

**American Rescue Plan Act
Special Committee
Regular Meeting Minutes**

DATE & TIME: January 26, 2022 – 5:30
LOCATION: Powered by Zoom Meeting by Dialing: 1-646-558-8656,
Meeting ID: 846 2769 9696
PRESIDING OFFICER: Peter Criswell, Chairman
LEGISLATIVE STAFF: Amber Feaster
PRESENT: Legislators Thomas Corcoran, Jr., Aaron J. Levine, Craig V. Lopez (arrived at 5:47 PM), and Megan Sperry; and Legislative Chair Tracey Bartels
ABSENT: None
QUORUM PRESENT: Yes
OTHER ATTENDEES: Legislators Phil Erner, Manna Jo Greene, Jonathan Heppner, Chris Hewitt, Herbert Litts, III, Joe Maloney, Laura Petit, and Eve Walter; Clerk of the Legislature Victoria Fabella; Deputy County Executives Johanna Contreras, Chris Kelly, and Marc Rider; Commissioner of Finance Burt Gulnick; Comptroller March Gallagher; Deputy Comptroller Alicia DeMarco; Director of Planning Dennis Doyle; Director of Economic Development Tim Weidemann; Department of Economic Development Kate Heidecker, and Samantha Liotta; Finance Department, ARP Administration Nathan Litwin, Ashley Long, and Molly Scott; RUPCO Kevin O’Connor, Kristen Wilson, and Emily Hamilton; Family of Woodstock Michael Berg; Catholic Charities Shannon Kelly; County Executive Office Laura Nordstrom

- **Chairman Criswell called the meeting to order at 5:35 PM**

Chairman Criswell welcomed all to the meeting. Deputy Clerk Feaster took role. Chairman Criswell read the Special Committee’s mission. All Committee Members spoke to their initial ideas and concerns for the allocation of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds.

Chairman Criswell proposed the Committee consider a series of questions when considering Resolutions and noted the establishment of Working Groups which can be used to further the Committee’s knowledge on each topic matter. Comptroller Gallagher suggested the Committee also track and monitor expenditures to date, as well as proposed expenditures. Legislator Maloney expressed concern that funding should be used in a long-term, big impact manner. Legislator Hewitt suggested partnering with Youth Commissions to sponsor projects that would promote getting local youth outdoors to encourage appreciation and respect for our local forests and mountains. Legislator

Greene requested the Committee consider the environmental impact of all proposed Projects and oppose any that would result in negative environmental effects. Legislator Erner mentioned the State's Excluded Worker Fund. Deputy County Executive Kelly commented that the "buckets" that have been established should be worked within the confines of.

Motion No. 1: To discuss Resolution No. 28 – Dedicating Funding To Implement The Ulster County Respite House Policy

Resolution Summary: This Resolution designates \$1,500,000.00 of American Rescue Plan Act funds to implement the Ulster County Respite House policy, allocating the funds for the purpose of addressing the need for enhanced Mental Health and Addiction Recovery services throughout Ulster County.

Motion Made By: Legislator Corcoran

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Levine

Voting In Favor: Legislators Criswell, Corcoran, Levine, Lopez, and Sperry; and Legislative Chairwoman Bartels

Voting Against: None

No. of Votes in Favor: 6

No. of Votes Against: 0

Discussion: Legislator Walter provided a brief history of the Crisis Stabilization Center and the Respite House policies and projects, explaining the development of the projects, the need within the County, and the sustainability of the Respite Houses. Legislator Maloney vocalized several questions on the Capital Project and shared that he would like to see ARPA funding go to one or two very large projects rather than many small projects. Legislator Levine asked if it's possible to develop the project with possible expansion taken into consideration. Deputy County Executive Rider answered that once these start-up costs are incurred the houses will be able to easily expand through the non-profits that serve them with the use of State Funding. Legislator Greene requested energy efficiency be considered in the design of the respite houses.

Disposition: No Action Taken

Motion No. 2: To discuss Resolution No. 29 – Funding Capital Project No. 601 – ARP Small Business And Economic Recovery – Department Of Finance

Resolution Summary: This Resolution amends the 2022 Capital Fund in the amount of \$1,000,000.00 to fund Round 2 of the “Ulster County Small Business Assistance Program”. Funds are designated for use as follows: \$850,000.00 for Direct Assistance to Businesses; \$100,000.00 for Program Delivery; \$50,000.00 for Program Administration.

Motion Made By: Legislator Corcoran

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Litts

Voting In Favor: Legislators Criswell, Corcoran, Levine, Lopez, and Sperry; and Legislative Chairwoman Bartels

Voting Against: None

No. of Votes in Favor: 6

No. of Votes Against: 0

Discussion: Director of Economic Development Tim Wiedemann gave a brief presentation on the Ulster County Cares program, stating that this proposal is for a second round of business relief funding designed to go to a specific population and that the Department is hopeful they will be able to deliver a third round in the future through State funding. Chairman Criswell questioned the large administrative fees associated with the proposal. Director of Economic Development Wiedemann answered that some of these costs may be avoidable, and if savings can be achieved the funding will be redirected to the eligible small businesses. Legislative Chair Bartels confirmed the methodology for how need is assessed and requested further information about how the funds have impacted those businesses which received funding in round one. Legislator Sperry requested a categorical breakdown of the businesses with known need. Legislator Maloney stated concern over the involvement in the private sector and questioned the program’s ability to monitor and safeguard against fraud. Legislator Walter questioned if the application is designed to aid minority-owned businesses in particular, requesting a breakdown of those previously awarded.

Disposition: No Action Taken

Motion No. 3: To discuss Resolution No. 30 – Funding Capital Project No. 599 – ARP Non-Profit, Youth and Community Programs – Department Of Finance, Division Of Recovery And Resilience

Resolution Summary: This Resolution amends the 2022 Capital Fund budget in the amount of \$1,500,000.00 to fund a grant program created by the Department of Finance for non-profit organizations who have faced economic impacts as a result of the COVID-19 public health emergency.

Motion Made By: Legislator Corcoran
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Levine

Voting In Favor: Legislators Criswell, Corcoran, Levine, Lopez, and Sperry; and
Legislative Chairwoman Bartels

Voting Against: None

No. of Votes in Favor: 6

No. of Votes Against: 0

Discussion: Director of Recovery & Resilience Litwin provided an overview of the proposed grant programs which include two different programs which may be applied for and awarded simultaneously, subject to an award ceiling. Chairman Criswell confirmed that the mission of the Program is similar to the Legislature's Non-County Contract Agency Funding program. Discussion pursued on the Final Rule. Deputy County Executive Kelly agreed to share the Legislative Non-County Contract Agency scoring matrix with the ARPA Division.

Disposition: No Action Taken

Motion No. 4: To discuss Resolution No. 31 – Funding Capital Project No. 602 – ARP Infrastructure and Trails – Department of Finance, Division of Recovery and Resilience

Resolution Summary: This Resolution amends the 2022 Capital Fund in the amount of \$2,000,000.00 to fund an extension of sewer and water infrastructure under the New York State Thruway in the Town of Ulster to benefit a planned redevelopment of the vacant Quality Inn & Suites hotel site into supportive homeless housing.

Motion Made By: Legislator Lopez
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Sperry

Voting In Favor: Legislators Criswell, Corcoran, Levine, Lopez, and Sperry; and
Legislative Chairwoman Bartels

Voting Against: None

No. of Votes in Favor: 6

No. of Votes Against: 0

Discussion: Kevin O'Connor of RUPCO gave a presentation on the project as a whole, detailing the water and sewer hook-ups that are being requested for County ARPA Funding. Mr. O'Connor explaining the project's approach to homelessness in Ulster County and where funding for the remainder of the project is coming from. Legislator Levine vocalized concern over the Projects close proximity to the Thruway as this relates to the health of the individuals that will reside there. Legislator Sperry confirmed that

bus transportation will be made available from the site to the surrounding Kingston amenities. Legislator Erner requested the location of the water hook-up.

Disposition: No Action Taken

Motion No. 5: To discuss Resolution No. 32 – Approving The Execution Of A Contract For \$1,000,000.00 Entered Into By The County – Ulster County Economic Development Alliance, Inc. – Department Of Finance

Resolution Summary: This Resolution approves the execution of a contract with Ulster County Economic Development Alliance, Inc. from March 1, 2022 through February 28, 2023 as a subaward of American Rescue Plan Act (“ARPA”) funding in the amount of \$1,000,000.00 to fund Round 2 of the “Ulster County Small Business Assistance Program”. Funds are designated for use as follows: \$850,000.00 for Direct Assistance to Businesses; \$100,000.00 for Program Delivery; \$50,000.00 for Program Administration.

Motion Made By: Legislator Corcoran

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Levine

Voting In Favor: Legislators Criswell, Corcoran, Levine, Lopez, and Sperry; and Legislative Chairwoman Bartels

Voting Against: None

No. of Votes in Favor: 6

No. of Votes Against: 0

Discussion: Deputy County Executive Kelly confirmed that this Resolution is to approve a contract associated with Resolution No. 29.

Disposition: No Action Taken

New Business: Chairman Criswell announced that the next Committee meeting will either be February 9th or February 10th.

Legislator Greene confirmed that the ARPA Working Groups previously established will continue meeting.

Further discussion pursued on the Committee’s notification to the Legislative body and to the public.

Old Business: None

Chairman Criswell asked the members if there was any other business, and hearing none;

Adjournment

Motion Made By: Legislator Corcoran

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Sperry

No. of Votes in Favor: 6

No. of Votes Against: 0

Time: 7:50 PM

Respectfully submitted: Amber Feaster

Minutes Approved: February 23, 2022

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- **Chairman Criswell called the meeting to order at 5:35 PM**

Chairman Criswell: First meeting. This is the first meeting of the American Rescue Plan Act Special Committee and we have a big crowd tonight. Welcome, everybody. We have a lot of work to do this evening. And so I will get us started. Let me just make sure and just see if Craig is texting me. Hang on. Nope. Okay. So, Amber, could you please call the roll?

Deputy Clerk Feaster: Peter Criswell.

Chairman Criswell: Here.

Deputy Clerk Feaster: Thomas Corcoran.

Legislator Corcoran: Here.

Deputy Clerk Feaster: Aaron Levine.

Legislator Levine: Here.

Deputy Clerk Feaster: Craig Lopez. Megan Sperry.

Legislator Sperry: Here.

Legislator Criswell: Great, thank you so much. I was going to do a go around of introductions. But I think there's just too many people on this call, that'll take too much time. So if you want something to say, if, if at some point you want to, want to speak, if you could let Amber know and we'll get a queue. If there's, if there's time for questions and of course, when we are looking at resolutions, we'll have people who are talking about those Resolutions speak and we can have as many speakers in that as we want. So I'm just going to do a little welcome and opening of this.

So thank you all for being here and committee members thank you for offering up your service on this this committee. It's a really important committee. As you know, we have a great opportunity here, and we keep talking about it as a once in a lifetime opportunity. And I, I really believe that. And I think we have a responsibility to our constituents to look at these funds as quickly, as critically, and as compassionately as possible, so that we use these dollars in the best and highest way to help our, our constituents' immediate needs and also their long term needs. So I wanted to- I jotted down some few, a few ideas about kind of the mission of this committee. And so I'm just going to read off a few things. And then I asked each of you, if you would take a few minutes over the last week to just share your thoughts. Just you know, put down your thoughts and then share them with us about what you think about the spending of these dollars in this special committee that we have. So I'm just going to read this out.

This committee is dedicated to the investment and allocation of American Rescue Plan Fund Act funds utilized: to help turn the tide of the pandemic, address its economic fallout, and lay the foundation for a strong and equitable recovery; to review all proposals related to the expenditure of ARPA funds prior to forwarding to any standing committees of jurisdiction. So the American Rescue Plan Act Special Committee is dedicated the investment, investment and allocation of 34,491,474 dollars. That's the American Rescue Plan Act Federal Funding. Ulster County will receive these funds over two years. The Special Committee is going to review and track all proposals related to the expenditure of Federal ARPA funds before forwarding them to the legislative Standing Committees of jurisdiction. The Special Committee will have a Standing Committees will have Standing Committee's same power and duties. And the ARPA Special Committee will be dissolved in three years or after all ARPA funds are spent. The allocation of ARPA funds requires diligent and careful investigation, vetting and oversight. The Special Committee will be a transparent vehicle for evaluating all proposed ARPA expenditures. The Special Committee will work to ensure that ARPA funds are effectively used to provide immediate economic stabilization for households and businesses impacted by the pandemic strengthened vital public services and remedy systemic public health and economic challenges that have contributed to the unequal impact of the pandemic. And lastly, the Legislature will work in active partnership with the Executive branch to build a pathway to an equitable recovery with long term benefits for health and the strongest possible economic outcome for the residents of Ulster County.

