



CITY OF PITTSBURGH
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
MAYOR WILLIAM PEDUTO

April 18, 2020

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

On behalf of the City of Pittsburgh, I write to urge you to provide critical financial support for communities across the country as we respond to the ongoing COVID-19 public health crisis. As your administration has stressed since the outbreak of COVID-19, while the emergency response effort is federally supported, it must be locally executed. The City of Pittsburgh is working hard to meet the needs of our residents, while suppressing the spread of COVID-19. As Pittsburgh continues to grapple with this crisis, I strongly urge you to support the inclusion of \$250 billion in flexible funding for local governments in a future emergency coronavirus relief package.

The necessity of putting our economy on hold has had a devastating impact on cities across the country, leading to massive losses in revenue. Despite almost no revenue from vital sources such as parking tax, amusement tax, parking revenue, facility usage fees, and deed transfer tax, the City of Pittsburgh continues to incur increased financial costs associated with managing the emergency and public health response, continuing to provide essential services, obtaining critical protective equipment for our frontline workers, and working to provide emergency support to vulnerable residents. Prioritizing the wellbeing of families in these difficult times, we have continued to pay all city employees. With the pandemic ongoing, we are unsure of the full financial impact of this crisis. However, expected declines in revenue from payroll tax, earned income tax, and property tax paint a bleak outlook. Despite years of sound fiscal management, the scale of this crisis has simply been overwhelming – it is only a matter of time before we will face cash flow issues affecting our ability to pay first responders and essential workers. We need relief and we need it now. For us to continue to protect my community and save lives, I request that America's cities be allocated at least \$250 billion in dedicated funding in a way that considers the role local governments are taking in responding to the pandemic, regardless of population. This will allow America's hardest hit communities to deal with enormous challenges while fairly distributing relief to all local governments. It is essential that the relief cities are asking for be flexible, so that they may better meet the unique needs of their communities. I strongly urge that funding provided in the interim package allow for local governments to make up for lost revenue, and further that there be language in the interim package clarifying that CARES Act funding can be used for the same purpose.

Extraordinary times demand collaboration and bold action from government to support the people they serve. Empowering a strong local response is critical to a robust national recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. I appreciate your consideration of this letter. Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions you may have (bill.peduto@pittsburghpa.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill Peduto".

William Peduto
Mayor of Pittsburgh

CC: The Honorable Robert P. Casey, Jr.
The Honorable Patrick J. Toomey, Jr.
The Honorable Michael F. Doyle, Jr.