



Metropolitan Nashville and Davidson County, TN

Legislation Text

File #: RS2021-1204, **Version:** 1

A resolution appropriating \$1,933,000.00 in American Recovery Plan Act funds from Fund #30216 to Metro Parks to be used for managing homeless encampments, and the renovation and repair of Brookmeade Park.

WHEREAS, on June 15, 2021, the Metropolitan Council passed Resolution RS2021-966, a resolution which accepted grant funds for local government support from the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds established by the American Recovery Plan (ARP) Act of 2021 from the U.S. Department of the Treasury to The Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County, which was subsequently signed into law by Mayor John Cooper on June 16, 2021; and,

WHEREAS, Resolution RS2021-966 established a COVID-19 Financial Oversight Committee ("the Committee") whose role is to collect, consider, and recommend appropriate uses of the ARP Funds as designated by the Metropolitan Council disbursement plan. The Committee will submit its reports and recommendations to the Mayor, the Director of Finance, and the Metropolitan Council not later than June 30, 2025; and,

WHEREAS, there are federal requirements for use of American Rescue Plan Act funds that require that these funds be expended or obligated on or before December 31, 2024; and,

WHEREAS, the Committee supports the mission of the Metro Homeless Impact Division of Metropolitan Social Services ("HID") to provide temporary and permanent housing to those experiencing homelessness; and,

WHEREAS, in recognition of HID's important mission, the Committee has recommended allocating \$1,541,400.00 to provide emergency shelters and to assist those experiencing homelessness to find permanent housing; and,

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has placed additional burdens on the Metro Parks Department ("Parks") to fulfill its mission to provide safe and enjoyable parks and greenway space to Nashville citizens, primarily due to an increase in the number of urban camps as a result of the pandemic and the increase of homeless individuals living in Metro parks; and,

WHEREAS, the Committee recognizes the needs of Parks to regulate the use of its parks and greenway spaces, including use of the parks as encampments for those experiencing homelessness; and,

WHEREAS, Parks has identified vehicles and equipment necessary to enhance safety and maintain Metro parks as intended, including Eye in the Sky cameras in locations in parks and facilities with a presence of urban camps, and for renovations and repairs necessary to Brookmeade Park, as further described in Parks' request to the Committee (Exhibit A), which will resolve critical needs and is the best and most appropriate use of funds for Parks; 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 \$1,933,000.00 from the Covid-19 American Rescue Plan Fund #30216 is hereby appropriated to Metro Parks to be used in described in Exhibit A.

Section 3. This resolution shall take effect from and after its final passage, the welfare of the public requiring it.

Analysis

This resolution appropriates \$1,933,000 in American Recovery Plan Act funds to Metro Parks to be used for managing homeless encampments and the renovation and repair of Brookmeade Park.

The resolution accepts the COVID-19 Financial Oversight Committee's recommendation to use American Rescue Plan (ARP) funds in recognition of the additional burdens the COVID-19 pandemic has placed on the Metro Parks Department to fulfill its mission to provide safe and enjoyable parks and greenway space, primarily due to an increase in the number of urban camps and the increase of homeless individuals living in Metro parks. Parks has identified vehicles and equipment necessary to enhance safety and maintain Metro parks, including Eye in the Sky cameras and renovations and repairs to Brookmeade Park. Exhibit A to the resolution shows the use of the \$1,933,000 in funding, including equipment to clean up and transport debris, sanitization of pavilions, shelters, and playgrounds, and portable lighting trailers to light parks for safety as needed. Eye in the Sky cameras would be purchased for parks listed on the exhibit, including Ascend Amphitheater, Brookmeade Park, Centennial Park, Public Square Park, and others. Further, renovations would be made to Brookmeade Park including trailhead signage and maps, improvements to the parking lot and trails, demolition and replacement of the bridge, new decking, railing on the overlook, and installation of electronic gates at the parking lot. The equipment and cameras would be \$1,083,000 and the Brookmeade Park Renovation would be \$850,000, for a total of \$1,933,000.

Fiscal Note: This appropriation, along with the appropriations per Resolution No. RS2021-1203, Resolution No. RS2021-1205, Resolution No. RS2021-1206 and Resolution No. RS2021-1207 would be the 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, and 9th resolutions appropriating from the American Recovery Plan Act (ARP) Fund for a cumulative total of \$19,427,996. The total grant award is \$259,810,600 and the first half of this amount was received in July 2021.