

INTRODUCED: September 14, 2020

A RESOLUTION No. 2020-R053

To request that the Mayor propose, for the Fiscal Year 2021-2022 and for every fiscal year thereafter, a budget that includes funding in the amount of at least \$10,000,000.00 for the Affordable Housing Trust Fund.

Patrons – Ms. Robertson and Ms. Lynch

Approved as to form and legality
by the City Attorney

PUBLIC HEARING: SEP 28 2020 AT 6 P.M.

WHEREAS, the Affordable Housing Trust Fund currently receives funding of a maximum of \$1,000,000.00 per year from expiring partial exemptions from real estate taxes and proceeds from the sale of tax delinquent properties; and

WHEREAS, upon information and belief of the Council, the Affordable Housing Trust Fund exists to assist the City in rectifying the disparity between the average housing cost and average income in the Richmond metropolitan area where individuals and families suffering under such disparity are constrained to spend more than 30 percent of their monthly income on housing, making it less likely they are able to afford other necessities, such as clothing and food; and

WHEREAS, it is the belief of the Council that, prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, Richmond families were confronted by evictions and housing affordability and, during the

AYES: _____ NOES: _____ ABSTAIN: _____

ADOPTED: _____ REJECTED: _____ STRICKEN: _____

pandemic, these families are at an even more severe disadvantage in their ability to weather the economic recession, unemployment, decreased wages, lack of paid sick leave, lack of sufficient housing assistance, and mounting evictions resulting from the pandemic.

WHEREAS, the Council believes that it is in the best interests of the citizens of the City of Richmond that the Council request that the Mayor propose, for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2021, and ending June 30, 2022, and for every fiscal year thereafter, a budget that includes funding in the amount of at least \$10,000,000.00 for the Affordable Housing Trust Fund;

NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RICHMOND:

That the Council requests that the Mayor propose, for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2021, and ending June 30, 2022, and for every fiscal year thereafter, a budget that includes funding in the amount of at least \$10,000,000.00 for the Affordable Housing Trust Fund.



Richmond City Council

The Voice of the People

Richmond, Virginia

RECEIVED
By Barbara Fom at 8:11 am, Aug 28, 2020

Office of the Council Chief of Staff

Ordinance/Resolution Request

TO Haskell Brown, Interim Richmond City Attorney
Richmond Office of the City Attorney

THROUGH Lawrence R. Anderson
Council Chief of Staff

FROM Samson Anderson, Council Budget Analyst

COPY Ellen Robertson, 6th District Representative
Tavares Floyd, 6th District Liaison
Meghan K. Brown, Deputy Chief of Staff
Tabrica Rentz, Interim Deputy Richmond City Attorney

DATE August 25, 2020

PAGE/s 1 of 2

TITLE Request to Increase Affordable Housing Trust Fund Funding to \$10m Annually

This is a request for the drafting of an **Ordinance** **Resolution**

REQUESTING COUNCILMEMBER/PATRON

Ellen Robertson, 6th District
Representative

SUGGESTED STANDING COMMITTEE

Finance and Economic Development
Committee

ORDINANCE/RESOLUTION SUMMARY

The Patron is requesting that the Administration fund the Affordable Housing Trust Fund \$10 million annually. The Patron requests that this funding begin in FY 2022.

BACKGROUND

Summary:

The Affordable Housing Trust Fund (AHTF) currently has dedicated funding from expiring partial exemptions from real estate taxes and proceeds from the sale of tax delinquent properties. Due to limited funding available from these 2 sources, the maximum annual funding they provide to the AHTF is \$1 million annually.

The AHTF exists to assist the City in rectifying the disparity between the average housing cost and average income in the Richmond metropolitan area. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) states that individuals and families spending more than 30% of their monthly income on housing are cost burdened and less likely to be able to afford life's necessities such as clothing and food.

Prior to the Pandemic, Richmond families that were cost burdened struggled with evictions and housing affordability. These families are at a severe disadvantage in their ability to weather the

economic recession, unemployment, lack of paid sick leave, and mounting evictions resulting from the pandemic. Additionally, as a result of the pandemic more families are in need of housing assistance due to a decrease or loss of wages.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Fiscal Impact	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Budget Amendment Required	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Estimated Cost or Revenue Impact: This is a resolution and therefore not enforceable, but if the Administration were to implement this policy it would result in an increase in revenue for the Affordable Housing Trust Fund.		

Attachment/s Yes No