



LOUISVILLE METRO COUNCIL
OFFICE OF PRESIDENT DAVID JAMES

Senator Mitch McConnell
601 W. Broadway
Suite 630
Louisville, KY 40202

Congressman John Yarmuth
600 Martin Luther King Jr. Place
Suite 216
Louisville, KY 40202

April 20, 2020

RE: Relief for State and Local

Dear Senator McConnell and Congressman Yarmuth,

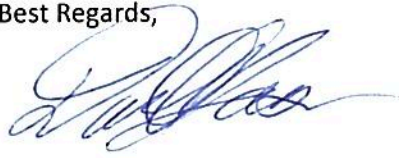
Thank you for your leadership during these unprecedented times. We recognize the challenges facing our country and our economy are great and appreciate the efforts of the US Congress to help our impacted businesses and constituents. As you consider further actions to mitigate the devastating economic impacts on our country, we the members of the Louisville Metro Council, urge you also to include general fund relief for state and local governments.

As you know, state and local governments are required to maintain a balanced budget and are facing significant revenue shortfalls, both due to the anticipated reductions in occupational and net profit taxes and the delay in the federal filing deadline. Just this week Mayor Fischer announced the furlough of 380 metro employees. Without relief, we fear that number will be much greater as we are forced to cut the services our constituents depend on.

While the first three relief bills included state and local resources for combating the COVID-19 pandemic, that money is restricted to incremental expenses incurred mounting a direct response to the virus. This is no doubt a necessary measure, however, it falls short of what is needed as local revenues have dramatically fallen putting our funding of core services at risk. To underscore this point, next week Metro Council anticipates authorizing a \$240,000,000 short-term line of credit to fund the continuing operations of our government – this is not a solution that is sustainable. Also of note, this line of credit addresses only the timing of our revenue recognition; the impacts of our reduced revenues are still to be fully realized. Additionally, when the economy is ready to restart, we are uncertain how many months it will be until we see a complete economic rebound.

With these uncertainties and the timing of the close of our budget year June 30, 2020 we cannot wait much longer. We urge you to please include this critical relief in your next round of federal assistance.

Best Regards,



David James
President Louisville Metro Council

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Democratic Caucus Chair

Kevin Kramer
Republican Caucus Chair

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