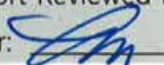


Agenda Report Reviewed by:  
City Manager: 

**CITY OF SEBASTOPOL  
CITY COUNCIL  
STAFF REPORT**

**Meeting Date:** May 19, 2020  
**To:** Honorable Mayor and Honorable City Councilmembers  
**From:** Mayor Slayter  
**Subject:** Support Local Recovery Coalition  
**Recommendation :** That the City Council Authorize the Mayor to Sign the Letter Joining the City of Sebastopol to the Coalition to Support Local Recovery  
**Funding:** Currently Budgeted: \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No XX N/A  
Net General Fund Cost: N/A  
Amount: \$0

Account Code/Costs authorized in City Approved Budget (if applicable) AK (verified by Administrative Services Department)

**INTRODUCTION:**

This item is to request that the City Council City Council Authorize the Mayor to Sign the Letter Joining the City of Sebastopol to the Coalition to Support Local Recovery.

**BACKGROUND:**

As evidenced by the proposed revenues losses as discussed at the May 5, 2020 City Council meeting, Sebastopol, like many cities, have been incurring significant increases in unbudgeted expenses responding to the crisis. COVID-19 has crippled many local budgets, specifically due to revenue losses as a result of Shelter in Place Orders.

A grassroots coalition of local government, labor, and business is launching a new campaign “Support Local Recovery: Vibrant Cities. Strong Economies.” in an effort to kick start economic recovery in local communities. The coalition is calling on the state to provide \$7 billion in direct and flexible funding to cities to support critical local services, as well as a portion of the state’s CARES Act funding to help cities address COVID-19 related expenditures. A League of California Cities data analysis shows this shortfall grows by billions of dollars as modified stay-at-home orders extend into the summer months. The coalition is also calling on the federal government to provide \$500 billion in direct and flexible funding to local governments nationwide to support essential services, including police, fire, public works, permitting, and planning.

According to a League of California Cities analysis, California cities are facing a nearly \$7 billion revenue shortfall over the next two years due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This shortfall grows by billions of dollars as modified stay-at-home orders extend into the summer months and beyond.

Per the League of California Cities Executive Director Carolyn Coleman “California’s 482 cities are the economic engines of our state, and recovery from this unprecedented crisis will only be realized at the local level with the strong support of our state and federal government partners. Providing funding to local governments is not optional – a safe, equitable, and expedited economic recovery depends on it.”

**DISCUSSION:**

In the face of these budget shortfalls, nine out of 10 cities report they will have to cut staff or decrease city services to residents, and nearly 3 in 4 cities report they may have to take both actions. Regardless of size, every City in California will face revenue shortfalls and those short falls will continue to grow if the stay-at-home orders extend into the summer months and beyond. Without relief, that shortfall will have a severe impact on city services and local economies.

The League is asking support to call on the federal government to act swiftly and invest in recovery for our communities as we battle the pandemic. Many of our local businesses that are vital to Sebastopol have been hard hit and will continue to be devastatingly impacted the longer this pandemic goes on, which will in turn impact the City revenues. Sebastopol and all cities need funding from the state and federal governments so we all can continue to deliver these essential services while battling COVID 19 pandemic.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

No public comments have been received as of the writing of this staff report.

**PUBLIC NOTICE:**

This item was noticed in accordance with the Ralph M. Brown Act and was available for public viewing and review at least 72 hours prior to scheduled meeting date.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

There is no direct fiscal impact associated with the recommended action tonight.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Staff recommends that the Council Authorize the Mayor to Add the City of Sebastopol to the Support Local Recovery Coalition.

**Attachments:**

Proposed Letter

**City Council**

Mayor Patrick Slayter  
Vice Mayor Una Glass  
Michael Carnacchi  
Sarah Glade Gurney  
Neysa Hinton



**Added Consent Calendar Item to City Council Meeting Agenda of May 19, 2020**

**City Manager**

Larry McLaughlin  
lmclaughlin@cityofsebastopol.org  
**Assistant City Manager/City Clerk, MMC**  
Mary Gourley  
mgourley@cityofsebastopol.org

**City of Sebastopol**

May 19, 2020

Honorable Gavin Newsom  
Governor, State of California  
State Capitol  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
VIA E-mail: [ExternalAffairs@gov.ca.gov](mailto:ExternalAffairs@gov.ca.gov)

Dear Governor Newsom:

The City of Sebastopol thanks you for your leadership and efforts to protect and support Californians during this unprecedented public health crisis. Cities remain on the front-line helping residents stay safe and in their homes, delivering emergency services, and supporting local businesses and community organizations. However, as emergency costs continue to grow, city revenues to fund local services are plummeting. COVID-19 is having devastating impacts on city budgets and services statewide.

Based on the League of California Cities analysis, California cities are projecting a nearly **\$7 billion general revenue shortfall** over the next two fiscal years. This shortfall will grow by billions of dollars if stay-at-home orders to protect public health extend into the summer months and beyond.

The City of Sebastopol projects that these shortfalls will impact our core city services, including key capital improvement projects, funding support for local non-profits, affordable housing needs and emergency management services.

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 crisis, the City of Sebastopol has stepped up to protect and serve our community. The necessary measures our city has taken are costly. In order to continue to be a full partner with the state in saving lives, protecting our communities, and ultimately recovering from this crisis, **we need your help.**

The City of Sebastopol has joined the Support Local Recovery coalition and we are calling on you to immediately support the following actions:

- Provide **\$7 billion in direct and flexible state funding** to support critical local services and allocate CARES Act funding for all cities for COVID-19-related expenditures.
- Advocate to secure **\$500 billion in direct and flexible funding from the federal government** for all cities nationwide to support critical local services.

The City of Sebastopol your consideration of our requests and look forward to further discussing in the coming days how together we can continue to best protect Californians and reopen our economy. On behalf of the City of Sebastopol, thank you again for your leadership and partnership during these uncertain times.

Sincerely,

Patrick Slayter  
Mayor  
City of Sebastopol

Copy furnished:

Bismarck Obando, League of California Cities, [SupportLocalRecovery@cacities.org](mailto:SupportLocalRecovery@cacities.org)  
Sebastopol City Council  
Congressman Huffman  
Congressman Thompson