RESOLUTION NO. __________

A RESOLUTION TO STATE THE PRIMARY INTENDED USES OF A PORTION OF THE FIRST TRANCHE OF THE CITY OF LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS’, ALLOTMENT OF LOCAL FISCAL RECOVERY FUNDS THROUGH THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2021, the United States Congress passed the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA), which provides fiscal relief funds to State and Local Governments, and other program areas aimed at mitigating the continuing effects of the COVID-19 Pandemic; and,

WHEREAS, ARPA is intended to provide support to local governments in responding to the impact of COVID-19 and in their efforts to contain COVID-19 in their communities, residents, and businesses; and,

WHEREAS, ARPA includes State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds to support urgent COVID response efforts to decrease the spread of the virus; to replace lost public sector revenue to strengthen support for vital public services; to support immediate economic stabilization for households and businesses; and to address systemic public health and economic challenges that have contributed to inequal impacts of the pandemic on certain populations; and,

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Treasury has adopted the interim final rule as guidance regarding the use of ARPA Funds; and,

WHEREAS, on May 17, 2021, the United States Department of Treasury deposited the City of Little Rock’s first tranche of funds, which is Eighteen Million, Eight Hundred Fifty-Six Thousand, Seven Hundred and 50/100 Dollars ($18,856,700.50); and,

WHEREAS, that as recipient, the City of Little Rock accepts award of Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Funds allocation up to the maximum allowed by the terms and conditions of the ARPA; and,

WHEREAS, this resolution is intended as a statement of intent of the Board to expend a portion of the first tranche of the City’s ARPA Funds in accordance with Federal Law and guidance, for the current critical needs and priorities for which there is consensus as set forth below.

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

Section 1. Subject to the provisions of Section 8 below, the Mayor, City Manager, City Clerk and any City signatories required to do so, are authorized to apply for, obtain, or otherwise assure authorization of the receipt or use of ACRA funds as set forth in this resolution.
Section 2. As set forth more fully below, the Board expresses its intent to expend these funds for eligible, immediate needs within the categories below:

A. Expenditure of Lost Revenue on Governmental Services
B. Public Health Measures to Respond to COVID-19
C. Premium Pay
D. Indirect Costs

Section 3. Expenditure of Lost Revenue on Governmental Services. It is the intent of the Board of Directors that funds from the first tranche of the American Rescue Plan Act be prioritized and expended for governmental services as follows:

A. Critical Information Technology Upgrades to Cybersecurity and IT Infrastructure across City Departments -- estimated total of Three Million, Four Hundred Thousand Dollars ($3,400,000.00).
B. Fire Apparatus -- estimated total of Two Million, Two Hundred Thousand Dollars ($2,200,000.00).

Section 4. Expenditures for Public Health Measures to Respond to COVID-19. It is the intent of the Board of Directors that funds from the first tranche of the American Rescue Plan Act be prioritized and expended for public health measures as follows:

A. Community Violence Intervention Programs -- estimated total of One Million, Five Hundred Thousand Dollars ($1,500,000.00).
B. COVID Mitigation and Prevention, including eligible vaccination incentives and public communications efforts -- estimated total of Seven Hundred Thousand Dollars ($700,000.00).

Section 5. Additional One (1)-Time Pay for Eligible City Employees. It is the intent of the Board of Directors that funds from the first tranche of the American Rescue Plan Act be expended to provide eligible City of Little Rock employees with premium pay and to provide City employees who are not otherwise eligible for premium pay but who have worked for the City since July 1, 2021, with one-time bonuses of identical value as a retention tool.

A. The sum of Three Million, Two Hundred Thousand Dollars ($3,200,000.00), or the actual amount required, is to be paid to eligible city employees as premium pay for working during the pandemic; further, the City shall provide its employees who are not otherwise eligible for premium pay, but who have worked for the City since July 1, 2021, with one-time bonuses of identical value as a retention tool.
B. Funds for this expenditure will be taken from Account No. 271 – American Rescue Plan (ARPA).

Section 6. Expenditures Related to Indirect Costs. It is the intent of the Board of Directors that indirect costs be provided for in an amount not to exceed 5.5% of total costs of each of the expenditures listed above for an estimated total of Six Hundred Five Thousand Dollars ($605,000.00).
Section 7. **Compliance with the American Rescue Plan Act.** The City will ensure compliance with prevailing Federal guidance at the time the funds are committed for expenditure.

Section 8. Nothing in this resolution shall be construed as taking the place of any action otherwise required by the Board of Directors to authorize the City Manager to enter into requisite contracts associated with expenditures outlined above.

Section 9. Nothing in this resolution shall be construed as constituting an employment contract or as altering, modifying or affecting the “at-will” employment relationship between the City of Little Rock and any employee of the City of Little Rock.

Section 10. **Severability.** In the event any title, section, paragraph, item, sentence, clause, phrase, or word of this ordinance is declared or adjudged to be invalid or unconstitutional, such declaration or adjudication shall not affect the remaining portions of the ordinance which shall remain in full force and effect as if the portion so declared or adjudged invalid or unconstitutional was not originally a part of the ordinance.

Section 11. **Repealer.** All laws, ordinances, 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: August 3, 2021

ATTEST:

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Susan Langley, City Clerk

APPROVED:  

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Frank Scott, Jr., Mayor

APPROVED AS TO LEGAL FORM:

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Thomas M. Carpenter, City Attorney