COMMISSIONERS COURT COMMUNICATION

SUBJECT: **DISCUSSION, AND POSSIBLE ACTION, CONCERNING ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATED WITH THE IMPACT OF THE CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) ON TARRANT COUNTY CITIZENS, BUSINESSES AND COUNTY GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS**

COMMISSIONERS COURT ACTION REQUESTED:

It is requested that the Commissioners Court authorize staff to begin to allocate County Coronavirus Relief Funds to eligible presumed payroll costs incurred by the County.

BACKGROUND:

The County's Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) monies ($209,816,857.00) must be expended by December 30, 2020. Tarrant County, through its four pillars, has expended all but approximately thirty-five percent (35%) of the funds. The County has incurred CRF eligible expenditures in excess of the remaining funds.

Recent guidance issued by the Department of Treasury in September provided that local governments are no longer required to demonstrate or substantiate that public health or public safety employees' functions and duties were in fact substantially dedicated to mitigating COVID-19 public health emergency as a pre-requisite to using CRF.

Instead, as an administrative accommodation, governments may now presume that public health and public safety employees meet the "substantially dedicated test," unless the chief executive of the local government determines that specific circumstances indicate otherwise.

Department of Treasury has included payroll and benefits expenses for public safety, public health, health care, human services, and similar employees whose services are substantially dedicated to mitigating or responding to the COVID-19 public health emergency.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The total amount of CRF monies is $209,816,857.00. The County's total CRF eligible payroll expenditures incurred is approximately $136,574,144.00. The projected amount of CRF remaining is $74,954,840.00, from which any remaining amount will be applied to the County's eligible expenses.

| SUBMITTED BY: | Administrators Office | PREPARED BY: | Lani Taylor |
| | | APPROVED BY: | G.K. Maenius |