

## RESOLUTION 2020-4

### LAPORTE COUNTY COUNCIL REQUESTING THE GOVERNOR OF INDIANA PROVIDE IMMEDIATE RELIEF TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT TO PERMIT US TO BEST SERVE OUR CONSTITUENTS DURING THE COVID-19 EMERGENCY

WHEREAS, on March 6, 2020, the Governor of Indiana declared a public health emergency for Coronavirus Disease Outbreak ("COVID-19") pursuant to I.C. 10-14-3-12; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, the President declared a national emergency for the same, and

WHEREAS, pursuant to I.C. 10-14-3-12 (d)(1), the Governor has the authority to: (1) suspend the provisions of any regulatory statute prescribing the procedures for conduct of state business, or the orders, rules, or regulations of any state agency if strict compliance with any of these provisions would in any way prevent, hinder or delay necessary action in coping with the emergency."

WHEREAS, the Governor's executive order 20-04 issued on March 16, 2020 meant the immediate closure of bars, restaurants, other hospitality and entertainment venues throughout the State of Indiana thereby idling hundreds of thousands of Hoosiers, with hundreds already affected in LaPorte County with the number of unemployed expected to climb into the thousands by this weekend, and

WHEREAS, LaPorte County's judges have already acted to mitigate the effect of such layoffs by suspending any eviction hearings or debt collection proceedings, and

WHEREAS, food banks and food pantries are already being overrun with new demand, and

WHEREAS, the undersigned are concerned about food stocks and medicines being timely delivered to the elderly and shut ins, and

WHEREAS, state leaders have professed they have retained a \$2 billion surplus for a "rainy day" when Hoosiers would need help and assistance the most in coping with an emergency,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LAPORTE COUNTY COUNCIL THAT WE CALL ON THE GOVERNOR TO EXERCISE THE AUTHORITY GRANTED HIM UNDER INDIANA LAW TO DO THE FOLLOWING:

1. Immediately convene an emergency meeting of the State Budget Committee to authorize a five hundred (\$500,000,000.00) million dollar stimulus package be directed to cash-strapped cities, towns and counties throughout Indiana to assist with emergency needs whether they be supplies, personnel or direct assistance to local nonprofits including churches, Meals on Wheels, community mental health centers or other entities called on to assist during the emergency.

2. Immediately direct the Department of Local Government and Finance (DLGF) and State Board of Accounts (SBOA) to loosen regulations for local entities' spending on emergency matters by allowing such entities to tap surpluses that may exist in a given account or fund such as Major Bridge or other accounts to pay for emergency assistance.

3. Provide an immediate cash infusion to Indiana Workforce Development to staff up intake workers for unemployment compensation claims and loosen regulations regarding waiting times for benefits and assistance.

4. Immediately grant Councils and other fiscal bodies throughout the state, relief from statutorily and agency-imposed deadlines related to taxing, financing and budgeting.

All of which is resolved this 23rd day of March 2020.

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LAPORTE COUNTY INDIANA COUNCIL

*Russell Novak*

President

*Mike Mollenhauer*

Vice-President

*Mark Symp*

*Timothy Rucker*

*John Sato*

*Sean Quinn*

*Terry Garner*

Attest:

*Kristie Beckard*  
Chief Deputy Auditor