



Legislation Text

File #: 20-0833, **Version:** 1

Recommendation to request City Attorney to draft a Council resolution in support of the universal basic income initiative established by the Mayors for a Guaranteed Income, as well as federal and state efforts to support residents disadvantaged by the COVID-19 pandemic;

Request City Manager to seek grants and private foundation support to fund the pilot and to bring back specific grant approval to City Council; and

Report back to the City Council on progress of pilot development.

The Coronavirus has affected every corner of the nation wreaking havoc on people's lives and the overall economy. This toll has highlighted and exasperated the income gap in America and how families are unable to pay basic costs like housing and food. Though many have received unemployment insurance benefits, those funds have fallen short of basic needs and left many out of payments altogether.

The income gap continues to grow unabated and is more pronounced for people of color who earn less than their counterparts and neighbors. Housing is becoming scarcer and less affordable. Unemployment filings continue to increase. People are suffering tremendously during this pandemic, and many were suffering before as well.

Universal Basic Income, or a guaranteed income, is being piloted in cities across the United States, and is part of the Mayor's FY 21 Budget recommendations. It's an innovative approach to supporting people in a rapidly changing economy. Ongoing direct payments to individuals and families would help to start to address the inequalities being experienced across the country. It would provide immediate relief to the recipients and help stimulate the economy. Long Beach would greatly benefit from these direct payments to all residents, and it would help those most in need.

This matter was reviewed by Budget Manager Grace H. Yoon on August 21, 2020.

Approve recommendation.

MAYOR ROBERT GARCIA