So I read that really just to ground us in what we're doing here, and I won't do that in every meeting. But I do think it's important for this first meeting, since this is the first time this committee has ever met. So I'd like to ask committee members what, what your thoughts were that you collected? And please, please share them with us. And I'm not going to pick on you so anybody can go first. Tom.

Legislator Corcoran: Well, I guess, really through everything we could understand the examples of uses for the funds: where they should go, what should happen. I think obviously, the Legislature should work with the Executive's office. But at this point, I think if we gave it to them, they'd have all 34 million dollars spent already. What, what Marlboro needs Kingston don't know. What Kingston needs Marlboro don't know. We were asked some time ago, six, eight months ago, the, the existing members to write a little summary of what they thought our municipalities might need or could need for these funds. I haven't seen anything come about that. So what I would ask the Executive Office to do is, working with us, to also work with each community, and maybe Supervisor or Mayor, and see what maybe that community needs again. Again, I'm all for using this money in the appropriate way. But being in the southern tier, I feel we're sometimes, we're somewhat left out, and Kingston somewhat gets majority of what's going on with this money. So I'm looking out for my constituents, and actually the whole southern theater down here, I would hope that the Executive Office would work with our Supervisors down here, and maybe ask what we're looking for. Because as an as a Legislator, I did put together a somewhat lengthy letter not asking for multiple million dollars, but for something reasonable, at least for my community down here. So input by the Legislature is great, but I think input from the communities themselves in the County, from Mayors and Supervisors should also be weighed somewhat into this also.

Chairman Criswell: Great, thank you very much, Legislator Corcoran, thank you. Who would like to talk next. Legislator Sperry? I am going to call on people, then.

Legislator Sperry: Well, I'm new, very new. So I'm just thinking about ways that I think are obvious that, you know, we could be spending the money such as towards housing and other supportive systems around security issues, whether it's housing or food, or, you know, mental health or anything like that. But I do agree that we need to kind of look back to our communities and see what the communities feel is the deficit at the moment, or like the deficit leading us to where we are right now. And so maybe that's something that we could do over the next couple of months. I hope that's not too long of a, a guess. But just to kind of meet with different organizations, and then see what the needs are, and then maybe come back together and try to compile, like an assessment of how we could distribute, you know, to each community to each jurisdiction that way, like not just as like a one size fits all thing. But you know, something that would make sense to the County wide, but also, you know, to each of our different districts.

Chairman Criswell: Thank you so much. Legislator Bartels, can I ask a Legislator Levine to go first, and then I'll call you? Thank you so much.

Legislator Levine: Thank you. Thank you Chair Criswell and Deputy Chair Corcoran, and Legislator Sperry and Legislator Lopez and everybody else who's on the call. I'm looking forward to working with you all on this, you know, vitally important committee. You know, I look at this funding, as you know, this, this truly is a once in a lifetime opportunity for us here in Ulster County to you know, to put a significant investment, you know, into needed programs and infrastructure that I think are really going to make a difference in people's lives here in the County, and throughout the Hudson Valley. I mean, I, I don't think it's too much of a, you know, I don't think it's too much to say, to compare it to probably, this is probably the biggest opportunity for investment. This County's

probably seen on this kind of level, probably since, like the New Deal, I would say, in terms of, you know, we're not going to be able to see this opportunity for funding coming around again. So we need to be very vigilant. And you know, and smart about how we are utilizing this funding. I agree with, you know, with Legislator Corcoran and Legislator Sperry, in what they were saying about I think it's a good idea to reach out and get collaboration from our, our local governments within, within our districts. I'm most certainly looking forward to corresponding with Town Supervisor Costello, and other members of the Town Board in the Town of Saugerties. And I'm sure I'll get some input from, even though I don't represent the Village of Saugerties, I will most certainly be happy to interact with the Mayor and the Village Board Members to get their advisement as well. You know, I think this is going to be a very collaborative effort. I think it's going to be something thing that we're, you know, we don't, we want to work together with the Executive's office to make sure that we're working in a collaborative environment. And it's not unilaterally coming. You know, just from the Executive's Office, I think, you know, we need to be making sure that we're all, you know, speaking with one voice. But the biggest issue that I have, you know, digesting all this and going over, you know, the thing that came up first to me was, we need to be making sure that wherever possible, you know, we, we try to cut the red tape as much as possible and make sure that this funding gets out in an equitable and as a fashion as quickly as possible. Because you know, people are really going to be depending on this. So we need to be making sure that government is efficient. And that you know, that this needed funding is not caught up in bureaucracy and red tape as much as we possibly can make sure that that happens. So that is something that I'm going to be making sure that, you know, we are vigilant about. So looking forward to working with you all about this. And, and thank you, thank you for this wonderful attendance tonight.

Chairman Criswell: Thank you, Legislator Levine. Chairwoman Bartels.

Legislative Chair Bartels: Thank you. And thank you, thank you all for your willingness to serve on this committee. I do think it's a critically important committee. And I agree with many of the statements already, already made. In terms of investments in program and infrastructure. One thing I do you know want to circle back to, Legislator Corcoran talked about the outreach that was done among the previous body. Those responses, Legislator Corcoran, were collected and have been passed along to the, the new Executive staff, through Deputy Executive Kelly, to aggregate all that information and see where we have outliers of suggestions from the previous body. Obviously, new Legislators have yet to weigh in on the list. And when we see when they see the full list, there may be new suggestions. And there may be new suggestions that come out organically of, of conversations in this committee and in the body, as we know whether there's a there's a proposal that's before us today that that wasn't on that list previously. So these things are going to are going to happen throughout this process. There also was a process whereby there, there was a, an attempt to go into the communities and solicit public response. Obviously, during COVID, it's hard to get people to come out and, and speak at public meetings. I mean, it's hard enough as it is, but there was some valuable, some valuable feedback that was gained from those meetings. And that's summarized in in one of the documents as well. You know, I would, you know, I would also like to remind everyone that every community, every municipality received direct, direct funds as a part of this, and we can get for the body, we can get a summary of the distribution of funds to municipalities. And I say that, not to say that we shouldn't be collaborating with communities, but to say, you know, I really do agree with Legislator Levine that, you know, this, this may be a once in a lifetime, or certainly once in my Legislative lifetime opportunity. But this money, this money, there's it's going to go quickly, you know, there's more need than there is money. So I think we really need to be mindful of choosing those projects that are going to have the largest impact. And Legislator Corcoran, I'm sensitive to the southern tier comment. I'm a, I'm a southern tier representative. I've been, you know,

I know what it feels like to be on the outside of the Kingston world. But I think we need to think of our constituency, largely as a County constituency. And that that can be challenging. But that's going to come about by having an open dialogue about the needs of each of our communities, and really taking that view that, you know, as a skydiver, I'll call it the, the 13,000 foot view point where we, you know, we back up, and we look in, and we look at this in totality so that we're able to evaluate which of those projects rise to the surface as the you know, the, the most valuable and it's not, it's not a first come first serve, because that's where I think we'll get in trouble. We've already expended and you see it in your packet, we've already promised and or committed and or expended a significant sum. So you know, there's a lot of work to be done. And I know that each of you are the right people, and I know that this conversation is going to consider, continue into each of the Standing Committees in the body. So once again, thank you all for being willing to take, take this on.

Chairman Criswell: Thank you, Chairwoman. And can I ask Clerk to update the attendance now. I see Legislator Lopez.

Deputy Clerk Feaster: Yes, that's right. For the record, Chair Bartels has been present and Legislator Craig Lopez is in attendance now.

Chairman Criswell: And Legislator Lopez, welcome. And we're just going around, Committee Members are going around and talking a little bit about that. The question that I had posed to everyone to just talk a little bit about the mission of the organization, of this committee and the potential spending, and I just wanted to offer you a little space to give your thoughts can you hear me?

Legislator Lopez: Can you hear me?

Chairman Criswell: Yes.

Legislator Lopez: Yeah, I'm not, I actually agree with a lot of what, what Tom said, and that's sometimes, uh, you know, being a representative of the, of the southern end of Ulster County, all of us, we're often, you're often, you know, forgot about, it's just, it's important to, to be able to spread that around as evenly and as fairly as possible. And just to be mindful of that, you know, moving forward at night. And to Chairwoman Bartels' point is that a lot of this has already been spent. So, you know, we don't have there's, there's, there's still enough to go around, but it's not, you know, going to be as, as fluid as we originally thought or so, yeah, not, just if we can keep that in mind when, when considering projects and be mindful of that it's a large County, it's a County that's the size of Rhode Island. And sometimes we get, we get forgotten about. What most people think Pine Bush is in Orange County, which part of Ulster but you know, we also have a small part of it as well.

Chairman Criswell: Thank you. When I was thinking about this, I was I was thinking about questions that we might want to ask ourselves when we're looking at these Resolutions. And so one of the things I've been thinking about is when we're evaluating a Resolution, is it time sensitive? What, what are the parameters around time? Do we- Is it something that we have to consider immediately? Or is it something that we can think about it a little bit, do some further research? I think that's an important question. I think it's important to look at, are there other ways to pay for the request? Can we look at other possible funding sources? Does it have to be ARPA funding? I think that's a really critical question. Is it appropriate for ARPA funding? I think we really have to look and analyze that and, and look at that against the guidelines. And does doesn't actually meet the federal guidelines. There. They're specific, there are some broad categories. But there's also some very

specific categories. So I think we have to make sure that whatever we are proposing to spend it on actually does meet those federal guidelines. And then I think the other thing we want to think about is we had some working groups that were established last year. We were calling them buckets and basically, we had people attached to them, two people from the Legislature. Am I right Chairwoman Bartels? It was two people from the Legislature and one person from the Executive team. And I think we want to go back and look at those working groups to see if, because those are, often people attach themselves to a working group where they had a some sort of special knowledge or a special passion for, and we should, I would suggest that we use those working groups to help us do a deeper dive into subject areas that we might not know, or that they could give us a greater insight into. So those are some of the larger questions. Um, I'd like to take just a short amount of time here, say 10 minutes, and kind of open the floor to anybody else who wants to chime in about how we should spend this money. But I am going to keep this to 10 minutes. So please be brief. Comptroller Gallagher, please.

Comptroller Gallagher: I just wanted to note that your mission statement speaks to “proposed expenditures”. And I think the committee might want to consider playing a role in monitoring and tracking actual expenditures, not just what was proposed, but what actually occurred, so that you know exactly what's left. And so I just wanted to mention that I think the last time that you talk about proposed, proposed expenditures, you might want to just think about including it to say actual as well.

Chairman Criswell: You're speaking to my nonprofit Executive Director heart right now. So I definitely get that. So thank you for that. Anybody else want to chime in and have some thoughts on this? Legislator Maloney.

Legislator Maloney: I'll keep it brief. Listening to Mr. Corcoran and Craig before I think they're right, and something we should think about is if there's a Legislator or a section of the County that feels as though they're not getting their fair share, share, then it's probably not something that's good for the entire County. If we start doing things that certain sections or certain parts of the County feel really good about, but the rest of the County isn't going to benefit from it, it's probably not big enough, we keep talking about big, doing something that's going to be here 20 to 30 years from now, I think we should be, you know, and there are parameters, and I think we really need to do a good job of, of educating ourselves on what those parameters are. And some of them have died, they've changed a lot over the past couple of months. So I mean, we could talk about the era, we could talk about the college, I mean, you could get into high school, senior college dorm, hybrid things that are happening all over the country, Tech City, what's left of it, I think, would benefit the entire County. But limited specific housing projects quickly put through some of these not for profits that are looking for the money are this quickly. I think, I'm a little concerned, I think we need to be thinking bigger and farther down the road. And I actually think this large sum of money should probably be used on two or three things. If we spread this out to 50 different things, it's going to be a waste. It really is. So I honestly think things should probably be tabled tonight, as we can go through them for a month or two, what- from what I'm seeing, but I'm just seeing it, you know, not for not very long. But that's what I think and to what Craig and Mr. Corcoran were saying. And I'll get to know him enough to even call him by his first name. But, a is, yeah, if they don't, if you're in Ellenville, or if you're in Gardiner, and, and you don't feel like you know, you know, these, these, this, these dollars are being used in a way that benefits the people in your district, then it's definitely not big enough. And we're definitely not using it the way it was meant to be used. 20 or 30 years down the line our grandkids and grandkids should be feeling the effects, job creation, environmentally housing opportunities, but we got to be careful just subsidizing you know, the Steve Aaron's of the world, but that's what I think.

Chairman Criswell: Thank you so much for those thoughts. Appreciate it. Who else? Yes, Legislator Hewitt.

