

Any interested party may attend the City Commission meeting in person or submit comments in writing to the City Clerk no later than noon on the day of the meeting. All meetings are broadcast live on Comcast Cable TV Channel 27 or streamed live online at www.cityoffortpierce.com.

Comments should be submitted via email to cityclerk@cityoffortpierce.com; comments must include your name and address to be read into the record. The City Clerk will read all comments on agenda items submitted by the deadline. Please note that the decorum policy applies to both written and oral comments and all comments shall be limited to 3 minutes as read by the City Clerk.

**CITY OF FORT PIERCE
CITY COMMISSION AGENDA**

Special Meeting - Tuesday, April 28, 2020 - 2:00 p.m.

City Hall - City Commission Chambers, 100 North U.S. #1, Fort Pierce, Florida

1. **CALL TO ORDER**
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
3. **ROLL CALL**
4. **COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

Any person who wishes to comment on any subject may be heard at this time. Please limit your comments to three (3) minutes or less, as directed by the Mayor, as this section of the Agenda is limited to fifteen minutes. The City Commission will not be able to take any official actions under Comments from the Public. Speakers will address the Mayor, Commissioners, and the Public with respect. Inappropriate language will not be tolerated.

5. **NEW BUSINESS**
 - a. Discussion and identification of funding to provide relief and assistance to city residents and businesses as a result of COVID-19.
6. **ADJOURNMENT**

Any person seeking to appeal any decision by the City Commission with respect to any matter considered at this meeting is advised that a record of proceedings is required in any such appeal and that such person may need to insure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made including the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 286.26, Florida Statutes, persons with disabilities needing special accommodation to participate in this meeting should contact the City Clerk's Office at (772) 467-3065 at least 48 hours prior to the meeting.

City Commission Special Meeting 2:00 p.m.

Meeting Date: 04/28/2020

Re:

Information

SUBJECT:

Discussion and identification of funding to provide relief and assistance to city residents and businesses as a result of COVID-19.

Attachments

COVID- 19 Recovery and Assistance Plan

Form Review

Form Started By: Linda Cox

Started On: 04/22/2020 09:14 AM

Final Approval Date: 04/22/2020



COVID-19
RECOVERY AND
ASSISTANCE PLAN



Plan Overview



Residents



Businesses

Supporting
Community-Based
Efforts

Lease/Mortgage
Assistance

Emergency
Household
Assistance

Small Business
Emergency Relief
Grant

Small Business
CARES Act Relief
Grant

Testing

Food
Resources

COVID-19



Summary of Funding Sources

- **The Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act (CARES Act)** – \$5B allocation to supplement Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus. Requires amendment of 2016-2020 Consolidated Plan, 2019 Action Plan, and Citizen Participation Plan. Eliminates 15% cap on Public Services for 2019 and 2020. Program flexibility has been extended to allow expedited services and less strict advertising requirements.
- **State Housing Initiative Partnership (SHIP)** - Funds local governments as an incentive to create partnerships that produce and preserve affordable homeownership and multifamily housing. The program was designed to serve very low, low and moderate income families. (2017/18 funds)
- **Community Development Block Grants (CDBG)** – Provides annual grants on a formula basis to states, cities, and counties to develop viable urban communities by providing decent housing and a suitable living environment, and by expanding economic opportunities, principally for low- and moderate-income persons. (2018/2019 Funds)
- **Fort Pierce Redevelopment Agency (FPRA)** – Agency established to guide redevelopment efforts in the City of Fort Pierce, to include the revitalization of the physical and economic environment within specifically designated boundaries. (Debt repayment to CFP)



Supporting Community-Based Efforts:

Food Resources

- Community Partners:
 - Treasure Coast Food Bank
 - United Against Poverty
 - Council on Aging
 - Mustard Seed Ministries
 - Graceway Village
- City of Fort Pierce/Boys & Girls Club Food Distribution Initiative

CFP/FPRA Funding:

\$25,000

CARES Act Funding:

\$50,000





Supporting Community-Based Efforts:

COVID-19 Testing

- Dynix Diagnostix, Fort Pierce-based laboratory
- Test approximately 3% of the population in 5 days with 24-hour turnaround times.
- 750 antibody tests and 350 molecular PCR (COVID-19) swabs will be performed
- Dynix will handle medical staffing, collection, medical supplies, getting results directly to the patient and required reporting to the Department of Health

**CARES Act Funding:
\$60,000**





Mortgage + Rental Assistance Grant

Overview:

- Temporary mortgage and rental assistance to avoid displacement due to loss of income as a direct result of COVID- 19
- One-time payment equal to a maximum of 2 months' rent, not to exceed **\$3,000**.
- Applicants must be able to evidence loss of income due to COVID-19.

