

**RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL**  
**“AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT FUNDS – PRIORITIZING USE AND PUBLIC INPUT”**

No.

*Passed:*

---

*Christopher G. Paplauskas, Council President*

**WHEREAS**, not unlike our Nation, the citizens and businesses of Cranston experienced unprecedented hardships and adverse consequences resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, including loss of income as well as limited and altered access to municipal services and spaces that support everyday life in our community; and

**WHEREAS**, the needs of our citizenry for its government to provide additional structure and support in the areas of health and social services, child care, mental health, senior care, as well as in the areas of education and business has intensified as a result of the pandemic; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 11, 2021, President Joseph R. Biden, Jr., signed the American Rescue Plan Act (“ARPA”) into law - a \$1.9 Trillion-dollar appropriation aimed at accelerating the national recovery from the effects of the pandemic by

- (1) Supporting urgent COVID-19 response efforts to continue to decrease the spread of the virus and bring the pandemic under control,
- (2) Replacing lost revenue for eligible state, local, territorial, and Tribal governments to strengthen support for vital public services and help retain jobs,
- (3) Supporting immediate economic stabilization for households and businesses,
- (4) Addressing systemic public health and economic challenges that have contributed to the unequal impact of the pandemic; and

**WHEREAS**, \$350 Billion-dollars of ARPA funds are allocated to “Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds”, of which Cranston will receive \$42.6 million dollars to

- (1) Support public health expenditures, by, for example, funding COVID-19 mitigation efforts, medical expenses, behavioral healthcare, and certain public health and safety staff.

- 45 (2) Address negative economic impacts caused by the public health emergency, including  
46 economic harm to workers, households, small businesses, impacted industries, and the  
47 public sector.  
48
- 49 (3) Replace lost public sector revenue, using this funding to provide government services to  
50 the extent of the reduction in revenue experienced due to the pandemic.  
51
- 52 (4) Provide premium pay for essential workers, offering additional support to those who  
53 have and will bear the greatest health risks because of their service in critical  
54 infrastructure sectors.  
55
- 56 (5) Invest in water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure, making necessary investments to  
57 improve access to clean drinking water, support vital wastewater and storm water  
58 infrastructure, and to expand access to broadband internet; and

59  
60 **WHEREAS**, the City Council is desirous of meaningful input from its citizens, business  
61 leaders, and governmental stakeholders as to highest and best use of its ARPA allocation; and  
62

63 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT**, the Honorable Cranston City Council:  
64

- 65 1. Shall invite its citizens, business leaders and governmental stakeholders to special  
66 meeting workshops of the City Council to engage in meaningful dialogue framed by the  
67 authorized uses of Cranston's ARPA allocations and for the purpose of soliciting their  
68 input on suggested uses of the ARPA funds; and  
69
- 70 2. At the conclusion of the workshops, the City Council shall compose a report of its  
71 findings in order to inform the Council as it approves the prioritization of the highest and  
72 best use of Cranston's ARPA allocation.  
73

74 Sponsored by Council Vice-President Ferri, Councilman Donegan and Councilwoman Marino  
75

76 Referred to Finance Committee 11/1/2021.