Legislator Hewitt: Thank you, Legislator Criswell. I think the email that you sent out the other day was inspiring, because you talked about using the funding that, in a way that has lasting effects, where we can teach people to fish and over the long haul we'll have opportunities and benefits that we could see generation after generation as Legislator Maloney just mentioned. So in the last week, I've been meeting with, I'm in two Towns, so Supervisor Baden and Howitt, heads of Youth Commissions, Fire Department members, just getting feedback from people in the community. And I think a Youth Commission is a great place to start with young people. And each town has Youth Commissions and our County has a world class ski mountain in it and also an amazing Catskill Park. So, I've thought of an idea of working with youth Commissions to create field trips to get young people interested in our forests and parks in an early age with adult chaperones that are also learning from our forests and becoming lifelong lovers of the Catskills. So having ski tickets available, which is a very privileged sport. And we all pay for that mountain. I think is a good way to get people out of their homes and enjoy recreational opportunities, which is part of the ARPA funding. And that's one idea I have, but I have a whole list that I'd love to share with you another time.

Chairman Criswell: Great. Thank you so much for your thoughts. Appreciate it. Anybody else? This is a golden opportunity.

Legislator Walter: Chris and Tim have their hands up.

Chairman Criswell: Tim? Yes. Hi. Thank you, Sir.

Director of Economic Development Wiedemann: Yeah, I'll be, I'll be brief and happy to go into more detail on this. We've given a lot of thought that I think we shared a presentation maybe through the Clerk's office with the members of the committee. We have a program that many of you are probably aware of called the Ulster County Cares Small Business Assistance Program. This is a grant program to small businesses in the county, especially focused on low to moderate income businesses, businesses where the owner is a low to moderate income person from a low to moderate income household or employs a majority of people in low to moderate income households. This was funded with a million dollars from the Cares Act that flowed to the state of New York. And then the state set up a program that allowed for counties to apply for funding. We applied for an allocation of a million dollars received that we have already moved through the first \$950,000 of that million dollar commitment from the state and, and we've contemplated and asked to this committee into the Legislature to approve an authorization to match the million dollars That was permitted by the state, we have over \$4 million in interest expressed through an interest form that we have, and an unfunded five or six hundred dollars, currently, that we could almost immediately make awards for. And the idea here is to help these small businesses that often weren't able to, to give- to access some of the programs at the federal level. So happy to talk about it more, I think we'll get a chance to give that presentation at some point, but just wanted to make it clear that we've given a lot of thought to this and see it as a logical step to support our business community.

Chairman Criswell: Thank you very much. So for anybody who's just joined us, we're in a bit of an open forum moment here to talk about best use of these funds. So if anybody else has thoughts.

Legislator Walter: Chris' hand was up, and then Manna, and then Phil.

Chairman Criswell: Thank you so much. Who is the next person, Eve?

Deputy County Executive Kelly: Thanks.

Legislator Walter: Chris.

Deputy County Executive Kelly: Chris Kelly.

Chairman Criswell: Thank you, Chris.

Deputy County Executive Kelly: Hey, how are you? Um, I definitely want to echo pretty much everyone's comments in terms of geographic diversity. It's a very large county. And we think that you'll see the programs tonight in terms of small business relief, as well as the nonprofit program, geography is certainly going to be taken into consideration. To Legislator Corcoran's comment about collecting the information six, seven months ago, that was instrumental in us kind of developing some of the non-for-profit programming. And that's what Nate and the rest of the ARP team will be speaking on tonight. We are also working on creating just kind of this level set where yes, there was this ARP plan that was presented by the Executive to the Legislature and that created the buckets. There's also the 50, or 60 items that came from the respective caucuses from the last body. We're just about done. Our team already did the work, I'm just reviewing it. And then we'll share that. And I think one of the lessons learned from this whole process, so we received the money about nine months ago and we have been deliberating very actively on the best uses. We've also been learning about the legislation. I know comptroller Gallagher has assisted us in understanding, just some of the guidance and how that was shifting and how we can, you know, for some of the money, we can actually free it from a lot of the restrictions that were originally provided. So we feel like we're in a very good position. We feel like we've had a lot of engagement with not just the Legislature, but also all of our municipal partners. It doesn't mean that that stops, though, and I think we all have to put it on ourselves as participants here and as leaders to continue those conversations. All of the good ideas have not been surfaced yet. But that doesn't mean, and I want to say this pretty strongly, that the ideas that we have agreement on in terms of making affordable housing, or mental health and substance use disorder, or relief for small business a priority because that's where the conversation has always been. Now the projects that come from that, it's going to happen through these organic conversations that we have with amongst each other and but also within your districts. So we're going to rely upon you guys in the southern part of the district, in the northern part in Kingston, and in the western side, to help feed us these projects to give us that information. We're ready to collect, we're ready to talk to you guys. But we do think the programs that we're designing now and that we're presenting on tonight do have that county wide impact. The legislation specifically calls out assistance for non-for-profits. It specifically calls out assistance to non, a to small business non-for-profits, as well as housing. And those are some of the things that we're leading with tonight. So I just want to say I really do look forward to working with all of you. I think this is a great setup. And I just want to thank Chair Bartels for kind of facilitating this and pushing this. So, thank you.

Chairman Criswell: Thank you very much. So next we have Legislator Greene and Legislator Erner's on deck.

Legislator Greene: Thank you. Um, I just want to remind folks that you're in the middle of an increasing exacerbating global climate crisis. And I want to be sure that this money is spent in a way that promotes climate solutions and doesn't in any way exacerbate the climate crisis that we are collectively facing. That's especially true in housing. That will also be true in support to our business

schools. Maybe there are ways of doing all these things that will absolutely reduce emissions and promote carbon sequestration. And, and really have to be rolled in. And I think that each project should be evaluated to be sure that it is essentially either carbon neutral or providing a solution. And if it's, if it's going to harm the environment, that is not where we should be putting our money. Thank you.

Chairman Criswell: Thank you very much Legislator Greene. Legislator Erner.

Legislator Erner: Chair Criswell. Well, I just want to mention the Excluded Worker Fund. For those who don't know, that was a state program, awarding 2.4 billion dollars that came out in response to the pandemic. And it was a ground up effort to get that money. Because many of our state's most vulnerable workers, especially black and brown working families had gotten shut out of safety net and any other kind of COVID relief from either the federal or state government. There's a new effort underway, which I'll be asking the full Legislature to memorialize to obtain an additional 3 billion for the state, much of upstate didn't get any relief in the last round. And this already has support from the State Legislators representing District Six: Cahill and Hinchey. And I'd like to put the bug in the ear of our County Legislature and this committee to consider funding Excluded Workers as well. And in addition to the recommendation to speak with municipal leaders, also community groups who are aware of the need, this is a COVID response. It's a winter response. And the funds could go to things like housing, like food pantries, and I certainly support the idea of a structural change. And I also think the immediate need is so great that we need to consider both of those. Thank you.

Chairman Criswell: Thank you for your thoughts. Okay, last call for anybody else who would like to speak.

Okay, seeing none, I'm gonna move on. So I just wanted to mention something that Comptroller Gallagher brought up, which was sort of monitoring; the monitoring of the spending. So we sent to the Committee, a tracker, which is a was a spreadsheet and Clerk Feaster and I went through it, and we're gonna redo it a bit. It was not quite as user friendly as I think it could be. So we're gonna revamp it a little bit. And we got some updated numbers as well. So we're going to be sending you an updated version of this. But basically, what we're trying to do is show you the total amount, show you the committed amount, show you what's been spent, and what's left, sort of in the in the 35,000 foot view, that's basically what we're doing. But we will get as granular as you desire, in terms of knowing exactly when the money has been spent, and how much and how much is left in certain pots. Because I think we need a really, really clear understanding of the funds as they're as they're going out the door and also, what we've long term committed to. Some of these projects are one-off projects that the faucet is closed. We don't have to think about it anymore. Other's the faucet's going to be on for the next two years. And so we have to be thinking about that as we're committing monies and other directions. So any other thoughts on what you need to seek, Committee, as a financial reporting? Okay, we'll update that and we'll get you that information. Um, Clerk Feaster, did you want to add anything to that comment about financial tracking? Okay, great. So we are going to move on to the Resolutions at this point. So I need a motion for, to open discussion for Resolution 28.

Legislator Corcoran: Motion.

Chairman Criswell: Do I have a second?

Legislator Levine: Second.

Chairman Criswell: All in favor?

Group: Aye.

Chairman Criswell: Legislator Walter. I want to recognize you.

Legislator Walter: Thank you. Thank you all. I'm very excited to be presenting my Resolution as the first Resolution for this group. And I'll try to set the stage following the parameters set out by Chair Criswell. So first of all, quick background about what this is. These are for respite houses that serve individuals who are suffering from either mental health crisis or substance abuse crisis. And right now with the state licensure, they could be there for seven to 10 days while they get their lives together. The idea of a respite house not only supports them and provides them the care during those times, during the seven to 10 days, but also provides care, navigation care management after they're released, if they not released after they are done with that time period, as much as the individual wants and an individual can come back and forth, they can, you know, request to come back to a respite house if they have finding they need. The history behind this briefly, is this came up a lot in the Criminal Justice Reform Task Force that I chaired for two and a half years. I feel like it was maybe was just two. I'm recognizing a couple of things, one, that before COVID, and especially during COVID, our mental health issues have gotten much worse. So have our opioid and other substance abuse issues have gotten much worse. We all know that we lost our beds, at the, our inpatient beds at the hospital. But, um, and so the concept of what was needed and also just a quick history is that we have very little long-term inpatient in New York State for mental health. It just, it was deinstitutionalization happening many years ago. It's very hard to find a place, a stable place for someone that needs that kind of care. And so the, this was packaged together originally with the Crisis Stabilization Center, where the Crisis Stabilization Center would be a 24 hour immediate crisis response for people again, with substance abuse or mental health crises. This was a need that we heard across the County. We heard it from law enforcement, we heard it from judges, we heard it from family members, that there was nowhere for people to go, not only with our bends gone, but also just nothing like this. There is a program in Dutchess County, and I actually have law enforcement who travel all the way to Dutchess County sometimes with individuals because they have a program. And so I, Chair Criswell and I actually visited the Crisis Stabilization Center, we really tried to explore and understand it, and how this can really fit the need for the County. So and I also want to say with the rest of houses at this point, it's seven to 10 days, there's hopefully some legislation coming down from the state that will eventually make these 30 days, which will be even more helpful. So I'm going to go through the issue the parameters that the Chair has pointed out. So in terms of geographic spread, the goal is that, that while the Crisis Stabilization Center probably would be more centrally located more likely in the Kingston area, as that 24 hour. Absolutely, the respite houses need to be able to meet the needs for the whole county, and so that the expectation and the Resolution that it had already passed, was that they are geographically located in a way in an area that's not being fully served. I will say that Orange County and Milton has the respite house. So the southern tier actually is probably the only part of Ulster County that has any access to a respite house now. But definitely in areas such as to Ellenville or up Northern, and there there's, that, that is a requirement. I would love to see many of these respite houses, but I'll be happy with eight beds at this point.

In terms of its time sensitivity, well, so as you all know, and as I said earlier with COVID, this is a need. This is an absolute need and COVID which is one of the pieces of this funding, is does COVID make the problem worse and COVID absolutely made the mental health problems worse and the substance abuse problems worse so it fits exactly into that. Is there other funding? Currently no, but

the state is catching up. The state is getting on this. And hopefully the state will have funding for us. But I'm not going to wait for them. I've been waiting for them to do prescription drug take backs for about three years now. And so I'm not going to wait, I don't think we need to, should wait. But hopefully they'll come around to it and actually be able to provide funding that helps support this. The, it was in the working group, and I was in the health group. So in terms of specialty areas, in addition to being in the criminal justice, I'm an epidemiologist and as part of the working group, we recognize that having respite houses was an important piece to delivering the necessary care for substance abuse and mental health. And then the last thing, which Chair Criswell, that maybe you want to include in your elements is the sustainability. And so the whole idea of this being an RFP and partnering with an organization that can be licensed by the state, then once these are built with hopefully ARPA money, then it's fully self-sustainable, because the services provided are fully reimbursable. Back to the state to that organization. So we won't, we will. So I think, you know, it fits into that. Not to say that if something's not fully sustainable on its own, we shouldn't consider it. But in this case, it is highly sustainable. So my hope was originally again, to lump this, not lump it, but include it with the Crisis Stabilization Center, which did get approved for our funds, but it was, we kind of missed that. I don't know how Amber and I missed it, but we did in the original Resolution. So this Resolution has already been approved, just not using ARPA funds. The last thing I'm gonna say, and Amber correct me if I'm wrong, the amount is the ceiling, not the floor, it all depends on what we find. If we find that the county owns a couple of buildings that can be easily converted, it's going to be less, if, if it's just using land that we own, it might be more if the state comes down with some money, it might be less. So it won't be more than the amount that we're I'm requesting, but it can be easily less. And this particular Resolution, and then I'll be quiet, so that you can discuss it or ask questions, is to fund the building of these respite houses. There's going to be, there's, we've already approved the Resolution to do an RFP, um, this is just to build these, the actual entity, so it's more of a capital project. And with that, I will stop and see if there's any questions or comments.