**SHIP Funding:
\$270,440**





Mortgage + Rental Assistance Grant

Summarized Eligibility Requirements:

- Reside within city limits
- Must apply for unemployment benefits, if experienced a total loss of income or have been laid off due to COVID-19
- Must document loss of income, reduction in hours or unemployment as a result of COVID-19
- Must not have received any other financial assistance for mortgage or rent for the time frame that assistance is requested
- Must meet gross annual incomes not exceeding 80% of Area Median Income (AMI) limits established for the jurisdiction of St. Lucie County.





Emergency Interim Household Assistance

Overview:

- Eligible households must be in need of emergency assistance during safer at home restrictions. This funding will assist with the prevention or elimination of conditions which are detrimental to family and safety welfare. Requests will be reviewed and approved on a case-by-case basis.
- Assistance is in the form of a one-time grant not to exceed **\$750** per household.

**CDBG Funding:
\$10,000**





Emergency Interim Household Assistance

Summarized Eligibility Requirements:

- Reside within the City limits of the City of Fort Pierce.
- Meet gross annual incomes not exceeding 80% of Area Median Income (AMI) limits established for the jurisdiction of St. Lucie County.
- Demonstrate emergency needs due to quarantine and social distancing requirements, i.e., displacement, repair/replacement of specialized health equipment, etc.





Small Business Emergency Relief Grants

Overview:

- The Microbusiness Emergency Relief Grant Program is a special program assisting small business (**25 employees or less**) in Fort Pierce with a grant of **\$3,000**.
- The program provides short-term working capital assistance to enable the viability of the business and the retention of jobs during the severe interruption of business related to the impact of COVID-19 pandemic and resulting social distancing.

2018 CDBG: \$60,000
2019 CDBG: \$167,500
CFP/FPRA: \$125,000
= \$352,500





Small Business **CARES Act** Relief Grant Program

Overview:

- The Microbusiness Emergency Relief Grant Program is a special program assisting small business (**26 to 100 employees**) in Fort Pierce with a grant of **\$7,500**.
- The program provides short-term working capital assistance to enable the viability of the business and the retention of jobs during the severe interruption of business related to the impact of COVID-19 pandemic and resulting social distancing.

**CARES Act (CDBG-CV):
\$225,045**





General Guidelines

for both COVID Business Assistance Grants

- Local small business with brick and mortar storefront in City of Fort Pierce.
- Businesses must have documentable information to evidence loss of income, reduction in hours or employees as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Business was in operation prior to state emergency order and intends to stay in operation after order is lifted.
- Business has an active Business Tax Receipt on file.



Priority will be given to industries/businesses directly impacted by government order – (examples: restaurant, bar, retail, personal service, etc.)



Eligible Uses

for both COVID Business Assistance Grants

- Commercial Lease payments (April, May 2020)
- Commercial Mortgage payments (April, May 2020)
- Employee Salary and Benefits and funding existing Payroll
- Other Sales, General, and Administrative expenses deemed critical for business operations
- Utilities
- New equipment needed to assist the business to a temporary digital transition (e.g. webcams for virtual trainings, software licensing for videoconferencing, etc.)





Application Process + Timeline

- Applications will be processed on a first-come, first-qualified, first-served basis. One week of pre-screening applicants online via survey and by phone.
- Once the application period closes, applications will be approved on a weekly basis, until funds are expended.

Timeline

- Begin advertising: April 29, 2020
- Applications Open: May 4, 2020
- Begin Pre-Screening: May 4, 2020



COVID Disaster Mitigation Plan Summary

CARES Act Funding \$355,045

\$60,000	Testing Coordination
\$20,000	Contingency and Reimbursement
\$50,000	Public Service – Food Distribution Support
\$225,045	Small Business Assistance

SHIP Funding \$270,440

\$227,440	Mortgage and Rental Assistance
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CDBG Funding \$237,500

\$227,500	Small Business Working Capital Assistance
\$10,000	Household Emergency Assistance

