

September 24, 2020

**TO THE HONORABLE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF BERRIEN COUNTY MICHIGAN:** Your Personnel and Human Services Committee respectfully recommends the following:

**RESOLUTION**

**WHEREAS**, in response to the dangers of the Coronavirus disease COVID-19, Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer issued Executive Order 2020-4 on March 24, 2020 declaring a State of Emergency and subsequent executive orders thereafter, which ordered Michigan residents, to the fullest extent possible, to stay home and stay safe; and

**WHEREAS**, Governor Whitmer then distributed “hazard pay” to state employees out of federal funds they had received to financially support the COVID-19 response; and

**WHEREAS**, the Berrien County Board of Commissioners via resolution #B2004222, asked the Governor and the State Legislature to provide adequate funding to Michigan local governmental units so that they may also provide comparable hazard pay, not only to those working in public safety, but, for all the Berrien County employees that continued serving as an essential employee during that time thus creating a higher risk for contracting COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS**, on September 18, 2020, Berrien County officials were notified that they were awarded \$156,000 as part of the First Responders Hazard Pay Premium Program, however, those funds are regulated to only be used for those direct front line workers in the field of public safety.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED** that the Berrien County Board of Commissioners accepts the \$156,000 in First Responders Hazard Pay and authorizes the County Administrator to execute any documents associated with this funding.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that accepting the funding and providing it to those that work in public safety is not a reflection of how the Berrien County Commissioners feel about the importance of all workers that continued providing services to our citizens during the State of Emergency, serving in health, judicial, infrastructure, and support capacities and again requests the Governor to provide hazard pay funding for all essential County employees.

**RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,  
BERRIEN COUNTY PERSONNEL AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE**

\_\_\_\_\_  
William J. Chickering, Chairperson

\_\_\_\_\_  
David Vollrath, Vice Chairperson

\_\_\_\_\_  
Teri Sue Freehling

<b>RESOLUTION APPROVED AS TO FORM</b>	
Administrator _____	Date _____
Comments Attached _____	
Corporate Counsel <i>JDA</i> _____	Date <u>9/22/20</u>
Comments Attached _____	