Chairman Criswell: Thank you. Committee members questions? Legislator Maloney.

Legislator Maloney: So, I don't know a lot about this yet. I've been just reading what's here. There's not a lot of specifics. So we still don't know where exactly it's gonna be?

Legislator Walter: No, the only parameters that I requested to have in the RFP is that that geographic is considered and my personal request, my personal feeling is it should not be in Kingston. These, I'm hoping for there to be two different houses. Maybe two, two to four bed houses. But I think that Kingston is going a lot right now and getting beds. So my preference is that these are not located in Kingston, that they're more spread out, but...

Legislator Maloney: So we're gonna...

Legislator Walter: They can't be identified until we know the property.

Legislator Maloney: We're gonna own this, though?

Legislator Walter: So this is an interesting point. Um, and, you know, I don't want to take too much time. But, you know, one of the challenges we had when we moved mental health out of the county was we didn't necessarily- we lost some ability to really stay on top of what, who's being served and how they're being served. It's very important to me and to the task force who developed this, that the county stays a partner with whoever gets this RFP. How that partnership looks, we have to- I think it

still needs to be ironed out. But it needs to be a partnership. I would assume it's that we would own the building itself, and they would be sort of leasers or renters. But I think that that has to be fine-tuned, what that partnership exactly looks like. It's not okay to just build it and hand it to some organization that wins the RFP and then it's on them. It needs to- it is very important to me, at least, that it there's some partnership because we need to know who's being served. We need to make sure the right people are being served. We need to know whether we need to make more of them. We need to understand what's going on with it.

Legislator Maloney: Okay, so we'll be building it and then kind of funding it. Because it's going to be services that pay, it'll be through DSS that would be funding? The...

Legislator Walter: No, it's....

Legislator Maloney: ...non-for-profit takes over...

Legislator Walter: The nonprofit would receive the funding directly from the state through their licensure. So we no longer have to pay for the service...

Legislator Maloney: It's tax dollars. How- so we have eight individuals that will be served? We're not- there's a lot of question marks as far as how to get these buildings built and where to build them. And then what to do after that. How many, I also don't see a lot about criteria for being qualified to be in here. What's the, what's the criteria? And how many people right now? Is there 500 people? Is there 5,000 people that would fit the criteria? Because we're going to place two, four-bedroom things somewhere in this huge County? We don't know a lot about it. Another concern I have is, once we approve this, do we as Legislators lose? Is it just, become an operational thing at that point? And then it's kind of done how it's done. Because we've already approved it. I just have a lot of questions. There's just so many questions here.

Chairman Criswell: I think one of the things I would like to do, if I may, sir, is redirect the focus of this. We've already approved the building of these two respite houses. So that's, that's, I think, tonight, what we're trying to decide on is, is it going to be ARPA funded? And correct me if I'm wrong, but that, that I think is what is this Resolution. Okay. It's not "are we going to?". We are going to do this. That's already been decided.

Legislator Maloney: And we get that loosely last term?

Chairman Criswell: Correct. That happened last term.

Legislator Maloney: Yeah. All right.

Chairman Criswell: So I just want to focus that, that- I appreciate your questions. I really do.

Legislator Maloney: Okay. Well, that goes- that make sense.

Chairman Criswell: Most of those questions have been vetted, and the full Legislature voted to approve it. So what we're doing...

Legislator Maloney: Well, I don't know if they were ever answered last term, but I wasn't, I wasn't, here.

Chairman Criswell: We can...

Legislator Maloney: They're not being answered right now. But, and that's okay. I would say than if that's the case, we're just talking about this. This isn't something that's for ARPA. I really think it should be one or two projects. I think we should have the RRA over here and say, hey, if money is no object, 20, 30 million dollars now, yeah...

Legislator Walter: Okay, can I just finish talking about this project right now?

Legislator Maloney: Yeah, I am talking about this project. As a reason, this is something the county should be working on, you know, with the state, obviously, grant funded as much as we can. But to me, this is not what I have in mind for ARPA. I don't think it's what my constituents had in mind. Like I said, we should have a couple of massive projects. This, we're going to go right through this money and have not much a lot of little things that we should be doing anyways. But not with ARPA. But that's my opinion.

Chairman Criswell: Thank you, sir. Legislator Walter, I'm going to Legislator Levine. He's had his hand up. And so then...

Legislator Walter: I wanted to answer two of those questions.

Chairman Criswell: I will, I will get right back to you. But let me, let me, get let just get Legislator Levine.

Legislator Levine: I'd be happy to yield back to Legislator Walter.

Chairman Criswell: Thank you, sir.

Legislator Walter: So yeah, I'll just say very briefly, first of all, it's not eight people. It's eight people who have seven to 10 days so if multiplied it's a lot. Second of all, we do know how many people are in desperate need, we can easily see how the one respite House is doing. So that we clearly have a problem. And there's plenty of data showing it. And this is absolutely tied into the goals and objectives of the ARPA money, and it will serve a large number of people in a much, much needed way. Thank you,

Chairman Criswell: Legislator Levine.

Legislator Levine: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank Legislator Walter for her explanation on a lot of these things. That kind of answered some of the questions that I had regarding the Resolution. The, you know, the one other thing that I wanted to ask and see if it could be addressed would be if the, if the demand, you know, if the, if the, you know, proposal for eight beds, turns out to be insufficient for the demand. You know, if, if, for whatever reason, you know, we have more people than then, you know, what we have logistically feasible with eight beds, so to serve. Is it possible that, you know, in this funding, if, if we propose approve this ARPA funding for this, these facilities, is it possible that the facilities could be built under the understanding that for expansion at a future time so that they could potentially be serving more beds, you know, at the same time, you know, if future funding becomes available, so that we wouldn't have to build a separate facility? If, if, you know, future increased, demand occurs?

Legislator Walter: Can I answer that?

Chairman Criswell: Yes, please.

Legislator Walter: Yeah, I mean, I think the state is very well aware of how much this need is and that can be that, that's seen in the fact that the program in Milton did receive some capital money from the state to expand it just as you said, because they recognize that there's a need to grow, there's no way eight beds is enough. We know that it's just, you know, it's the tip of the iceberg. Ideally, what will happen is, once we've established this, you know, this, this, that the state will be more forthcoming with funds to help us expand to however we need it. Plus, I'll also say, and I mentioned it earlier, they are working on changing the law to increase up to 30 days, which will create even more support.

Chairman Criswell: Thank you. I want to recognize Deputy Executive Rider.

Deputy Executive Rider: Yeah. If I could just expand upon that answer really quick. I mean, the, the goal of these facilities is to keep them similar to residential houses. So you're not trying to build a large multi-unit. It's really three to four bedrooms, and having them placed throughout, geographically throughout Ulster County makes a lot of sense. One thing we can do to try to keep expenses down is we can have finance look at our upcoming auction properties. We might find some three, four-bedroom houses that would be suitable for this purpose. But I think if we find that there's a waitlist and growing demand on this, the market will also assist because I've talked to organizations who have these, like the people, USA, down in Orange County, and you know, they're, they're willing to build these facilities, and they're fully reimbursable and licensed by the state. So as Legislator Walter said, operationally, they are already there, reimbursable. And there's really not a county cost. It's just looking at what the initial capital cost for seeding a couple of these are, and I think, once they're successful, will see growth throughout the county.

Chairman Criswell: Thank you very much. So to the committee, I just wanted to also remind you that we are going to be having a second meeting in a couple weeks. What the plan is, as I mentioned, we're going to have monthly meetings, but in the first, say, four, maybe even five months of our committee meetings, we're going to front load an extra meeting in just because we're basically drinking from a firehose, right now. We're trying to take in so much information, and we need a little bit of time to get up to speed. And what it will also allow is for us to get kind of ahead of the game. So we're going to be meeting before Resolution deadlines. And we'll be able to kind of be, be ahead of things rather than what we're where we are right now, which is catching up from behind. So I just wanted to remind that, that that's going to be happening. And at the end of this meeting, we'll talk about potential dates, not next week, but week following, so that we'll have a little bit of time to digest everything that happened tonight, take a breath and then move things forward. So with that said, any other committee members have any comments on this resolution?

Legislator Greene: May I?

Chairman Criswell: Yes, Legislator Greene.

Legislator Greene: Um, I just want to get clarity. Does it have to be built from scratch? Could it be acquired and renovated? And also, I want to be sure that anytime we are building, we're building for energy efficiency. And I keep not hearing that. So I keep going back up to remind you.

Chairman Criswell: Ring that bell. Keep ringing that bell. Absolutely. Thank you for that. So committee, what I'm going to recommend, and absolutely challenged me on this, but I'm going to recommend that we take no action on this tonight. And that we look at this again in two weeks when we, when we meet in two weeks. Do we need to vote on that? Or do I get feedback from the committee? Do you agree that we take no action on this this evening and look at it again in two weeks?

Legislator Corcoran: I'm okay with that.

Chairman Criswell: Yes. All right. That's, that's what we're going to do. So, thank you. Moving on to Resolution 29. Do I have a motion to open this for discussion?

Legislator Corcoran: I'll make the motion.

Chairman Criswell: Second, please.

Legislator Litts: Second.

Chairman Criswell: All in favor?

Group: Aye.

Chairman Criswell: Thank you very much. This is funding capital project number 601. It's the ARP Small Business and Economic Recovery. Somebody from the Executive team going to speak on this? To Mr. Wiedemann.

Director of Economic Development Wiedemann: Yeah, I think I'll take it Kate Heidecker, my deputy was hoping to join but she's got another presentation so she had to leave. So I will take the reins and if it's okay with the group, I'll do a quick PowerPoint presentation. There's a bunch of information and data in here I'd like to share if that's okay.

Chairman Criswell: Amber, can he take the screen?

Director of Economic Development Wiedemann: Yes, it looks like I can.

Chairman Criswell: Okay.

Director of Economic Development Wiedemann: So I mentioned this at the outset, we've had a program going now for a couple of months called Ulster County Cares funded by Cares Act funds through the New York State Office of Homes and Community Renewal. Its community block grant, community development block grant funded. And so the goals of that program relate to low income small businesses supporting them as they adapt to recover from the pandemic. And so what we're proposing in a nutshell, is to match the state's allocation of \$1 million, with \$1 million of our ARPA funds here at the local level, to continue this program and basically double the number of businesses that we can support during this difficult time. So I'll run you through some details just about the program, how it was set up, really recognizing that all of Ulster County's businesses were impacted during the pandemic continue to be impacted. But the most severe and lasting impacts are those that are occurring to our low-income business owners and their employees. Most particularly because they lack access to traditional flexible capital. They often have a difficult or troubled credit history

that makes it hard for them to access loans. They have previous fiscal distress in either their business or in their personal life, smaller profit margins, often under small businesses, and sometimes lack of access to education and training to support their business's growth. And a reminder that about 95% of Ulster county's, businesses have less than 25 employees. That's the population that's eligible for this program if they meet the income needs, and about 47% of Ulster County's total population would meet the income thresholds for low to moderate income. So the first round of this, we awarded up to \$35,000 for businesses that created or restored one or more full time equivalent job. The funding was meant to help them adapt to the new reality of economic life with a highly contagious virus. And that was per the requirements of the Cares Act funding, largely consistent with the requirements of the ARPA funds as well. The funds provided reimbursement for up to 100% of eligible project costs. Generally speaking, any working capital related costs were eligible costs, businesses could pay for either past due rent or advance pay on rent, they could pay payroll. In the case of some of our sole proprietors, which there are a number of them, they often find it hard to be eligible for programs that have existed prior, they can even take an owner's draw. If they haven't paid themselves over the course of the pandemic, they can actually do that with these funds. It's different than the other supports that have been out there, the PPP, the idle, the restaurant revitalization fund, a lot of those programs were targeted at slightly larger, more sophisticated businesses. And we found in our conversations throughout the life of the pandemic, that many local businesses, especially the smallest ones, the most disadvantaged in our county, weren't able to take advantage of those funds. It's also income qualifying. So again, the business owner has to be low to moderate income household, or their majority of their employees do and 100% of the project cost can be covered with this program. So we received 335 pre applications over the last two months, indicating interest from 335 businesses. Of those we then sent a full application to them first weeding out those that aren't in Ulster County, or were not for profits, which are not eligible for this fund. Hence, I think the discussion that we'll have later about a separate funding program for not for profits. And we whittled that down to 178, that were set the full submission, full application and that I've been working on their submissions, 132 of those have completed the full application. So far, with the first round of the program, we've awarded 29, grants or packages of assistance. And we have two remaining that we're just waiting for some final funding allocations from the state on this first round, before we can make awards. So in total, that represents 542,000, or almost \$543,000 of funding in our first round. 320,000 that we're working on now, for a total of 862,000 that's been awarded. We also have just received word from the state that we can use a part of the money that was for administrative costs that we have not incurred to make additional direct awards to businesses. And so that'll climb to 950,000 in the next week or two.