FPRA \$150,000

\$125,000	Small Business Grants
\$25,000	Food Distribution Support

Total: **\$1,012,985**



Reopening

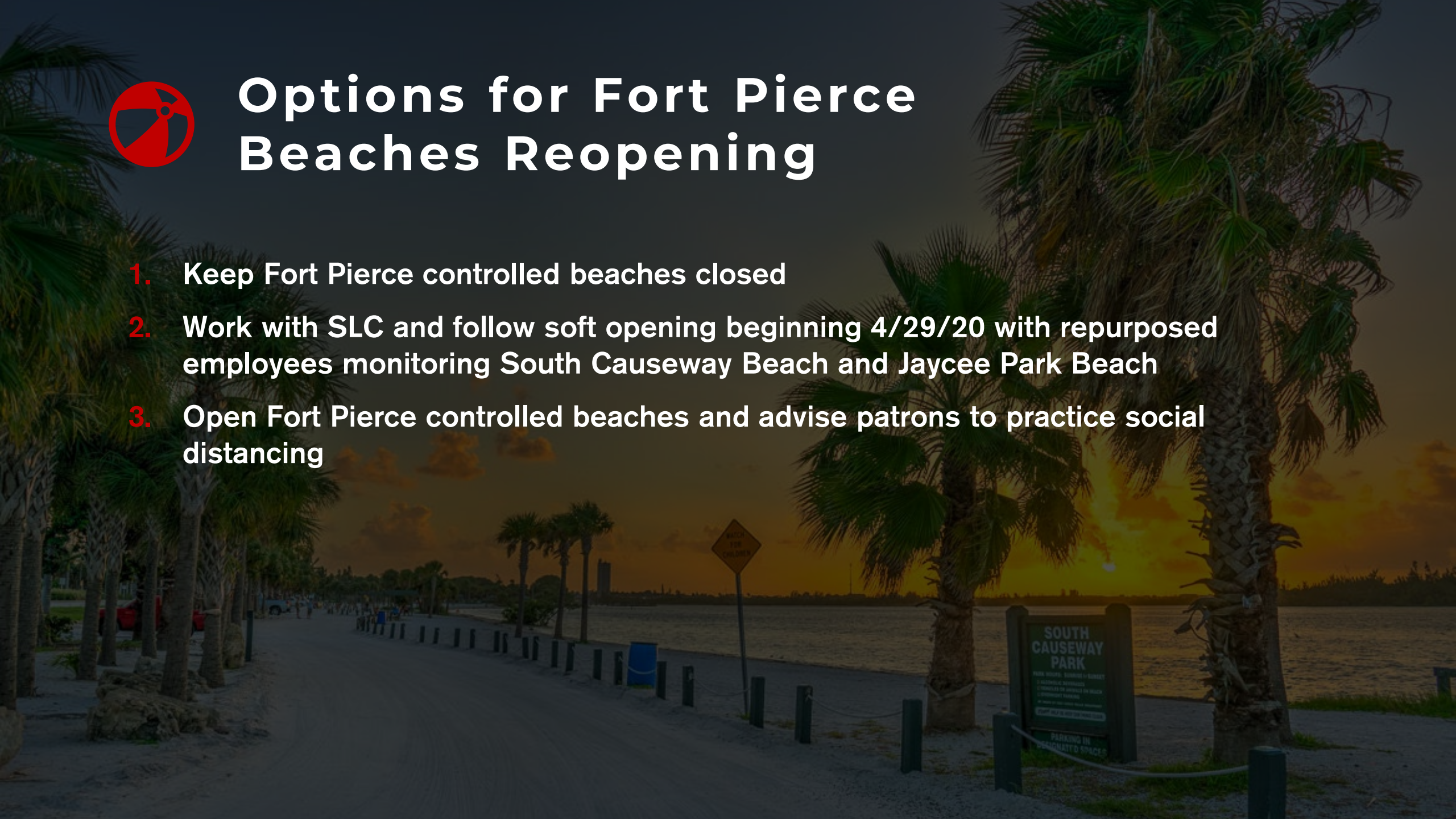
- **CITY HALL** to remain closed with appointment only access for Building Department
 - Total of 76 visitors since April 6, 2020
 - Minor protective measures (shields, concentrated visitation areas, concentrated public meeting locations, face masks) are currently being considered
- **CITY MARINA** - open, practicing social distancing
- **INDIAN HILLS GOLF COURSE** - open, practicing social distancing
- **PARKS** - open, with the exception of South Causeway and Jaycee Park
- **PUBLIC RESTROOMS** – open
- **BOAT RAMPS** - open





Options for Fort Pierce Beaches Reopening

1. Keep Fort Pierce controlled beaches closed
2. Work with SLC and follow soft opening beginning 4/29/20 with repurposed employees monitoring South Causeway Beach and Jaycee Park Beach
3. Open Fort Pierce controlled beaches and advise patrons to practice social distancing





Partnerships

- St. Lucie County and City of Port St. Lucie
- St. Lucie Chamber of Commerce
- St. Lucie Economic Development Council
- The Medical Reserve Corps
- Allegany Franciscan Ministries
- United Against Poverty

www.RecoverStLucie.org

