



WHEREAS, the Committee seeks to further protect renters by providing a right to counsel when faced with threat of landlord eviction; and,

WHEREAS, the Committee recognizes that renter right to counsel programs are proven to reduce displacement due to eviction, increase housing stability, and reduce inflows into homelessness; and,

WHEREAS, the Legal Aid Society of Middle Tennessee and the Cumberland ("Legal Aid") and Conexión Américas have proposed a two-year pilot program that will provide outreach and education, pre-filing legal aid, direct legal representation, and program evaluation, as further described in Exhibit A; and,

WHEREAS, at this time, due to limited available ARP Funds, the Committee seeks to fund 87% of the proposed request in Exhibit A, with the expectation that the remainder of the program may be approved when further ARP Funds become available; and,

WHEREAS, it is to the benefit of the citizens of The Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County that this resolution be approved.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT OF NASHVILLE AND DAVIDSON COUNTY:

Section 1. The Metropolitan Council accepts this resolution as a recommendation of the COVID-19 Financial Oversight Committee.

Section 2. That \$1,924,292.00 from the Covid-19 American Rescue Plan Fund #30216 is hereby appropriated to Legal Aid to be used to administer the program described in Exhibit A.

Section 3. That \$ 676,559.00 from the Covid-19 American Rescue Plan Fund #30216 is hereby appropriated to Conexión Américas to be used to administer the program described in Exhibit A.

Section 4. This resolution shall take effect from and after its final passage, the welfare of the public requiring it.

#### Analysis

This resolution appropriates \$2,600,851 in American Rescue Plan Act (ARP) funds to provide legal representation to low and moderate-income Davidson County renters to defend against landlord eviction.

This would provide funds to the Legal Aid Society of Middle Tennessee and the Cumberland and Conexión Américas for a two year pilot program to provide outreach and education, pre-filing legal aid, direct legal representation, and program evaluation. This appropriation funds 87% of the proposed request, which can be found in Exhibit A to the resolution.

The resolution appropriates \$1,924,292 in ARP funding to the Legal Aid Society of Middle Tennessee and the Cumberland and \$676,559 in ARP funding to Conexión Américas to administer this program.

*Fiscal Note: This \$2,600,851 appropriation, along with the appropriations per Resolution No. RS2022-1558 and Resolution No. RS2022-1560 would be the 24<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> resolutions appropriating from the American Recovery Plan Act (ARP) Fund for a cumulative total of \$110,508,686. The total grant award is \$259,810,600 and the first half of this amount was received in July 2021.*