

**115-R-20**

**A RESOLUTION**

**Creating a Community Member Relief Fund to Provide Emergency Relief to Undocumented Evanston Residents**

**WHEREAS**, the City of Evanston has established long standing programs through General and Emergency Assistance that are mandated by the State of Illinois; and

**WHEREAS**, the City's current general assistance funds have set guidelines and are funded by tax dollars to provide assistance to Evanston residents with low income and those with emergency needs, however these programs contain many requirements and restrictions for residents, including but not limited to, legal status, social security numbers and being income eligible; and

**WHEREAS**, due to these set guidelines and restrictions, Evanston residents who are undocumented are excluded and do not qualify for the City's current assistance programs; and

**WHEREAS**, the City is currently in a state of emergency because of the COVID-19 pandemic,

**WHEREAS**, the global pandemic, COVID-19, has left many Evanston residents in need of emergency assistance; and

**WHEREAS**, 8 U.S. Code § 1621(b) allows for short-term, non-cash and in-kind emergency disaster relief to undocumented residents in need of assistance during an emergency; and

**WHEREAS**, the City wishes to fund the Community Member Relief Fund

to assist undocumented Evanston residents in the amount of twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000.00) from the City's General Fund; and

**WHEREAS**, the funding for this program under the law may only continue so long as there is an emergency; and

**WHEREAS**, the City will utilize community donations to supplement this program and to fund the program beyond the emergency; and

**WHEREAS**, the Community Member Relief Fund will operate similarly to the City's Emergency Assistance program, but with fewer restrictions. Access to the funds will be limited to one time in a twelve (12) month period per application and payment will be made directly to the vendor. The amount given will be determined by the City's General Assistance Office based on the current fund balance, but will not exceed one thousand five-hundred dollars (\$1,500.00). Grants will be disbursed in the order by which the applications are received; and

**WHEREAS**, applicants must be eighteen (18) years of age or older, an Evanston resident, income eligible, ineligible for any state or federal assistance and must have an emergency. Applicants will be evaluated for eligibility for General or Emergency Assistance prior to accessing eligibility through the Community Member Relief Fund program; and

**WHEREAS**, the City continually strives to provide an environment for all its residents irrespective of background, race and gender and the Community Member Relief Fund furthers this goal and the City's commitment as a Welcoming City,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EVANSTON, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS, THAT:**

**SECTION 1:** The foregoing recitals are hereby found as fact and incorporated herein by reference.

**SECTION 2:** The Community Member Relief Fund is established.

**SECTION 3:** This Resolution shall be in full force and effect from and after the date of its passage and approval in the manner provided by law.



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Stephen H. Hagerty, Mayor

Attest:

*Eduardo Gomez*

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Eduardo Gomez, Deputy City Clerk

Adopted: November 9, 2020

Approved as to form:



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Kelley A. Gandurski  
Corporation Counsel