The remaining full applications that we have on hand total \$438,000. So we have applications from businesses that have qualified for this program but we cannot fund with available funds. We have 40 and 40,000 or so of those. And then in the pre applications that 323. There's an indication of need for about 5.5 million. So there's a tremendous need out there from these businesses that continue to struggle with a pandemic. So the idea here would be to continue that program to award small low income businesses with additional funding through an allocation of a million dollars with the American Rescue Plan Act funds towards that project, which would allow us to assist approximately 30 additional businesses and we feel there's a way to sustain this program to a third round, even. We had a conversation with the state about their CDBG program, they have some additional Cares funding available, they had indicated that they may be willing to accept another application from us. But that wouldn't be until spring. And I think, you know, our intent here is to demonstrate to the state that we're not just turning to them for assistance, we're also looking to double down on our investment through our funds. But we feel pretty confident that once we do that, we'd have a competitive advantage to go back to the state and ask for a third round through the Cares fund bring,

to bring the total assistance that we can provide to \$3 million of financial relief, helping probably 100 businesses and potentially saving 300 jobs in the county. And a reminder that these are, you know, again, these are very small businesses, ones that struggle that often kind of fall below the radar in a lot of the work that that we do in economic development. And we're thrilled to have an opportunity to support them and help them transition during this difficult time. So if this Resolution is approved, what it really means is that we can immediately move forward to fund an additional 30 businesses, we have them in the pipeline for the application process. We're not proposing to change the eligibility requirements. Although ARPA would allow for more flexible funding, we have this pipeline of demand from businesses that really need this. And we would hope in February or early March to be able to start allocating that money and making those awards. That's my quick synopsis. Happy to take questions.

Chairman Criswell: Thank you. Can- Yeah, I had a couple questions. One of them had to do with administrative costs. And correct me if I'm wrong, but I thought I saw \$50,000 in admin costs and \$100,000 in program delivery costs. Could you talk about those?

Director of Economic Development Wiedemann: Yep, that's the breakdown that we used in our first round of application to the state. out of \$1,000,000, 15 percent of it was for combination of admin, 5% or \$50,000. That's just to cover the administrative cost of processing applications. And then \$100,000 was earmarked for marketing, technical support to applicants, counseling for applicants, what we found is that through a partnership with, our kind of long standing partnership with SBDC, we can provide counseling to these businesses if they need it without a cost. SPDC is a free service. So we can take advantage of that. We haven't needed to actively market the program. We've done work through the chamber of commerce through our own email list, and then targeted outreach to municipal leaders and community leaders throughout the county. And as a result we've had I think, 13 of the 19 towns have been represented in the awards so far. And we'll make concerted efforts to surface applicants in the remaining six towns. And so those, those are the, the admin program delivery costs. In the first round that we got from the state, we realized we didn't need the program delivery. So we actually asked for a real allocation of that \$100,000 of program delivery to direct awards. We wanted to structure the second asked to be like the first asked to the state. The ask to the ARPA funds is for 850,000 for direct assistance, 100,000 for program delivery, and 50,000 for admin, we would hope that if we continue to see the demand that I indicated that we have so far that we wouldn't need to expend that program delivery costs, and we would be able to come back and reallocate that \$100,000 to direct assistance.

Chairman Criswell: Thank you. Legislator Greene, did you have a question? Okay, thank you. Questions. Legislator Bartels.

Legislative Chair Bartels: Thank you. Um, so maybe I should know this. But how did you confirm whether or not these, the businesses that received the awards, how did you confirm whether or not they were, or did you confirm whether or not they received other funds? Is that in the application?

Director of Economic Development Wiedemann: Good, good question. If I might, the, the, the application and the funding program through the state, the Cares funding through the state requires the completion of a Duplication of Benefits worksheet. So we do ask them what else they've received. And when it comes to their, they basically state their total need of funds. And if they've received some funds from other sources, they have to subtract that from their total need. And if there's a remaining balance, then they can be awarded funds, if there's no remaining balance of need, and they cannot be awarded funds.

Legislative Chair Bartels: If I may. So how are they calculating the need? Are they calculating it based on a differential in, in, in income? In money in? Or how is that need calculated?

Director of Economic Development Wiedemann: No. Good question. But we, we found that a number of businesses there, you know, I think everybody knows a few of these businesses that have started since 2019 that really struggled with some of the initial programs that requires you to show a loss between 2019 and 2020. And so we design this not to require a kind of threshold of loss of income as an eligibility criteria, but instead the documentation of need for, for, for funding, and so explain the situation that you're in the cost that you've incurred, show us your available resources, we collect financials and tax returns, and again, verify that they're not duplicating benefits with other programs. And then if there's still remaining need, that's what these funds would go towards.

Legislative Chair Bartels: So I'm sorry, is, does that mean that the need is on to some degree is self-reported, because if it's not based on a differential from the previous year, then how, how is the need actually verified against? Again, I get it if it's a startup business, but short of a startup, how is the need actually verified against previous years?

Director of Economic Development Wiedemann: So that, the need is self-reported in the sense that these are businesses that make a statement as to what their need is and how it relates to the impact of the pandemic. And so you know, I'll give one example, that's just top of mind, Alleyway Ice Cream, which is an ice cream retailer up in Saugerties that recently opened. And they struggled in the pandemic, because they were forced to close their retail establishment. They applied for funds in order to buy equipment to do wholesale. And so it's an, at, adapting to the new circumstances where retail alone can be very vulnerable and risky for a business, a small business like that. And so, you know, this is a little different from programs that explicitly look at loss of revenue or loss of funds. This is about trying to find ways to help our businesses that are needy businesses by virtue of the fact that their low to moderate income owners adapt to the new world of the pandemic.

Legislative Chair Bartels: If I may, just, what, two more questions. Um, so a couple things if you could provide the, the application, a blank example of the application that was required for the Cares Act, that would be helpful, and, and add a draft of the application that you're proposing to use? If there's any difference from the Cares Act application. And then also, just speaking for myself, you know, it would be helpful to have- you just gave one example of a business that received the funding, it would be helpful to, to know which businesses received the funding and to understand how these, you know, how, how these these funds impacted their businesses? That would, that for me that would, that would help to paint a more clear picture of what's of what's happening.

Director of Economic Development Wiedemann: Understood, and I'm happy to share. We have, I think there's a few of the most recent ones that are not in the summary that I have right in front of me right now. But I can make sure that those are added and then send that around.

Chairman Criswell: Thank you. Great, thank you. Legislator Sperry.

Legislator Sperry: Thank you for your presentation, and just kind of piggybacking off of what Chair Bartels just said, I was curious to know, obviously, there's a lot of need, and you had a lot of applications and just wondering what industries are at the most need right now? Like, is it you know, hospitality? Is it housing? Is it construction? Like small, you know, it would be good to know what categories of business have the most need at this moment, because I think that that's also gonna help

us to understand where needs are within things that we might want to be funding through ARPA funding for other things. So I don't know if it's possible for you to share with us, like the data that you have and kind of break it down into category.

Director of Economic Development Wiedemann: Yeah, I think I think it would be helpful. And I'm sorry, I don't have it in a format that I can share easily right now. But I can certainly send it around through, through Legislator Criswell. The list of the businesses that were in the first two rounds that were funded through the state, the state funding, and I think it gives a really good sense of the diversity here. It is a lot of restaurants and hospitality establishments, it's also health and wellness providers, and, you know, kind of a wide range of other kind of miscellaneous businesses. And so I think as I share that list, you'll, you'll get a sense of the, the demand out there, and it's, you know, every one of them immediately, you know, kind of resonated, at least with me about why this would be a business that would find it difficult to adapt in a kind of post pandemic world. So I think you'll, you'll see, as I as I have that this is, I think, tapping into a deep need that's out there. That's really, you know, a challenge for a lot of these small businesses.

Legislator Sperry: Thank you.

Chairman Criswell: And I was curious, if we do fund this with ARPA funds, could this be used as kind of a match? A challenge? You know, for some sort of a match or matching program? I know, you talked about additional funds being, being available with something that's really like a direct like three to one match or something like that.

Director of Economic Development Wiedemann: That's the intent. I think, you know, the way the state works with their community development block grant funds, I don't think that they really explicitly would call it that, but we've been told through the conversation we've had with OCR, that they, you know that they would find it compelling if we could come back with a second ask that includes a match from the county. And so this would represent that match. We've received one million from them so far, to match that with a million from the county and then to go back to the state for a third million feels like a compelling way to argue that this is not just a handout, this is a request to leverage funding from the county with additional state funding.

Chairman Criswell: That's great. Thank you very much. You know, I think the, the one comment that I've heard consistently is that, you know, we're really interested in making sure that this funding is seed funding, that's going to have long term effects. So I think also in your reporting, if you can just somehow talk about some of the long term implications that some of this funding could have with these businesses, I think that would be helpful in the argument. Any other questions?

Legislator Walter: Joe.

Chairman Criswell: Yes, did I just hear Legislator..

Legislator Walter: Legislator Maloney had his hand up first, and Legislator Walter had her hand up second.

Chairman Criswell: Thank you. Legislator Maloney.

Legislator Maloney: Thank you. I got a couple of quick questions and comments. One is this kind of stuff always makes me uncomfortable. Government getting involved in this. And the parameters are

important to make sure I will remind everyone and this is a conversation for the future to keep having. That the Executive side of the government is day to day operations. We, you know, Chairwoman Bartels is asking some great questions, trying to get down to the bottom of how this is being decided how much discretion is being used. What is the overall approach? I think the Legislature probably should have been involved in that to begin with, but we are where we are. One thing I heard with regards to parameters that made me a little uncomfortable is I would have thought that there would have been approached: this is helping businesses that are failing because of the pandemic. But it sounds like we're actually funding businesses that started very close to the pandemic. How do we know they're failing because of the pandemic? It might, we might have a feeling for it. But that's not good enough for me. I feel as though one of the parameters should have been, you should have been in business for several years before the pandemic, because this is all about the future. And if we're going to subsidize businesses with tax dollars, we should be ensuring that these businesses are going to exist in the future. So the fact that businesses are starting up, and we're paying them as they fail as startups makes me very nervous, and I want, I wonder about that decision. Another question I have, is with regards to how are we vetting them? We're all reading stories every day about COVID funds being abused? And I like to trust people, but you have to verify. We have the Comptroller sitting here. Maybe they have some ideas. But what how have we gone back and made sure, especially as you're talking about spending another million dollars, looks like a lot of time and energy goes into this, which concerns me about day to day operations. But we've done it, have we gone back and vetted? Do we have some mechanism of control to make sure that we're not- I'll tell you right now, if we're giving money out to over 100 people, I guarantee there's some people that are getting the money that don't necessarily fit what we want to do and maybe even be abusing the situation. How do we know before we go forward? That, what's our, what are we doing to vet it? Some of the things I heard was almost trusting while if they were getting money from somewhere else they had to minus that off. Well, or do we have a way to check that? And have we been checking it. If you could touch upon a couple of concerns I have, especially with the, the fraud aspect, and the also the startup business that might not be a good business. We're already government getting involved in the private sector in a way that makes me a little uncomfortable. And now we're picking and choosing winners, maybe businesses that are just failing, because they're failing maybe Co-, and now we're going to go well, they would have made it if it wasn't for COVID. So we'll keep them going.

Chairman Criswell: Thank you so much. Let's- Tim do you want to respond to that?

Director of Economic Development Wiedemann: Yeah, if you don't mind, I'll just quickly respond and happy to have more conversation about this. But the first thing on, on, on questions and concerns about fraud, I should, I should mention explicitly, which I didn't, that this is a reimbursement grant program. So applicants come forward on a first come, first serve basis, documenting that they're eligible for the funds per the requirements of the state. Once they're awarded, then they go out and spend the money that they've documented under a contract that we have with them. And they submit receipts and verification of expense, and then they are reimbursed for those funds. So you know, I think just to clarify Legislator Maloney there is documentation to back up the expenses. That expense occurs before there's, there's an actual payment made to the awardees. And then why, why fund new businesses? I would point out that most of the awardees have been in business for longer than three years. But I think it's important to recognize that the businesses that were founded in 2019, 2020, even 2021 are important to our local economy. These are businesses you have struggled to, and they have often been ineligible for other sources of support. And honestly, if we want to continue to have a thriving economy, we need to support our startup businesses in addition to our established businesses.

Chairman Criswell: Thank you, sir. Legislator Walter.

Legislator Walter: Thank you. Um, so we do know that with the pandemic, small businesses owned by black owners, probably closed at double the rate of those by white owners. Do you have a parameter that specifically addresses this with a special attention to those businesses? Can you speak on that on how you're addressing that?

