ORDINANCE NO. 2020-42

An Emergency Ordinance of the Pierce County Council Providing Funding for Small Businesses Impacted by the COVID-19 Pandemic; Amending Ordinance No. 2019-86s, the Biennial Budget of Pierce County for Fiscal Years 2020 and 2021; and Declaring an Emergency.

Whereas, COVID-19 is a contagious and potentially deadly virus that has been declared a pandemic event by the World Health Organization; and

Whereas, President Trump, Governor Inslee, and Executive Dammeier have each declared states of emergency within their respective jurisdictions; and

Whereas, actions taken to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 has resulted in widespread social and economic disruption throughout Pierce County; and

Whereas, a functioning local economy is critical to protect the health and wellbeing of Pierce County residents; and

Whereas, small businesses in Pierce County have been impacted by COVID-19 to such an extent that an unprecedented number may not be able to continue providing goods and services to the community, or provide jobs to the individuals who rely on them for their livelihood; and

Whereas, the failure of small businesses due to the pandemic will create serious hardship on individuals employed by those businesses and create additional financial burdens on governments in Pierce County by increasing demand for government support to individuals who become unemployed or underemployed; and

Whereas, small businesses in Pierce County generate tax revenue that Pierce County governments rely on to finance the provision of essential government services and promote the public welfare; Now Therefore,

BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of Pierce County:
Section 1. Section 1. of Ordinance No. 2019-86s, the 2020-2021 biennial budget, is hereby amended as follows:

General Fund:

Economic Development          +$440,000

Increase Economic Development budget for loans to vulnerable small businesses with ten or fewer employees in unincorporated Pierce County affected by the COVID-19 emergency. Pursuant to Pierce County Ordinance No. 2020-43, loans will be $2,000 per employee to a maximum of $10,000 per employer. Total appropriation for loans to vulnerable small businesses will be $640,000 after redirecting $200,000 from Workforce Central funding.

Add the proviso, PROVIDED, that up to $640,000 is appropriated for the Economic Development Department for loans to vulnerable small businesses with ten or fewer employees in unincorporated Pierce County affected by the COVID-19 emergency. Pursuant to Pierce County Ordinance No. 2020-43, loans will be $2,000 per employee to a maximum of $10,000 per employer.

Delete the proviso, PROVIDED, that up to $300,000 is appropriated for a pre-apprenticeship training program operated by Workforce Central. The funds will be made available only after Workforce Central has leveraged Pierce County’s funds with additional funds from other entities including local governments, organized labor, and business. Workforce Central will provide Pierce County with an annual report of the revenues and expenditures of the program, number of individuals served and in what communities that they reside, areas of study, and success rates of finding employment.

Miscellaneous Current Expense          -$440,000
(Family Wage Jobs Program)

Adjust all totals accordingly.

Section 2. Exhibit A of Ordinance No. 2019-86s is hereby amended accordingly.
Section 3. This Emergency Ordinance is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the County government and its existing institutions because small businesses in Pierce County are at risk of imminent failure, which threatens the public’s ability to meet its basic health and safety needs and threatens tax revenue streams that County government relies upon to provide essential government services.

PASSED this 24th day of March, 2020.

ATTEST:

[Signature]
Denise D. Johnson
Clerk of the Council

PIERCE COUNTY COUNCIL
Pierce County, Washington

[Signature]
Douglas G. Richardson
Council Chair

[Signature]
Bruce F. Dammeier
Pierce County Executive
Approved X Vetoed _______, this 24th day of March, 2020.
Time: 1714

Date of Publication of Notice of Public Hearing: Not Applicable
Effective Date of Ordinance: March 24, 2020 at 5:14 pm