



## CITY OF PORTSMOUTH

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Rick Becksted  
Mayor

May 19, 2020

Dear Executive Councilors:

On behalf of the City of Portsmouth, I urge you to vote in favor of agenda item #79 at the May 20, 2020 meeting of the Governor and Executive Council.

*#79. Authorize a Working Capital Warrant in the amount of \$1,440,291,542 to cover the payment of expenditures for the month of June 2020.*

The approval of this item is necessary for the State Treasurer to issue payments to municipalities statewide for COVID-19 related expenses incurred to date and stipends for First Responders, both of which the Governor authorized from the Coronavirus Relief Fund allocated to New Hampshire under the CARES Act. A failure to authorize the Working Capital Warrant will prevent the City of Portsmouth and all municipalities in the State from receiving financial assistance for costs incurred as a result of COVID-19, including but not limited to significant costs associated with preventing the spread of COVID-19, ensuring the safety and health of its citizens and employees, and continuing the essential functions of local government during this pandemic. These unanticipated costs were incurred willingly and immediately by cities and towns to protect the public health. Federal funds have been made available to help relieve the financial burden of these unanticipated COVID-19 related costs. A vote to support agenda item #79 is a vote to support the considerable efforts taken by municipal governments and their first responders who have been on the front line protecting the health and safety of all New Hampshire citizens during this pandemic.

I have grave concerns that the failure of the Executive Council to approve the Working Capital Warrant in item #79 would shut State government down. The citizens of this State have been facing unprecedented personal and economic challenges due to the health and economic impact of COVID-19. A government shut down during this global crisis would be an unthinkable burden on all New Hampshire citizens and should be avoided at all costs.

The City of Portsmouth has adopted Legislative Principles that support revenue streams to aid municipalities, specifically those that name Portsmouth or will likely support Portsmouth. Further, the City Council voted Monday, May 18, 2020, to authorize the City to apply for these CARES Act funds. Given that the Working Capital Warrant supports the City's Legislative Principles and the recent vote by the City Council to apply for CARES Act funds, I urge you, on behalf of the City of Portsmouth, to vote in favor of the Working Capital Warrant for the reasons stated above.

Sincerely,

Rick Becksted, Mayor of Portsmouth

c: The Honorable Chris Sununu  
Portsmouth Legislative Delegation  
City Council Members  
Karen Conard, City Manager