

Resolution #: \_\_\_\_\_

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TO ASSIST SMALL BUSINESSES IMPACTED BY TROPICAL STORM HELENE**

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- WHEREAS, on September 27, 2024, Tropical Storm Helene devastated portions of Buncombe County damaging many local businesses and the infrastructure necessary to conduct business and retain employees; and
- WHEREAS, the Buncombe County Board of Commissioners recognizes that supporting local businesses in the aftermath of Tropical Storm Helene is necessary to restoring Buncombe County's robust service industry and tourism economy and returning local employment to pre-storm levels; and
- WHEREAS, at a special meeting on November 1, 2024, the Buncombe County Board of Commissioners reallocated and dedicated Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (FRF) assets established under the federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) in the amount of \$1,597,053.34 to economic recovery; and
- WHEREAS, pursuant to the provisions of North Carolina General Statutes § 158-7.1, the Buncombe County Board of Commissioners may appropriate funds for economic development; and
- WHEREAS, pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 158-7.1, on November 6, 2024, the County published a notice of a publish hearing for the appropriation of funding for this economic development project; and
- WHEREAS, this Board finds and determines that these efforts to provide economic development grants to help businesses stay open and limit job losses as well as to facilitate a small business job retainage grant program to assist those individuals who have suffered substantial financial damages due to Tropical Storm Helene will further the economic interests of the County in numerous ways by creating a mechanism to increase and maintain the population, taxable property, employment, industrial output, and small business prospects in Buncombe County; and
- WHEREAS, after conducting a request for proposals, Buncombe County staff recommends that Mountain Biz Works be selected as the entity to manage and distribute the economic development grants to Buncombe County businesses in accordance with an Agreement prepared by the County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Commissioners of Buncombe County, North Carolina, as follows:

1. Pursuant to the provisions of N.C. Gen. Stat. § 158-7.1 this Board approves appropriating and spending from Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (FRF) assets established under the federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) in the amount of \$1,597,053.34 to Mountain Biz Works, Inc. to manage and distribute economic development grant funds for local businesses.

2. The County Manager is hereby authorized to enter into a Tropical Storm Helene Economic Development Grant Agreement with Mountain Biz Works, Inc. outlining the terms and conditions of the grant.

3. That all acts and doings of officers, employees and agents of the County, whether taken prior to, on, or after the date of this Resolution, that are in conformity with and in the furtherance of the purposes and intents of this Resolution as described above shall be, and the same hereby are, in all respects ratified, approved and confirmed.

4. Any prior resolutions or parts thereof of the Board in conflict with the provisions herein contained are, to the extent of such conflict, hereby superseded and repealed.

5. This Resolution is effective upon its adoption.

This the 19<sup>th</sup> day of November 2019.

ATTEST

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS FOR THE  
COUNTY OF BUNCOMBE

\_\_\_\_\_  
Sarah Gross, Clerk to the Board

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Brownie Newman, Chairman

APPROVED AS TO FORM

\_\_\_\_\_  
County Attorney