

EMERGENCY EXECUTIVE ORDER 2020-24

I, Melvin Carter III, Mayor of the City of Saint Paul, on September 3, 2020, pursuant to Saint Paul Legislative Code Section 13.06, do hereby issue the following Executive Order:

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, Minnesota Governor Tim Walz issued Executive Order 20-01 declaring a Peacetime Emergency and coordinating Minnesota's strategy to protect Minnesotans from COVID-19 pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 12.31, subd. 2. This Declaration has been extended and remains in effect; and

WHEREAS, on March 15, 2020, I issued an Emergency Declaration in response to the COVID-19 pandemic pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 12.29, which the City Council consented to on March 17, 2020, and which I extended, and such extension was approved by the City Council on June 10, 2020; and

WHEREAS, on March 25, 2020, the United States Senate unanimously passed (96-0) the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act ("CARES Act"); and

WHEREAS, on March 27, 2020, the House of Representatives passed the CARES Act, and the bill was subsequently signed into law, thereby providing Economic Impact Payments to many American households; and

WHEREAS, the CARES Act also established and appropriated \$150 billion to the Coronavirus Relief Fund ("Fund"), which was to be used to make payments to state and local governments; and

WHEREAS, according to guidance from the U.S. Department of the Treasury, local governments are authorized to expend CARES Act funds to provide emergency financial assistance to individuals and families directly impacted by a loss of income due to the COVID-19 public health emergency; and

WHEREAS, the entire City of Saint Paul is currently responding to immediate effects of the public health emergency, in the form of employment loss, food shortages and housing hardships suffered by Saint Paul residents; and

WHEREAS, although the impacts of COVID-19 have hit hard across our entire city, according to a July 31, 2020 report by Wilder Research and Family Housing Fund, some neighborhoods and households are "feeling the effect disproportionately and are at greater risk of housing instability"; and

WHEREAS, based upon zip-code level data showing new and continuing unemployment compensation claims, and known housing cost burden (defined as paying more than 30% of their income on housing costs) the July 21, 2020 study identified 55104 (St. Paul: Midway, Frogtown, Union Park), 55106 (St. Paul: Dayton's Bluff, Payne-Phalen), 55119 (St. Paul: Battle Creek – Highwood), and 55117 (St. Paul: North End, Thomas-Dale) as hardest hit by unemployment and housing hardships; and

WHEREAS, according to the U.S. Census Bureau, since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, adults in households with children have been more likely to report permanent loss of employment, food shortages, and low confidence in their abilities to pay mortgage or rent; and

WHEREAS, a U.S. Census Bureau Household Pulse Survey conducted June 18-23, 2020, shows that households with children were more likely to use CARES Act Economic Impact Payments to

pay for ongoing expenses—as opposed to saving or paying off debt—when compared to all households surveyed; and

WHEREAS, because households with children are more likely to spend direct financial assistance on expenses rather than saving or paying off debt, the Household Pulse Survey suggests that directing necessary financial assistance to these households will serve to stimulate the local economy; and

WHEREAS, according to the most recent U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey, 29% of Saint Paul households with babies (under one year of age) were living in poverty, and 32% of Saint Paul households with babies were enrolled in food stamps, compared with 22% of all Saint Paul residents, signaling that financial insecurity was disproportionately experienced among Saint Paul residents with babies prior to COVID-19, and is likely exacerbated by the COVID-19 public health emergency; and

WHEREAS, by using data reported by Wilder Research and Family Housing Fund, contact information provided by CollegeBound Saint Paul participants, and CARES Act and other funding, the city is uniquely positioned to provide necessary financial assistance to households with children located in the neighborhoods disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 public health emergency; and

WHEREAS, Saint Paul Leg. Code Chapter 13.06(b) provides that, “whenever necessary to meet an emergency . . . the mayor may by executive order promulgate regulations . . . for which adequate regulations have not been adopted . . . respecting the conduct of persons and the use of property during emergencies; the repair, maintenance and safeguarding of essential public services; emergency health, fire and safety regulations; and all other matters which are required to protect public safety, health and welfare in emergencies.”

WHEREAS, providing guaranteed monthly income to residents in neighborhoods hardest hit by the effects COVID-19 is a necessary and appropriate means of protecting the safety, health and welfare of residents living in those neighborhoods, and the economic health of the city as a whole.

NOW, THEREFORE, MAYOR MELVIN CARTER III, OF THE CITY OF SAINT PAUL DECLARES, REQUESTS, AND DIRECTS AS FOLLOWS:

1. Directs the Office of Financial Empowerment (OFE) to develop and implement a program that provides payments in an amount not to exceed \$500 in monthly guaranteed income to as many as 150 randomly selected Saint Paul residents, subject to the requirements of this Executive Order.
2. Directs OFE to prepare an application for randomly selected residents, and further directs OFE to notify applicants that timely submission of the application does not ensure that they will receive guaranteed income payments, and that OFE may reject inaccurate or incomplete applications.
3. Directs OFE to create eligibility criteria for guaranteed income program applicants, including that the applicant must:
 - a. not hold public office in the City of Saint Paul or be a city employee; and

- b. be the parent or guardian of a CollegeBound Saint Paul beneficiary whose contact information at the time of enrollment into CollegeBound Saint Paul indicates residence in zip codes 55104, 55106, 55119 or 55117; and
 - c. demonstrate a COVID-19-related adverse financial impact, such as:
 - i. adverse financial consequences experienced by the applicant as a result of being quarantined, being furloughed or laid off, or having work hours reduced due to COVID-19; or
 - ii. adverse financial consequences experienced by the applicant as a result of being unable to work due to the applicant's COVID-19 diagnosis, or a spouse's or dependent's COVID-19 diagnosis; or
 - iii. adverse financial consequences experienced by the applicant as a result of lack of childcare due to COVID-19; or
 - iv. adverse financial consequences experienced as a result of closing or reducing hours of a business that the applicant owns or operates due to COVID-19; or
 - v. other demonstrable adverse financial consequences experienced by the applicant due to COVID-19.
4. Directs OFE to review all applications for completeness and accuracy, and in order to determine whether applicants are eligible for guaranteed income payments. OFE is further directed to select recipients of guaranteed income payments from the pool of randomly selected and verified eligible Saint Paul residents.
 5. Directs OFE to provide up to 18 guaranteed income payments to randomly selected, verified eligible residents in an amount not to exceed \$500 per month, excluding any CollegeBound Saint Paul incentive monies paid.
 6. Directs that OFE notify recipients that it may use any legal means to recapture payments made to recipients who are later deemed ineligible for the Program, or who violate any laws, rules or regulations governing the Program.
 7. Directs that OFE prepare a statistical and financial report that analyzes the impacts of guaranteed income payments on recipients, neighborhoods, and the City as a whole, including whether guaranteed income payments impact income volatility, economic agency, and financial well-being, as well as the impact of guaranteed income payments combined with any CollegeBound Saint Paul incentives paid. OFE may enter into an agreement with a third-party to complete this study.

Pursuant to Chapter 13 of the Saint Paul Legislative Code, this Executive Order is in immediate effect upon my signature and, if not sooner rescinded or later extended, shall expire at the end of forty (40) days after its effective date or at the end of the declared local emergency to which it relates, whichever occurs first.

Dated this 3rd day of September, 2020.


Mayor Melvin Carter III