

## **A RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY ALDERMAN-AT-LARGE AUSTIN TYLEC**

### **Calling on the Federal Government to Amend the CARES Act**

WHEREAS, in late March 2020, Congress passed and President Donald Trump signed into law the \$2 trillion Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, the largest aid package in US history; and

WHEREAS, the CARES Act includes \$150 billion in direct aid to state and certain local governments, but the legislation requires these funds be spent on new costs directly related to the pandemic, such as providing emergency treatment facilities and local governments are not allowed to use the stimulus funds to pay for basic services already budgeted; and

WHEREAS, as currently written, the CARES Act does not allow counties to use the federal funding to cover the expected tens of millions of dollars, if not greater, of lost sales tax, hotel occupancy tax, mortgage recording tax, and transfer tax revenue that does not come into counties' coffers to pay for critical services due to the economic shutdown caused by the COVID-19 crisis; and

WHEREAS, the lost sales tax revenue is also a major financial problem for all WNY counties and municipalities; and

WHEREAS, the CARES Act provides no financial assistance for smaller municipalities of less than 500,000 residents, such as North Tonawanda, and all other towns and villages in Niagara County; and

WHEREAS, given the scale of the coronavirus crisis and the lost revenue to the County and its partners, compounded by New York State's preexisting budget crisis and the State's adopted 2020-2021 State Budget, it is necessary to request that the Congress and Trump Administration amend the CARES Act legislation to allow Counties to use their CARES funding to cover budget revenue shortfalls due to COVID-19.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the North Tonawanda Common Council requests that Congress and President Donald Trump amend the CARES Act to allow local governments to utilize the federal financial assistance to cover revenue shortfalls created by the COVID-19 crisis; and be it further

RESOLVED, that as Congress considers additional federal economic/stimulus and financial aid measures to help address the COVID-19 crisis, this Honorable Body requests that the federal government provide direct financial assistance to county and local governments to help cover lost revenue sources so that these governments can continue to provide critical public services; and be it further

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Niagara County Legislature, U.S. Senators Schumer & Gillibrand, Congressman Higgins, NYS Senator Ortt & Assemblymembers Schimminger, Morinello, Norris & McMahon.