Director of Economic Development Wiedemann: Sure, um, our primary method to address that, which I agree with entirely, and I think the data bears it out, has been to do targeted outreach to minority and women owned businesses and veteran owned businesses to make sure that they're aware of this program. Again, as a first come first serve with strict eligibility requirements established by the state, we don't feel that there's a way for us to impose additional eligibility requirements but we've tried to compensate for that by doing targeted outreach to make sure that those populations and those business owners are aware of that program. And I think it bears out with a substantial number of the businesses that have been awarded so far as either minority or women owned businesses or veteran owned businesses.

Legislator Walter: When you give the other information do you think you can provide that information to?

Director of Economic Development Wiedemann: Yep.

Chairman Criswell: Great. Thank you. Any other Committee Mem- Oh, Legislator Litts.

Legislator Litts: Yes, thank you. Unfortunately, what Tim forgot to mention is, this program is reimbursed by the state, funded through the state, and it is vetted. It's done through the EDA. So, and there are two Legislators that sit on EDA, and the money is not appropriated or funded to those applicants until they've been gone through a vetted process, they've been looked at by the County Attorney, then it goes to the state and the state approves it. And if the state approves, it, approves it, it comes down, then EDA votes on it. And then once it's all approved in that manner, those many steps, then the applicant is, is, is awarded the money. So it's vetted several times, not only at the County level, not only by Legislative people on the board, not only by the County Attorney, but also by the State of New York, long before they issue any money.

Chairman Criswell: Thank you.

Legislator Litts: I know, and I know that the businesses in my area that have been awarded the money are businesses that have been in business for over 20 years.

Chairman Criswell: Thank you, sir. Any other committee members have any questions? Already. I am- Legislator Bartels.

Legislative Chair Bartels: I just wanted to add if it wasn't included, Tim, when you, when you provide the list of businesses, can you also provide the geographic location of each of them? Thank you.

Chairman Criswell: Thank you. So, so to the committee, I'm going to recommend that we take no action on this tonight and revisit it in two weeks. Is that alright with all the committee members? Yes. I see thumbs up.

Legislator Levine: Do we need a motion to table or?

Chairman Criswell: I don't- No. I think we're just gonna take no action. So Hearing no objection, we're gonna take no action on that. We're gonna move on to Resolution 30. Do I hear a motion for discussion for Resolution 30?

Legislator Corcoran: Motion.

Chairman Criswell: Second, please.

Legislator Levine: Second.

Chairman Criswell: All in favor?

Group: Aye.

Chairman Criswell: Thank you. Mr. Kelly, are you going to be talking to us about this Resolution?

Director of Recovery & Resilience Litwin: I'm here to speak on this. I work closely with a- Deputy Executive Kelly. My name is Nate Litwin. I'm the Director of Recovery and Resilience, colloquially referred to as the ARPA team. I'm here. I believe they were here in the beginning. I hope they made it this far. I have two colleagues as part of this ARPA team: Molly and Ashley. We've been working since the end of November, by way of introduction we are employees of course of Ulster County. We are in the Ulster County Finance Department. Work also closely with Burt Gulnick, and are an administrative division. So...

Chairman Criswell: It's nice to meet you. I think we've heard all about you. And now we're putting names and faces. And so thank you very much for being here tonight.

Director of Recovery & Resilience Litwin: Great. And I just of course wanted to make sure everybody understands my role and our role. It's very nice to meet you. It's very excited to be here to, to present something we've worked on. And with that, I'd love to jump into also a PowerPoint that I think will take you through our Resolution.

Chairman Criswell: Please do so.

Director of Recovery & Resilience Litwin: Okay. So yeah. Okay, so everybody should be able to see that. Where they're looking at Ulster County Finance Department Division of Recovery and Resilience, Nonprofit Recovery and Resilience Grants. That is what we're discussing tonight. And I'm presenting on regarding Resolution Number 30 and funding of \$1.5 million. That would be a start for, for this, this would fund for this grant. So program overview. We're asking for \$1.5 million to be made available to Ulster County nonprofit organizations. So this is a grant specific for nonprofits. Funding will be awarded at levels between 5000 and just under 50,000. This will allow for at least 30 separate awards, nonprofits, and this is as it's defined by the Treasury, US Treasury rules would be 501C(3), so that's charitable organizations, and 501C(19), which is veteran services organizations

and was recently put into this definition by the Treasury rules. So those are the two types of nonprofits that are eligible for the grant. Nonprofits who apply must have a bricks and mortar physical presence in Ulster County and primarily serve the residents of the county of Ulster. Nonprofits must be an established organization and operation for at least a year prior to January 27 2020. And we chose that date because that's the date US Treasury uses in creating regulations for ARPA funds as the date for start of the Coronavirus pandemic. Applicants cannot be a municipality, school district, private or religious school. Program purpose. So, we wish to, it, with, with the grant we wish to provide economic relief to Ulster County nonprofits who have been negatively impacted by the COVID 19 pandemic. There will be two applicant pathways. And so this is one of those pathways. We're calling it the Recovery Application for economic nonprofits that have been negatively impacted. Also, another applicant path pathway is to build the organizational capacity of Ulster County nonprofits so they can meet increased community needs as a result of the COVID 19 pandemic. This is the second application. The Resilience Application which is more of programs to meet expanded community need that has also occurred. The program purpose follows the outcome have completed community outreach done in the summer of 2021 and is as described in the Ulster County Recovery and Resilience plan, plan completed in June 2021. This grant is an initial funding round to nonprofits and does not include funding for capital investments. I mentioned that because in the Recovery and Resilience plan that was written up for Ulster County in June 2021, there was an identified need for a capital investments. We hope for success in this first round. And hope to base on any, anything learned through doing the grant. We hope to include capital investments into the future. But for now, we're just looking to help nonprofits with, with the needs on the ground for loss of revenue and for heightened community need. So, today a little bit deeper into what the Recovery Application is. It provides funds to nonprofits who have had declines in revenue. This includes overall declines in revenue or specific losses due to inability to hold fundraising events. They have had rent, mortgage, utility, or overhead costs that have gone unpaid since January 22, 2020. They've had payroll and benefit costs that have gone unmet after March 3, 2021. This includes rehiring laid off staff or reinstating any cut to benefits or pay. They have been unable to increase staff salaries since March 3, 2021. Nonprofits can apply to increase staff salaries first by 2022 Cost of Living (COLA) adjustment of 5.9%. Second, they can imply to increase salaries by 3% above the 2022 COLA amount. Funds will be one time and nonprofits are instructed to provide information on how funding will create long term recovery. So the second application pathway for community need. This provides funding for 13 project categories. And this is just the titles of these categories: arts and culture, education, healthy childhood environments, housing, job training, mental health, food access, public health, substance use and behavioral health prevention and education, senior transit assistance, technology upgrades, underserved children and youth programs, assistance and veteran services. I have, I'm not going to read all this, of course. But I wanted to just, I, this is part of the package that I gave to the special committee. And this is our Schedule A that breaks down each of those 13 categories. So I urge the committee to read this. And if there's any questions, this will help define what each of those categories are.

We recognize and of course this is just draft applications. But we are, have done a lot of work and are ready to release as soon as funding is hopefully approved. And upon release of, of this nonprofit grant, we recognize that there are some nonprofits who could be in need of both economic relief and program funding, because there's increased community need. So that's why we've allowed for combined applications, which would essentially mean that a nonprofit could finish and complete both applications, submit them to us. Of course, the total of both applications cannot be above the award ceiling for the grant. So receipt of funding and reporting. For awards of 10,000 or less funding will be distributed upfront after contract signing and receipt of the organization's invoice. For awards over \$10,000 half of the funding is distributed upfront, and the remaining half is distributed after receipt

of expenditure documentation and fulfillment of reporting requirements for the initial 50%. All funding is subject to submission of proof of expenditure documentation. funds must be expended by the nonprofit, nonprofit within one year of the date of contract.

And the proposed timeline, this is, we hope to move as quickly as we can on this given the need we see in the community. So February 16, we've put which is the date after the February Legislative meeting. And that's the earliest date we have to issue this RFA: Request for Application. Two weeks after our application is issued, we plan to have an information webinar. We want our nonprofits to be well informed of the requirements of this grant and provide good applications. So we will be providing that opportunity for nonprofits. Two weeks prior to application deadline is a deadline for applicant questions. And we will post questions and answers. We will write them up and post for all prospective applicants and their benefit. March 31 2022, we hope to have our application deadline. And summer of 2022 we hope to provide awards to winning applicants.

So just get back here.

Chairman Criswell: Thank you

Director of Recovery & Resilience Litwin: So that's the overview and I am happy to answer any questions.

Chairman Criswell: Great. I had a couple quick questions then I'll open it up to other committee members. One of them had to do with the timeline that you just presented. If that end date was moved a month further is that going to do any drastic changes to your process?

Director of Recovery & Resilience Litwin: Um, it will put us back a month but it's not going to be the end of the world. I think the, the largest thing, of course, is that we need funding from the Legislature. So we're, we're in the hands of the Legislature and we're happy to work with you to see how this can be done.

Chairman Criswell: Thank you. The other question I had was, you know, we did have we had a program called Legislative Programs in our, for many years. And there's monies that are allocated for Legislative Programs. And I'm wondering why these funds are not connected to those Legislative Program dollars that are already allocated?

Deputy Executive Kelly: Peter, if I may?

Chairman Criswell: Yes.

Deputy Executive Kelly: So I think this is meant to capture a broader audience, and have a competitive application process. This, this is kind of fed from, I think, to Legislator Corcoan's point earlier of just having a more competitive and broader county focus here. And I think of competitive call for applications to see what we surface, we may see that we're not getting the usual kind of suspects here, that typically apply for funds, we're trying to do the low dollar, the 5,000 so we can capture some of these other non-for-profits that may not have been surfaced to us in the past.

Chairman Criswell: I appreciate that. And I want to say I think that was the direction and Legislator Corcoran can confirm this, that we were trying to head with Legislative Program dollars, so that we were trying to spread the monies into all directions in Ulster County and try and you know, just cast a

wider net of who we're looking at. So I think we had the same objectives for where we were going to be heading with this Legislature Programs allotment that was happening in in this fiscal year. Questions for the committee? Any committee members have questions? Okay, Legislator Maloney.

Legislator Maloney: So if I'm understanding this is similar to the last Resolution, it's just about non-for-profits that are, that have struggled through COVID.

Deputy County Executive Kelly: Yes, that's correct.

Legislator Maloney: All right. I just feel like we could take the tax dollars, even that we're spending doing this, and the tax dollars that were going to \$5,000 \$10,000, we could take that and actually give it to a non for profit to do the work of the people that just kind of picking and choosing and sprinkling around a little bailout to a non-for-profit. I assume this is going to get tabled too. I'm gonna need more time to kind of work through this, but it feels, I don't know.

Chairman Criswell: Can you clarify what you just said? I actually just... we're kind...

Legislator Maloney: So if, so, non-for-profit, if I'm, if I'm understanding it, non-for-profits are gonna come to us and they're gonna say, "Hey, I struggled through COVID, I wasn't able to raise funds, like I'm, I'm now behind on my rent", there's certain non-for-profit they're struggling. We go okay, I'll get you up to speed. But that's not really helping anyone, it's helping pay their bills, their rent, or something or, for not-for-profit, not-for-profit, some have made it through COVID. So we're spending money on a non-for-profit, but we're really not getting services out of it at this moment. Not sure that's what ARPA, once again, I'll be, you know, pushing this in caucus, that we need big, big, big, long term, you know, and there's not enough money to do 50 of these things, in my opinion. But that's just how I feel. And...

Chairman Criswell: Thank you. Thank you so much for that clarification, Deputy Executive Kelly, and then I'm going to go to the Chair, Chairwoman Bartels.

Deputy County Executive Kelly: So I just want to be very clear on this. The program is designed based on the language in the bill. So it's a called for use of ARPA funds and it was the intention of Congress to use funds for these purposes. When we're talking about COLA or the different adjustments, it's language from the Final Rule regarding this. So this is not something- it's also based on many conversations with Community Foundations, Dyson Foundations, United Way, Arts Mid-Hudson. A lot of different conversations have gone into recognizing a need in the non-profit community. Many of them shuttered their doors, many of their donors were not giving. So I think that this is actually one of the specific call for uses. And I yeah, I do think that this is a very appropriate use to help these community organizations.

Chairman Criswell: Thank you. And I appreciate you reminding us that there are federal guidelines for this spending that we need to continually use as the, the mirror for what we're doing. So we just have to keep going back to those guidelines.

Legislator Maloney: If I just quickly could respond to, because he kind of made it sound like I was saying this wasn't what ARPA funds-, this is not what I want to do with ARPA funds. We don't there's a million things that we could do. I don't know.

Chairman Criswell: Noted. Thank you so much. Chairwoman Bartels.

