

**Resolution authorizing a COVID-19 Recovery Grant with the Columbus Urban League to support the Minority Small Business Resiliency Initiative and the Franklin County Community Equity Fund.**

**(Economic Development & Planning Department) (\$1,050,000)**

**WHEREAS**, the Columbus Urban League was founded in 1918 to empower African Americans and disenfranchised groups through economic, educational, and social progress; and

**WHEREAS**, the Franklin County Board of Commissioners, the Columbus Urban League, and One Columbus formed the Franklin County Business Growth & Equity Alliance (Equity Alliance) in 2020 to increase availability of accessible financial products in the market; and

**WHEREAS**, the Equity Alliance has developed a collection of action initiatives to stabilize, grow, and sustain vulnerable businesses owned by local African American residents and minority business owners who are historically underserved, underrepresented, and under-connected; and

**WHEREAS**, the Equity Alliance focuses on implementing regional strategies that break down barriers to successful business ownership for African American and minority owned enterprises in high-growth industries; and

**WHEREAS**, in advancing Franklin County's work to achieve racial equity, economic inclusion, increased economic mobility and closure of the racial wealth gap, continuing the work of the Minority Small Business Resiliency Initiative and the Franklin County Community Equity Fund will link existing community assets and develop gap-filling initiatives to strengthen the regional small business ecosystem; and

**WHEREAS**, the objective with the Minority Small Business Resiliency Initiative and the Franklin County Community Equity Fund is to contribute to the solidification and expansion of the Central Ohio entrepreneurial ecosystem and to eventually become an asset with a self-sustaining, certified Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI); and

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**WHEREAS**, Title IX of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (H.R. 1319) authorized the creation of a Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund to make payments to units of local government that are necessary expenditures incurred due to the public health emergency with respect to COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS**, the Franklin County Board of Commissioners wishes to support the Columbus Urban League in the establishment of a Community Development Financial Institution as authorized under section 307.85 the Revised Code; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, FRANKLIN COUNTY, OHIO:

1. That the County Administrator is hereby authorized pursuant to section 305.30 of the Revised Code to enter into the attached grant agreement with the Columbus Urban League.
2. That a supplemental appropriation in the amount of \$1,050,000 is hereby authorized from the unappropriated cash balance as follows and allocated per the attached document (Journal #35):

	AMOUNT
EDP/General Fund/Grants	\$1,050,000
Fund 1000	

3. That the attached purchase order in the amount of \$1,050,000 that is individually described on the accompanying Auditor’s Certificate to meet the obligations in the current fiscal year is hereby approved.
4. That estimated revenues are hereby revised per the attached document (Journal #33).

Prepared by Mark Paxson, EDP