

BOARD ACTION  
Special Meeting - July 31, 2020

	<p><b><u>CITIZEN QUESTION AND COMMENT PERIOD</u></b></p> <p>Ms. Addie Owens, President of the Realtors Association of Lake and Sumter Counties, said that while she was representing this association, she was also speaking on behalf of those industries which did not have the privilege of having a unified voice but who continued to be negatively impacted by the effects of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic. She opined that the real estate industry had experienced inconsistent treatment across the country as the necessity of those who facilitate housing was debated. She felt that in the State of Florida, realtors were fortunate to be considered essential; however, their industry was not exempt from the immediate and drastic effects of the closures and the financial hardships this created. She opined that as a commission based industry with no fixed income to support declines in activity, the collateral damage to members was swift and unforgiving; additionally, in order to safely conduct business, realtors were required to immediately equip themselves with technology necessary to conduct business virtually where possible and invest in personal protective equipment (PPE) to protect themselves and their customers. She added that as independent contractors, members had been denied assistance from the State unemployment system. She also expressed concerns for percentage drops in real estate sales for Lake County. She encouraged the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) that as they framed the guidelines for Lake County’s assistance programs, to include industries that might be deemed essential but were not shielded from the financial impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic. She thanked the Board for this consideration.</p>	
APPROVED	<p><b><u>Tab 1.</u></b> Request from the Chairman for approval:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To ratify a sub-recipient agreement with the Florida Housing Finance Corporation (FHFC) for the sub-award of Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act grant through the State of Florida Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF), executed by the Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners on July 22, 2020, under the authority of Resolution 2020-106.</li> <li>2. Of the funding amounts to be allocated.</li> <li>3. Of an agreement with United Way of Lake and Sumter Counties to support the review of applications and distribution of funds, subject to County Attorney approval.</li> <li>4. Of unanticipated revenue <b>Resolution 2020-131</b> to appropriate the funds.</li> </ol> <p><b>The Board approved the maximum grant amount at \$3,000.</b></p>	CAMPIONE
DISCUSSION	<p><b><u>Tab 2.</u></b> Discussion regarding use of CARES Act funding for one-time payment (direct assistance) to residents who have suffered financial hardship</p>	CAMPIONE

	due to loss of job, reduction in hours and lost income, and bridge payment for delayed unemployment benefits.	
FOR YOUR INFORMATION	Commr. Sullivan thanked staff for their efforts to organize this special meeting expeditiously. He felt this was the type of flexibility the County would need over the next six months as they dealt with the pandemic and its effects. He encouraged the Commissioners to remain flexible with their work schedules in order to be able to hold meetings when necessary so they could get funding out to those who needed it and assist the local economy across the board. He appreciated the great ideas presented in this meeting, the cooperation with United Way, and all of staff's efforts.	SULLIVAN
FOR YOUR INFORMATION	Commr. Parks also complimented staff for all their hard work, and recognized Mr. Jeff Cole, County Manager, Ms. Jo-Anne Drury, Deputy County Manager, and United Way for quickly getting this program presented.	PARKS
FOR YOUR INFORMATION	Commr. Breeden echoed the same sentiments and thankfulness for staff being nimble in putting this meeting together. She also thanked the Chairman for bringing these items to the Board's attention. She said that she agreed with Commissioner Sullivan's comments, and that she appreciated Mr. Cole working with the Cities and attempting to be creative during this time.	BREEDEN
FOR YOUR INFORMATION	Commr. Campione updated the Board on her weekly phone call with Orange, Osceola and Seminole Counties, noting that Mr. Aaron Kissler, Administrator/Director/Health Officer for the Florida Department of Health (DOH) in Lake County, Mr. Tommy Carpenter, Director for the Office of Emergency Management, and Mr. John Molenda, Deputy County Manager, were also participating in the call. She relayed that they discussed COVID-19 cases, hospital capacity, and testing rates. She mentioned that she had requested that a chart which Mr. Kissler had prepared and presented at this meeting be sent to the Commissioners; furthermore, the goal was to get more tools such as this out to everyone in order to help understand where the county was in terms of testing, positive cases, hospitalizations, and trends. She opined that the time it took for a person to be tested and to receive their result was a critical factor to whether contact tracing could happen in order to know who should quarantine, as well as assisting with understanding trends. She indicated that this was an area she wanted the County to focus on.	CAMPIONE
FOR YOUR INFORMATION	Commr. Campione reported that mask distribution was going great, and that the County was also looking for other ways to distribute them, noting that they had discussed this with the Constitutional Officers.	CAMPIONE
FOR YOUR INFORMATION	Commr. Campione mentioned that Tropical Storm Isaias had upgraded to Hurricane Isaias, and she wished everyone safety during the upcoming weekend, noting that Mr. Carpenter would keep the County updated on the	CAMPIONE

	storm.	
--	--------	--