Legislative Chair Bartels: Thank you. Yeah, I mean, I think, I think Legislator Maloney is sort of, you know, raising the discussion point that these are going to be difficult decisions, you know, yes, it's an it's an allowed use. But, as I said, at the start, you know, I believe that there's more need than there is funds. So. So at some point, we're going to have to make difficult decisions about, you know, which projects we fund, and that, that really requires that, you know, that zoom out. My, my question about this one is, is really back to, to need, you know, we've talked about not-for-profits that had to shutter and, you know, certainly many, many of them did during the height of the pandemic, and probably have come back around to nap, but I'm looking at the application. And what I'm concerned about is how we verify the need? Or is this not need-based first? Because it was, I'm looking at this application I'm not seeing in this one, even really, the necessity of the proof of the need. You know, there are questions about did you, you know, how, how were you affected? Not, you know, not did you suffer a loss? Because so I guess my question is, is it, is that an important question? Are we, are we, do we want to confirm that there were losses that we're trying to- Where are we trying to strengthen organizations that may not have suffered a loss, but can do more? And I'm posing that as a question because I don't know, I don't know the answer. In terms of what, what we're looking to achieve with this.

Chairman Criswell: Deputy Executive Kelly, you want to respond to that?

Deputy County Executive Kelly: Nate. Do you want this one?

Director of Recovery & Resilience Litwin: Yeah. So one thing I want. Number one, just, we hope to be as ARPA Division, we hope to be, like, become the expert on the Legislative rules. We recognize that there is a lot there. I saw in the special committees, some of the packet that was given out, there's 700 pages there. 400 of which were the Final Rule. The Final Rule just came out weeks ago, followed, you know, so Treasury has been obviously writing and doing a lot, and there's a lot of information there. What's, and I hope everybody does have the chance to honestly read the Final Rule, but it is quite a quite a, a lot. If you read it, I think you'll find that it's actually amazingly non-restrictive. It's so broad, this, this ARPA funding, and there's so many ways it can be used. That is one reason why that those regulations are there and why it's gone to such length. But when you get through it all, the major thing the federal government wants is for the funds to be used. And, and they've made it on unprecedentedly easy to do and I say easy, don't think I say that loosely, because I know that this comes with oversight. But I, I guess I want to make the point, with that introduction that non-profits are beneficiaries under the federal rules. And that is different than these other designations that I think this committee will start to hear such as sub-recipients. Sub-recipients, you know, carries a lot more weight and requires a contract and requires a lot of number of other things. Beneficiary is, is exactly with the Deputy Executive said, his, his, who is one of the types of organizations that that this money at the federal government wants this money to go for, and has made it exceedingly simpler to, to give to. And, and I think one way to understand that is that there was obviously in in Cares Act and other programs, there was money given to, to individuals directly through the federal government. And this is a little bit of the federal government's opportunity for creation of that opportunity for nonprofits. So we don't want to hold it up. We really want to get it out there. We do want to do our due diligence, and we do want to make sure it's not misused. But we also want to follow the step of the federal government and making it as easy as, as they've outlined for us to do so.

Chairman Criswell: Nate, are you going to create us a beautiful one page, boiled down version of the Final Rule?

Director of Recovery & Resilience Litwin: I certainly hope so, if, but I don't know, that could take a long time. I'd love to.

Chairman Criswell: Just put that on your to do list, as I said. No, I, I actually attended a meeting today that was the National Association of Counties. And it was all about the Final Rules and talking about the ways that they have actually opened them up and broaden some of the some of the language. So, yeah, I think it's important that as a committee, we at least have some, you know, working knowledge of what these Final Rules are. And it's a lot of information, but I sent you all the link today so you can look on that county web, that National Organization of Counties' website, and it's very clear, actually about what the changes were from the initial to the final. And I think you'll find that useful. I want to keep moving us along, because I'm aware of the time it's 7:15. So is there any more discussion on this? Yes. Comptroller Gallagher.

Comptroller Gallagher: Um, hi. Hi to the ARPA team. Welcome to Ulster County. I did look at the application and I'm pleased to see that you're asking things for things like, you know, have you applied for PPP loan, and I see that you're asking for the percentage breakdown of charitable support that the organization gets. And I want to just say, we are in a unique position in Ulster County with respect to the NoVo Foundation, which is the size of a small city and its annual spending, I urge you to directly ask how much NoVo support each organization is getting and what the future commitment is, because many times NoVo was granting on a multi-year basis, which is terrific, but it's something that you might want to take into consideration. Just asking the percentage of charitable support in a current given year's operating budget is not really sufficient for the long term. You know, planning for these organizations. So I, I probably have other thoughts on the application, especially coming from my Community Foundation CEO hat. And I would be happy to work with you guys on that. I don't want to take too much time tonight. Thanks.

Chairman Criswell: Thank you. Legislator Sperry, I saw your hand.

Legislator Sperry: Yes, thank you. I just wanted to ask the same question that I asked him earlier is if you could give us some indication of the types of nonprofits that are in need. Um, I'm not sure if you have data from people that have expressed interest already. But again, I think it would be good for us to understand like categories of nonprofits that are in need, so that we can assess, you know what the need is as far as this program.

Chairman Criswell: Thank you. I also want to recommend, I shared a document with Deputy Executive Kelly a while back, which was a matrix that the Legislative Programs team had come up with to look at possible funding against, and it really did have a good set of questions. And I don't know if you shared that Deputy Executive but I think we worked hard on that and I want to make sure that it goes somewhere as useful.

Deputy County Executive Kelly: Yes, we will do that.

Chairman Criswell: Great. Thank you very much. All right. I'm going to move us along here. And as the other, with the other Resolutions I'm gonna suggest that tonight we take no action on this. Unless I hear any objections. All right, moving on. Resolution 31. Do I hear a motion to discuss?

Legislator Lopez: So moved.

Chairman Criswell: Thank you. And the second please.

Legislator Sperry: Second.

Chairman Criswell: All in favor.

Group: Aye

Chairman Criswell: Great. Alright, so discussion, and this is the funding Capital Project Number six-zero-two ARP Infrastructure and Trails. Um, who is going to speak to that? Yes, Deputy Executive.

Deputy County Executive Kelly: So, we have Kevin O'Connor from RUPCO and his team.

Chairman Criswell: Perfect. Kevin, you want to take the reins?

Kevin O'Connor: Sure. I would be happy to. I have PowerPoint presentations. With your permission I'll share the screen.

Chairman Criswell: Absolutely. Thank you

Kevin O'Connor: I'd say yeah, let's see. You're saying that?

Chairman Criswell: Yes, we see it. Thank you.

Kevin O'Connor: Sorry about the delay. So yeah, Chairperson Criswell and members of the Legislature and colleagues, thank you for the opportunity. Given the housing crisis and the plight of the homeless that we are experiencing, we've seen an opportunity to partner with Family of Woodstock and Catholic Charities to purchase the Quality Inn to provide supportive permanent housing and supportive housing for the homeless. I'm joined tonight by Michael Berg and Shannon Kelly, I believe you're still with me as well as my colleagues, Emily Hamilton and Kristen Wilson. The hotel is for sale, we have a purchase sale agreement. And we're currently at the end of our due diligence period. So there is some critical timing to this request. The need for homeless housing in Ulster County is stark. It has been for, for many years and includes emergency housing, but certainly supportive housing and permanent housing for the homeless. The hotel Quality Inn here, the Thruway is 144 hotel room and it's our intention to convert it to 81 apartments a mix of Studio One, two and three bedrooms to be able to serve homeless families and individuals with special needs. At this location, we hired mass design from Poughkeepsie to bring what's known as a trauma informed care design so that all aspects of the facility are being considered: lights, face color, texture, to help create and contribute to a sense of well-being. I urge you to consider the leverage that these ARPA funds can bring in all of your projects, frankly, but certainly here. We have already won an award from Empire State supportive housing initiative. I think Shannon and Michael for, Michael wrote the grant. And so we have Empire State supportive housing initiative, which will provide significant annual subsidies to this project to the tune of between two and 2.5 million dollars annually for rental assistance and to pay for the supportive services, the types of which you see here to be able to permanently house the homeless but provide robust services for them as well. So we've already leveraged significant dollars, and we hope to be able to leverage significant capital dollars as well.

We have taken a look at the breakdown of the housing that we will create here combining some of the units. We also intend to keep the pool as a therapeutic use. We have some common space with to provide services. We have some plans for the outside that I'll show you in a second. And we also have a former restaurant, The Routegan Steakhouse, that frankly, we're looking to put out in both ways. Perhaps a commercial franchise operation to attract the public onto the site, or perhaps a more supportive venue at that location as well. Current parking lot, we hope to be able to add the building, change the image, provide a rich array of activity space, gardening. We hope to bring us a green and sustainable design with solar and energy efficiency to the site as well. We're gonna have a commercial space that we are looking for a variety of potential uses for on the site. An aerial view shows the proximity to the through a potential we are purchasing the vacant lot in between the hotel and the Thruway for growing food, walking trails and other things to take advantage of the full sight. As I mentioned, we've already secured the Empire State Supportive Housing Initiative for up to 100 units. We think we're going to end up at around 80 units. They are looking at our capital stack for something that could go as high as \$29 million. It will include a permanent loan. We have had conversations with a number of the other capital sources including New York State oh two that have their homeless housing assistance program. We've been talking with New York State homeless and Community Renewal about federal funding A development block grant and our HOME funds. And we've seen that New York State appropriate \$100 million in their helping our Neighbors With Dignity Act (HONDA) funds that are specific to fund the purchase of hotels and/or obsolete office buildings specifically to create permanent supportive housing for the homeless. Currently that, that funding is, apparently, while the program and the law went statewide the appropriations still seems this past year to be stuck to the City of New York. We're hoping to see these funds go statewide. So we're looking to leverage a significant capital dollars. We're looking to develop sort of a best-in-class approach to providing supportive housing. We've seen the last of our SRO units here in the City of Kingston, I think, now with the other Manor House closing, we've lost it, we're gonna lose about 120 units. You know, here in the Hudson Valley in terms of housing and housing the homeless and those with special needs, we've seen the closing of our psychiatric centers, Ulster County farmed out their mental health several years ago, the cost of housing is tremendous, and, you know, in, in what led us to develop landmark place, which we recently opened up, at least half of the facility, was our tour of the boarding homes, you know, seven or eight years ago. And what I witnessed then was it was nearly- on the one hand without that people would be on the street but on the other hand, the conditions were horrendous. You know, typically I'd walk into a boarding home, house room, room, there'd be four beds, four TVs, three of the TVs are on, the bed linens are touching so the bedbug infestation was constant. You know, two people are sitting in the room, and you look at a young man and say "How long have you lived here?" and he said "seven years". It's why we've tried to, in particular, with pandemic to create permanent housing, housing, where everyone has their own apartment with shared services, but everyone has the dignity and the safety, specifically in a pandemic, to have their own apartment.

The timeline is to start construction in the fall, completed within a year and occupied in late '23 or early '24. I think the, the need is to extend water and sewer infrastructure to this side of the Thruway to serve the Quality Inn which we will rename because the current sewage treatment plant has a shelf life of three years or less, and the water simply not suitable. This, bringing the water and sewer across, we understand might serve others, but it's critical to serve our project. Again, we're really quite thrilled to have the partnership between Family and Catholic Charities and ourselves to move this project forward. We, our board of directors here at RUPCO is prepared to authorize our borrowing of nearly \$4 million to accomplish the purchasing and the pre-development. We believe this is an approximate \$2 million ask under the infrastructure portion of ARPA funding to specifically provide water and sewer across the Thruway to this site, and perhaps others, and I think

it will offer a truly beneficial and much needed permanent housing, supportive housing option to better care for the homeless here in Ulster County. I'll ask Michael or Shannon if they'd like to add anything. And I thank you for your time.

Chairman Criswell: Thank you. Michael, Shannon, do you want to add anything to the conversation?

Shannon Kelly: No, thank you. Kevin's covered it.

Chairman Criswell: Thank you. Committee members. Questions? Chairwoman Bartels.

Legislative Chair Bartels: Thank you. And thank you for the presentation. Um, so the 2 million is the estimated- is that the estimated total cost for the extension of the sewer and the water infrastructure?

Deputy County Executive Kelly: If I may.

Chairman Criswell: Yes.

Deputy County Executive Kelly: Yeah, so Dennis Larios, who's an engineer for- working with the Town of Ulster has estimated 800,000 dollars on sewer and 1.2 million on water.

Legislative Chair Bartels: Okay, great. Thank you. And so my follow on question is, has there been a discussion with the town of Ulster about putting in a portion of this money? The Town of Ulster, my understanding is they're receiving 1.38 million in ARPA funds. So I'm curious why the full ask is to the county?

Deputy County Executive Kelly: So they are going to assume full responsibility for the water and sewer system post development and any extensions beyond RUPCO's property there. So in terms of our interest, our interest is mainly in the project. So that's where we're jumping in. But the Town assumes the full responsibility of the maintenance of the water district once it's done.

