOW, THEREFORE, the City Council of the City of Long Beach hereby
26 resolves as follows:

27 Section 1. The City Council of the City of Long Beach the supports
28 ongoing, direct cash payments throughout the Covid-19 pandemic and until our economy

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1 recovers, and calls on Speaker Pelosi and Leader McConnell to ensure such payments
2 are included in the next stimulus package.

3 Section 2. The City Council of the City of Long Beach supports the
4 concept of the "Universal Basic Income" as expressed by Mayors for Guaranteed
5 Income, and supports the concept of a pilot program using available grant funds.

6 Section 3. The City Council of the City of Long Beach urges formal local
7 advocacy efforts through the City Lobbyist to ensure such payments are included in any
8 State or Federal final stimulus package.

9 Section 4. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption
10 by the City Council, and the City Clerk shall certify the vote adopting this resolution.

11 I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was adopted by the City Council
12 of the City of Long Beach at its meeting of September 8, 2020
13 by the following vote:

14
15 Ayes: Councilmembers: Zendejas, Pearce, Price, Supernaw,
16 Mungo, Andrews, Uranga, Austin,
17 Richardson.

18
19 Noes: Councilmembers: None.

20
21 Absent: Councilmembers: None.

22
23 Recusal(s): Councilmembers: None.

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27 M. De Guzman
City Clerk

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