



**City of Brighton**  
500 South 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Brighton, CO 80601  
303-655-2000 Office  
[www.brightonco.gov](http://www.brightonco.gov)

April 7, 2020

Dear Senator Bennet, Senator Gardner, and Representative Crow,

The City of Brighton applauds your efforts to respond to the national crisis that has arisen from the COVID-19 pandemic, and the prompt passage of the “Coronavirus Preparedness & Response Supplemental Appropriations Act.” (CARES Act). Your staunch leadership is appreciated as we all attempt to navigate this time of ever-changing health and economic crisis. We ask that you continue your support to assist local governments by urging the Federal Departments developing guidance for the new CARES Act, the Federal Emergency Management Agency Public Assistance funds, and the Health and Human Service (HHS) funds to include key COVID-19 response activities as eligible for reimbursement.

As a local government on the front-line of response to this crisis, many of our functions are essential to the wellbeing, health, and safety of our community. These functions have been restructured over the last several weeks in order to meet the needs of the community while also complying with social distancing and shelter-in-place mandates. In the two-and-a-half weeks immediately after the President declared a national emergency under the Stafford Act, we have already incurred over \$78,000 in COVID response expenditures. We anticipate that this amount will grow to between a quarter and half-a-million in expenditures over the course of 2020. This does not include costs for fire and ambulance services as those are run through the Brighton Fire District and not the City. At the same time, many of our businesses have shuttered their doors or reduced services to do their part in flattening the curve. We have great concern that some businesses will not be able to rebound from this extreme situation and that could be devastating, as sales tax is the key to the economic stability of cities in Colorado.

The City is diligently exploring reimbursement options to cover costs to keep community members safe such as grant funds from FEMA, HHS, the U.S Department of Housing and Urban Development, and the CARES Act. While some expenditures such as personal protective equipment for officers and public communications are reimbursable expenses, the bulk of our costs necessary to maintain social distancing mandates and ensure continuity of operations for essential functions remain uncovered. This includes:

- The need to buy new laptops, VPNs, and remote conferencing software to facilitate completion of essential functions in a work-from-home capacity;
- Costs associated with keeping our first-responders on-call for when officers experience a confirmed COVID-19 exposure and must be pulled off front lines;
- Preventative cleaning measures to ensure the safety of employees whose essential functions cannot be done remotely; and
- Increased temporary staffing needs to fulfill essential duties in the event employees are exposed to, or test positive for, COVID-19 and subsequently quarantined.



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In order to ensure cities such as Brighton can continue to provide essential services while grappling with both the health and economic outfall of the COVID-19 pandemic, we urge you to encourage the administering entities of FEMA, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Department of Justice, and others who will be writing reimbursement guidelines over the next few weeks to include coverage for some of these key public health and safety initiatives.

Thank you for your consideration of these requests. I, along with the rest of our City Council and City staff stand ready to support and collaborate with your office during this crisis. Please feel free to reach out to us with any questions as we move through these unprecedented times.

Sincerely,

Greg Mills, Mayor  
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