Michael Berg: This is Michael Berg.

Chairman Criswell: Yes. Hi, Michael.

Michael Berg: Could I say a few things about the Project?

Chairman Criswell: Please, please go ahead.

Michael Berg: First, I want the Committee and Legislature to understand that there are virtually no motel rooms in our County. People are being sent to Greene County, because we don't have motel rooms. People being sent places that they'd had no connection to, like from Kingston to Highland or, or to Ellenville. Because those are the only beds available in the County. What this plan would do would be to, to take 89 single individuals and families that are living in single rooms, there are families that have been living in a single room for over a year, for multiple years. This will give them the opportunity to be able to cook, to be able to live a normal life. It's another thing to point out, which is that it's just, it seems like the water and sewer is that make or break for this project. But if this project happens, it will save the county in County Tax, Tax dollars by up to that \$1.346 million a

year. That's the County share of putting 81 families and individuals in motels. So while you will be spending ARP money, you will be saving County dollars. You know as an agency that really struggles every night, to place people that are homeless in motels if we can, and to find solutions. This is the biggest project that we have seen, that will help families and single individuals. While it's only 6% of ARP money, it will have a huge impact. It will bring a lot of dollars into the county, it will provide services that are not available, it will help families and individuals that are suffering very badly now. The other thing I would say is that we need the county to make this commitment so that we can move ahead and get the money to build the project. We have a commitment from me shy of over \$2 million a year in operating money. We know that the program will happen if we can get it built. So when a project is evaluated for whether it should be fought supported, there's the issue of whether we have site control, we have site control, whether the community supports it, we have been told that if this if the water and sewer goes through the Town of Ulster will support it. And, and the project is of such significance that I really feel it has to be funded if this commitment is made. So I would ask you for your support. We don't need to spend the money now. But we need to get a commitment of the money so we can use it to leverage the capital dollars to build the facility and renovate it. Thank you.

Chairman Chriswell: Michael, thank you for your valuable input. Thank you so much for that. Committee members. Any other questions? All right, I'm gonna make a recommendation that we pick this back up in two weeks.

Legislative Chair Bartels: Legislator Levine has his hand up.

Chairman Criswell: Oh, I'm sorry. Thank you. Legislator Levine. I'm sorry about that, sir.

Legislator Levine: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just had a question regarding the logistics of the project. I kind of you know was looking at the PowerPoint presentation and I was looking at the, the back side of the project, you know, the schematic plans, the thruway, the Thruway facing side. And my only question and somewhat concern about it would be in regards to has there been any testing done or mitigation of, in terms of if there was an issue of- I know that some properties that are abutting the Thruway and there's been issues of contamination, health issues. A few people in Saugerties that have properties that are right up against the Thruway over the years have had to have had issues of, of cancer and other health issues. And, and I saw that there's a proposal to be putting you know, a garden in for, for farming purposes and for you know, cultivating of food. And I just wanted to make sure that, you know, any runoff or chemicals that might have been, and that might be used on the road aren't going to be leaching into the ground and causing issues for any tenants. So has that been looked into?

Kevin O'Connor: Aaron, thank you for your comments. And from RUPCOs perspective, we'll be doing both phase one and phase two environmental reviews, soils will be tested. And I think that we are really, as I said, prior to design from it really has as a leader currently in health and trauma informed care design. So all aspects, including very good points that you raised. We're concerned about the proximity to the Thruway. We're looking at various ways to plant trees and certainly protect children and what have you. But there is some space there. And we are suggesting at this point, and really, merely suggesting opportunities to, to develop some parts of that space, we'd love to have some growing food. But your points are well taken and all aspects will be carefully examined.

Chairman Criswell: Thank you for that. Legislator Sperry.

Legislator Sperry: Um, I realized that the ask here is for the ARPA money mostly for water and putting, you know, the sewage system in. But I'm just curious, because I'm assuming that a majority of the folks that will be living in this space will need to get into Kingston to go to doctors offices or visits or go grocery shopping or any appointments that they might have. So is there any thoughts about a shuttle system or some type of transportation from the property into Kingston?

Kevin O'Connor: Yes, Megan. That's another very good question, and a couple of responses. So just this past week, we received our first bus at Landmark place. So we at Landmark place had a program for, because even Landmark's a little further out. So it's a 10 seater doors open, you walk down, you can, you know, found an aisle and thrilled to have it and we're hiring a driver, we'll be running around transportation from Landmark for the tents there. Similarly at the Quality Inn you will have a bus. We will have our own buses, and we'll certainly take advantage of, of County but we want to run our own bus regular routes into Kingston to food, to all kinds of places. We are currently, you know, there are a number of hotels currently being used on the Route 28 Corridor. Two or three at currently. And we are seeing people walking. The corridor's not safe. We've had some preliminary conversations with the county to start to take a look at potential improvements to the road scape and issues of connectivity in terms of sidewalk development over time. And we'd love to play a role in increasing all of that. But the day we open we will have our own bus to provide transportation because it's a dangerous situation currently and we know we have to provide and make available that connectivity back to all of the amenities that people are going to need.

Chairman Criswell: Thank you and thank you Legislator Sperry for that question. That was on my mind as well. I appreciate you bringing that to the front. All right, with no more questions I'm going to again suggest that we take no action. Oh, I'm sorry, Legislator Greene. I keep wanting to move this along. I'm sorry.

Legislator Sperry: Legislator Greene and then Legislator Erner. There's two hands up.

Chairman Criswell: Thank you. Thank you. Legislator Greene.

Legislator Greene: Thank you. Um, I will commend the developers of this project, because I did hear sustainable building practices and reno-, renovation retrofitting facility and I even heard solar. And I'd like to request that we get more information on that. I'd like to have some specifics about what you are doing but you know, by way of ringing the bell you get a gold star for, for thinking of that and including it. But I really would like to have more detail if that could be provided, but thank you.

Chairman Criswell: Kevin, you got the gold star tonight from Manna. Legislator Erner.

Legislator Erner: Thank you, Chair Criswell. Some concerns over contaminants in the City of Kingston drinking water has come to my attention recently. What's the source of the water going to be at this facility?

Kevin O'Connor: I should have requested him, I don't have my Director of Construction. I believe it's Town of Ulster water. I think. Correct?

Deputy County Executive Kelly: I think we're connecting over to the Town Halls there, water on the Washington Avenue side, but I can confirm that with the engineer.

Chairman Criswell: If you could. If you could and then just send that back to the committee and Legislator Erner we'll make sure we get that question answered for you.

Deputy County Executive Kelly: Yeah, I but, I also just, don't, I don't want to, I don't have any knowledge of contaminants in Kingston water, so I can address the connection piece.

Chairman Criswell: Thank you. All right. Now, can I do last call and move this along? Okay. Thank you. So I'm going to again, suggest no action. We'll pick this up again in two weeks. And every, everybody on the committee okay with no action on this? Great, thank you very much. All right. Moving on. Can I have a motion for discussion of Resolution 32, please?

Legislator Corcoran: Motion.

Chairman Criswell: A second, please.

Legislator Levine: I'll second it. All in

Chairman Criswell: All in favor?

Group: Aye.

Chairman Criswell: Great. All right. Resolution 32. My understanding is the support Resolution for Resolution 29. Is that correct?

Deputy County Executive Kelly: Yes, sir.

Chairman Criswell: All right. So, I don't know how much of a discussion we have to have about this. But I'm happy to entertain questions. Or if you, if somebody would like to sort of quickly go over what why this Resolution exists.

Deputy County Executive Kelly: This is the companion to the Capital. So, this is the contract that would be entered into the, with the county and UCEDA.

Chairman Criswell: Great. So, we've really already heard the contents of the scope of service. So, I don't think we really need to have much discussion unless anybody wants to have lots of discussion about the creation of a contract. All right, seeing no interest in that long conversation. I'm just gonna also say we take no action on this for this evening and pick this back up when we when we meet in two weeks. Thumbs up on that everybody? Yes. Okay, great. I'm going to move forward with that. All right. So thank you. This has been a really good and full meeting. So thank you for your attention to this. As you know, we all have our work cut out for us. There's a lot of documentation that we still have to take in and understand. And we will be convening again. So we're looking at setting another meeting for either February 9th or February 10th. Do we want to try and figure that here? Or should we try and send you a Doodle Poll or something along those lines? Can we send a poll Amber? Or just poll out to the committee members and figure out 9 or 10? Great, that's what we'll do. We'll send you an email, we'll send committee members an email and try and get what date works better for you on that. Legislator Greene.

Legislator Greene: Yes, I want to ask, there were some working groups created.

Chairman Criswell: I brought that up Legislator Greene. And I said, I talked about the importance of those working groups, and that we reinvigorate them and make sure that they are a resource to this committee for deeper dives into subject areas that we, that we need a deeper dive into. So it's really on our radar, and I'm going to work with Chairwoman Bartels on identifying who was on that committee that is now off and who was who was on the assignment that's no longer on the Legislature, reassigning to those committees if we need to, and getting them back up and running. Am I speaking out of turn there Chairwoman Bartels? We did. We agreed on that. So great. So does that answer your question Legislator Greene?

Legislator Greene: Yeah, but I like we've, we've hired three people to work on this. And many Departments in the Executive branch. I like to have a commitment that those once they are re-identified and clear that there will be a meeting in February of those subcommittees. I, I've been waiting with information to share since October, so I want to do a by whom, by when. I really want to get specific.

Chairman Criswell: Um, I can't speak. Yeah, I was just gonna ask Chairwoman Bartels if you could speak to that, because you're better with the master schedule at this point.

Legislative Chair Bartels: Sure. I mean, I think that we're, we're really imagining, as, as Chair Criswell said, we're really imagining them as resources to this committee and not as having seven or eight separate standing meetings. To the extent that, that you have information to share Legislator Greene, I think that we could certainly look to schedule, you know, one of the specific meetings if there's specific work that needs to be done in advance of bringing it to this committee, but I just I don't want to make a commitment to having each of those committees automatically, necessarily come, each of those working groups automatically, necessarily meet because I think a lot of that discussion is going to happen here in this open forum. But for certain, if you would like, and we'll have to look at to make sure that, I know in the case of the working group that you were on, your counterpart is no longer in the Legislature so we'll need to make sure that that position gets appointed. And that we can go ahead and have that working group meeting and report back to this committee with the information that you that you want to bring to this committee in terms of the details.

Chairman Criswell: Thank you for that commitment to get those working groups reinvigorated and scheduled, and we will work on that. I just want to thank everybody again for their patience. And moving forward. I will try and keep these committee meetings to under an hour and a half. So did you have a question Legislator Litts or were you saying goodbye?

Legislator Litts: No, I did have a question.

Chairman Criswell: Oh, yes. Please.

Legislator Litts: It was an ask. When you determine when your next meeting is going to be whether it's on the ninth or tenth, would you notify the rest of us? So, I would really like to participate.

Chairman Criswell: Absolutely. Yes, Chairwoman Bartels.

Legislator Bartels: I just I also want to acknowledge legislator Litts' question and say that, I will make sure that all Legislators are always noticed on this, on the meetings of this committee. I've already spoken with the Clerk's office about providing support staff, for when the committee does

begin meeting in person again. We anticipate that will eventually happen. And at the point that the committee needs to be in person, I'm working with the Clerk's staff to make sure that we allow for the opportunity for Legislators to zoom in. Because I do think it's important that this committee hears the voices of any and all Legislators who are interested and willing to, to participate. And I for one, I'm going to be encouraging that participation among all Legislators. So absolutely, Legislator Litts. Thank you.

Chairman Criswell: And I want to just double on that and say, thank you so much for all the Legislators who showed up this evening and all your comments. I appreciate the thoughtful nature of them and the work that you did ahead of time to, to bring those thoughts to this meeting. With that said, I'm gonna ask for a motion to adjourn.

Legislator Maloney: Quickly.

Chairman Criswell: Legislator Maloney.

Legislator Maloney: Can we make sure we do our best to make sure anybody from the public, it's rarer and rarer but I think we need to do as much as we can.

Chairman Criswell: Absolutely, and just so you know, we did definitely publicize this meeting and tried to get the word out there about this. There was a press release specifically for this committee that went out and did list the information about how people could join so I'm really absolutely with you 100% on that. I would love the input of the public for how we spend this money. Alright, so that said. Motion to adjourn.

Legislator Corcoran: Motion.

Chairman Criswell: Second, please.

Legislator Sperry: Second.

Chairman Criswell: All in favor.

Group: Aye.

Chairman Criswell: Thank you all. Have a great rest of your evening.

Legislative Chair Bartels: Good night, everyone. Thank you.

Legislator Litts: Have a good day, stay safe, stay healthy.

Legislator Sperry: Thank you, everybody.

Time: 7:50 PM

Respectfully submitted: Amber Feaster
Minutes Approved: February 23, 2022