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Executive Order
Office of the Mayor
City of Atlanta

EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER 2020-81
BY THE MAYOR

ORDERING THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER TO ALLOCATE UP TO ONE MILLION FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS ($1,500,000.00) IN FUNDS BY TRANSFERRING GENERAL FUND UNCOMMITTED FUND BALANCE FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONTRIBUTING TO FUNDING EFFORTS OF THE NON-PROFIT AND PHILANTHROPIC COMMUNITIES TO PROVIDE INDIVIDUAL SHELTER OPTIONS WITH SUPPORTIVE SERVICES FOR PERSONS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

WHEREAS, like much of the world, the United States, the State of Georgia, and the City of Atlanta are currently responding to an outbreak of respiratory disease caused by a novel coronavirus named "SARS-CoV-2" and the disease it causes named "coronavirus disease 2019" (abbreviated "COVID-19"); and

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020 the World Health Organization declared the COVID-19 outbreak a pandemic; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020 the President of the United States announced a national emergency in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, which included two emergency declarations: one under the National Emergencies Act and one under the Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act; and

WHEREAS, on March 14, 2020 Governor Brian Kemp signed a public health state of emergency to address the COVID-19 pandemic through assisting health and emergency management officials across Georgia by deploying all available resources for the mitigation and treatment of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, on March 15, I declared there to be an emergency in existence within the City of Atlanta pursuant to Section 2-181(a) of the City of Atlanta Code of Ordinances; and

WHEREAS, the Center for Disease Control ("CDC") has issued guidance on the emerging and rapidly evolving situation of the COVID-19 pandemic, including how to protect oneself from this illness; and

WHEREAS, social distancing is recommended by the CDC to prevent the continued spreading of this illness in the community; and

WHEREAS, as of March 16, 2020, the CDC advised that all events in the United States of ten (10) or more people should be cancelled or held virtually; and

WHEREAS, on March 22, 2020 twenty-four (24) infectious disease clinicians in Georgia signed onto an opinion that it is in their belief that there is little time to "flatten the curve" of the spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on March 23, 2020 I declared there to be the existence of an emergency within the City of Atlanta and issued a Stay at Home Order; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with this Stay at Home Order person experiencing homelessness were strongly urged to obtain shelter, and governmental and other entities were strongly urged to make such shelter available as soon as possible and to the maximum extent practicable (and to use COVID-19 risk mitigation practices in their operation); and

WHEREAS, on April 2, 2020, Governor Brian Kemp signed an Executive Order to Ensure a Safe and Healthy Georgia ("Governor's Executive Order 04.02.20.01") to address the COVID-19 pandemic by implementing temporary actions necessary and appropriate to protect the health, safety, and welfare of Georgia's residents and visitors; including a directive requiring all persons in the State of Georgia to shelter in place within their homes or places of residence, effective beginning at 6:00 P.M. on Friday, April 3, 2020 and expiring at 11:59 P.M. on Monday, April 13, 2020; and

WHEREAS, on April 8, 2020, Governor Kemp signed an executive order extending the duration of the Governor's Executive Order 04.02.20.01 such that it shall not expire until April 30, 2020 at 11:59 P.M.; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with the Governor's Executive Order 04.02.20.01, persons experiencing homelessness are urged to obtain shelter and to contact governmental and other entities for assistance; and

WHEREAS, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, there is a growing need for safe, individual shelter options for people experiencing homelessness; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic represents an especially significant health risk for people experiencing homelessness because of congregate living environments, limited access to preventative measures, and higher likelihood for underlying chronic health conditions; and

WHEREAS, of the approximately 3,200 persons experiencing homelessness in the City of Atlanta approximately 700 to Eight Hundred 800 are unsheltered, and approximately 300 of those who are unsheltered are over the age of 55; and

WHEREAS, additionally, because of the outbreak there are additional capacity constraints within the existing homeless shelter system, due to fear of exposure and CDC guidelines on shelter configuration; and

WHEREAS, providing individual shelter can be a start to permanent housing solutions; and

WHEREAS, in response to this ongoing crisis, I am hereby ordering the Chief Financial Officer to allocate up to one million five hundred thousand dollars ($1,500,000.00) in funds by transferring general fund uncommitted fund balance for the purpose of contributing to funding efforts of the non-profit and philanthropic communities to provide individual shelter options with supportive services for persons experiencing homelessness.

NOW THEREFORE, I, KEISHA LANCE BOTTOMS, AS MAYOR OF THE CITY OF ATLANTA, NOW HEREBY AUTHORIZE, ORDER AND DIRECT AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. That the Chief Financial Officer is hereby ordered to allocate up to one million five hundred thousand dollars ($1,500,000.00) in funds by transferring general fund uncommitted fund balance for the purpose of contributing to funding efforts of the non-profit and philanthropic communities to provide individual shelter options with supportive services for persons experiencing homelessness.

SO ORDERED this 14th day of May 2020.

Keisha Lance Bottoms
Mayor

ATTESTED:

Municipal Clerk

Foris Webb, III
Municipal Clerk