

BILL NO. \_\_\_\_\_

RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING LOCAL BUSINESSES, SCHOOLS, AND  
ORGANIZATIONS DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC.

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has had an immense impact on businesses, schools, and organizations in the City of Independence, Missouri; and,

WHEREAS, interpreting the group gathering and social distancing rules in Phase 2.5 of Jackson County's COVID-19 recovery plan has made it difficult for local businesses, schools, and organizations to operate and to plan events while complying with the recovery plan; and,

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Independence supports the efforts of those who have been negatively impacted by the often confusing rules and orders issued by Jackson County; and,

WHEREAS, a recent report entitled the "Main Street Index" found that nearly 85% of Main Street businesses have been impacted by the pandemic, with almost 15% experiencing a severe impact and the greatest impact being a significant reduction in sales; and,

WHEREAS, compared to January 2020, total job postings in the Kansas City metropolitan region have decreased by 24.7%, small business revenue has decreased by 18.8%, the number of small businesses open has decreased by 15.8%, and employment rates have decreased by 6.6%; and,

WHEREAS, delinquent utility bills have risen from the beginning of the State of Emergency, from \$1,470,401 (5,320 customers) in March of 2020 to \$2,105,243 (7,265 customers) in October, a difference of \$634,842 (1,945 customers); and,

WHEREAS, the outstanding utility bill balance from September to October alone increased from \$1,710,221 to \$2,105,243, an increase of \$395,022 or 23%; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Independence allocated over \$2.2 million to support utility bill assistance, an amount that will be fully expended on or before December 30, 2020; and,

WHEREAS, recipients for utility assistance report a number of hardships including other delinquent bills, delinquent rent and/or mortgage payments, inability to make vehicle payments or necessary vehicle repairs, inability to find employment, and the need to work around remote learning for their children; and,

WHEREAS, the long-term impacts on mental, physical and emotional health from these financial hardships are real, with impacts to people that were in and near poverty prior to the pandemic being particularly devastating; and,

WHEREAS, Jackson County has implemented a more restrictive plan as compared to the City of Kansas City and surrounding counties; and,

WHEREAS, on Tuesday, June 16, the State of Missouri moved into Phase 2 of the Show Me Strong Recovery Plan, under which there is no statewide public health order and Missouri is fully open for business; and,

WHEREAS, the City Council agrees that the best efforts in eliminating the mass spread of COVID-19 is the continuation of the mask mandate and social distancing; and,

WHEREAS, COVID-19 outbreaks have not been tied to schools, restaurants or businesses;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF INDEPENDENCE, MISSOURI, AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. That the City Council of Independence, Missouri recognizes the uncontrolled community spread of COVID-19 presently occurring and encourages all residents to continue rigorously adhering to the mask mandate and social distancing requirements.

SECTION 2. That the City Council of Independence expresses their support for local businesses, schools, and organizations during this challenging period and opposes any new restrictions in its COVID-19 recovery policies that limit local control for area school districts and individual decision making for businesses to choose their preferred operating model.

SECTION 3. That should the Jackson County Executive order new restrictions in its COVID-19 recovery policies, the Independence City Council will oppose these measures and will determine how to move forward with life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness on behalf of the citizens and business community they represent.

PASSED THIS \_\_\_\_ DAY OF \_\_\_\_\_, 2020, BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF INDEPENDENCE, MISSOURI.

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Presiding Officer of the City Council  
of the City of Independence, Missouri

ATTEST:

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City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY

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City Counselor

REVIEWED BY:

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City Manager