

CITY OF SEATTLE

RESOLUTION 31951

A RESOLUTION authorizing an exception to the level of General Fund support to Seattle Parks and Recreation due to exigent economic circumstances, by a 3/4 vote of the City Council.

WHEREAS, Section 3.3 of the interlocal agreement establishing the Seattle Park District authorized by City of Seattle Ordinance 124468 establishes that the City will provide a minimum level of General Fund support to Seattle Parks and Recreation; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 3.3 of the interlocal agreement, a 3/4 vote from the City Council may suspend this minimum level of General Fund support in the event of a natural disaster or exigent economic circumstances; and

WHEREAS, factoring in annual inflation of the Consumer Price Index, this level of General Fund support for 2020 totals \$101,604,265; and

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization (WHO) has declared that the COVID-19 disease is a global pandemic and has raised the health emergency to the highest level requiring dramatic interventions to disrupt the spread of this disease; and

WHEREAS, on February 29, 2020, Governor Jay Inslee declared a statewide state of emergency in response to outbreaks of the COVID-19 disease in Washington; and

WHEREAS, in response to outbreaks of the COVID-19 disease in Seattle, Mayor Jenny Durkan proclaimed a civil emergency exists in the City of Seattle in the Mayoral Proclamation of Civil Emergency dated March 3, 2020, modified by Resolution 31937; and

WHEREAS, on March 23, 2020, the Governor issued a “Stay Home, Stay Healthy” order, which, combined with other measures taken to prevent the transmission of COVID-19, effectively closed many businesses in the state of Washington; and

1 WHEREAS, on May 1, 2020, the Governor extended the “Stay Home, Stay Healthy” order
2 through May 31, 2020; and

3 WHEREAS, the impacts of these closures are being felt across all industry sectors, including
4 retail, restaurant, hospitality, transportation, logistics, arts, and culture; and

5 WHEREAS, the economic impact may have long-term, dynamic, and unpredictable local and
6 regional consequences; and

7 WHEREAS, The City of Seattle is facing an unprecedented shortfall in tax revenues in 2020
8 associated with these closures; NOW, THEREFORE,

9 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SEATTLE THAT:**

10 Section 1. The City Council (“Council”) finds and declares:

11 A. In the exercise of The City of Seattle’s police powers, the City may pass regulations
12 designed to protect and promote public peace, health, safety, and welfare.

13 B. On January 24, 2020, the Seattle Office of Emergency Management announced that
14 the first reported case in Washington and in the United States of novel coronavirus (COVID-19)
15 occurred in Snohomish County.

16 C. On February 28, 2020, Public Health - Seattle and King County announced the first
17 King County and United States death due to COVID-19 at Evergreen Hospital in Kirkland,
18 Washington.

19 D. On February 29, 2020, Washington Governor Jay Inslee declared a state of emergency
20 in response to new cases of COVID-19, directing state agencies to use all resources necessary to
21 prepare for and respond to the outbreak.

1 E. On March 3, 2020, Mayor Jenny Durkan issued a proclamation of civil emergency in
2 response to new cases of COVID-19, authorizing the Mayor to exercise the emergency powers
3 necessary for the protection of the public peace, safety, and welfare.

4 F. On March 11, 2020, Washington Governor Jay Inslee amended his emergency order to
5 prohibit gatherings of 250 people or more for social, spiritual and recreational activities
6 including, but not limited to, community, civic, public, leisure, faith-based, or sporting events;
7 parades; concerts; festivals; conventions; fundraisers; and similar activities.

8 G. On March 13, 2020, Washington Governor Jay Inslee amended his emergency order
9 closing all schools in King, Snohomish, and Pierce Counties through April 24, 2020 to apply
10 statewide.

11 H. On March 13, 2020, the U.S. President declared that the COVID-19 outbreak
12 constituted a national emergency.

13 I. On March 16, 2020, Washington Governor Jay Inslee mandated the immediate two-
14 week closure of all restaurants, bars, and entertainment and recreational facilities and amended
15 his emergency order to prohibit gatherings of 50 people or more.

16 J. On March 23, 2020, Washington Governor Jay Inslee announced a “Stay Home, Stay
17 Healthy” order that required that all non-essential businesses be closed and banned all gatherings
18 for two weeks, and on April 2, extended the order until May 4. On May 1, 2020, Governor
19 Inslee extended that order until May 31.

20 K. The City of Seattle’s 2020 Budget was adopted in late 2019, before the impacts of the
21 COVID-19 could be anticipated.

1 L. The impacts of the COVID-19 emergency include a severe local, state, national, and
2 global economic recession, all of which impact the City’s revenue streams. As a result, it is
3 necessary for the City to revisit and adjust the 2020 Budget to reflect the new economic reality.

4 M. Because of the long-lasting financial impacts of the COVID-19 public health
5 emergency and the City’s response to it, the City will not have sufficient General Fund resources
6 to meet the expectation of support to Seattle Parks and Recreation created by Ordinance 124468.

7 N. By reason of the findings set out above, this legislation is necessary in response to the
8 COVID-19 public health emergency.

9 Section 2. The current global pandemic and associated exigent economic circumstances
10 prevent the City Council from maintaining the minimum level of General Fund support to Seattle
11 Parks and Recreation in 2020.

