RESOLUTION NO. ______

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PAYMENT TO THE LITTLE ROCK CONVENTION AND VISITORS BUREAU, IN A TOTAL AMOUNT OF TWO HUNDRED TWENTY-EIGHT THOUSAND, NINE HUNDRED DOLLARS ($228,900.00), FOR THE RENTAL OF THE WILLIAM STILL BALLROOM AT THE ROBINSON CENTER FOR PURPOSES OF CONDUCTING CITY BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS, ALTERNATE OPERATIONS CENTER, COORDINATION OF COVID-19 RESPONSE AND OTHER CITY BUSINESS FROM MARCH 2020 THROUGH AUGUST 2020 DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

WHEREAS, on March 12, 2020, Mayor Frank Scott, Jr., issued an Emergency Proclamation stating that the City of Little Rock, Arkansas, (“the City”)0 was in an emergency situation as a result of the COVID-19 Pandemic; and,

WHEREAS, on March 26, 2020, because of the pandemic, Mayor Scott issued Declaration of Local Disaster Emergency No. 22-02, which formally declared a Local Disaster Emergency pursuant to Ark. Code. Ann. § 12-75-108, which continued for 120 days until July 24, 2020, when it was intended to end; and,

WHEREAS, on August 21, 2020, because of the pandemic, Mayor Scott issued Declaration of Local Disaster Emergency No. 20-08 pursuant to Arkansas State Law which continued until December 19, 2020, and then ended; and,

WHEREAS, because of the continuing nature of the Pandemic, and the need to hold virtual meetings of the City Board of Directors and other City committees or commissions, the Board of Directors approved Little Rock, Ark., Ordinance No. 21,849 (March 25, 2020), and Little Rock, Ark., Resolution No. 15,191 (April 1, 2020), to define the presence of a member to include participation in a virtual meeting; and,

WHEREAS, the need for space to distance speakers, members of the governing bodies, and to implement the technology required to maintain real-time open meetings required more space than was available in the Board Meeting Room in City Hall; and,

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control stressed the importance of social distancing, the City of Little Rock used the William Still Ballroom at Robinson Center for purposes of conducting Board of
Directors Meetings, alternate operations enter, coordination of COVID-19 response, and other City business from March 2020, through August 2020; and,

WHEREAS, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) will reimburse expenses pertaining to utilization of the space for COVID-19 coordination and use as an Alternate Operations Center; and,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE CITY OF LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS:

Section 1. The City Manager is authorized to pay invoices from the Little Rock Convention and Visitors Bureau in the total amount of Two Hundred Twenty-Eight Thousand, Nine Hundred Dollars ($228,900.00), for the rental of the William Still Ballroom at Robinson Center in order to conduct meetings for the Board of Directors, alternate operations center, coordination of COVID-19 response and other City business during the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Section 2. Funding is available at 100% of expenditure through FEMA Project No. 151959, Account No. 270129; the City anticipates being reimbursed for the total amount to be paid.

Section 3. Severability. In the event any title, section, paragraph, item, sentence, clause, phrase, or word of this resolution is declared or adjudged to be invalid or unconstitutional, such declaration or adjudication shall not affect the remaining portions of this resolution, which shall remain in full force and effect as if the portion so declared or adjudged invalid or unconstitutional were not originally a part of the resolution.

Section 4. Repealer. All laws, ordinances and resolutions, or parts of the same, that are inconsistent with the provisions of this resolution, are hereby repealed to the extent of such inconsistency.

ADOPTED: March 15, 2022

ATTEST:                                                  APPROVED:

_______________________________________                ___________________________________________
Susan Langley, City Clerk                          Frank Scott, Jr., Mayor

APPROVED AS TO LEGAL FORM:

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Thomas M. Carpenter, City Attorney