# City of Stuart

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Eula R. Clarke
Mayor


March 1, 2021

Representative Brian Mast
U.S. House of Representatives
171 SW Flagler Avenue
Stuart, Florida 34994
*(Sent via Email: james.langenderfer@mail.house.gov)*

Senator Marco Rubio
U.S. Senate
4580 PGA Boulevard
Palm Beach Gardens, Florida 33418
*(Sent via Email: lauren_reamy@rubio.senate.gov)*

Senator Rick Scott
U.S. Senate
415 Clematis Street, Ste. 201
West Palm Beach, Florida 33401
*(Sent via Email: jon_foltz@rickscott.senate.gov)*

***Re: Support Direct Federal COVID-19 Funding Relief for all Cities***

Dear Congressional Members:

As Congress considers additional COVID-19 relief measures, the City of Stuart, Florida requests your support for direct federal funding for all municipal governments to help mitigate the losses from COVID-19.

COVID-19 has affected every Florida city, and has resulted in major public health and safety challenges requiring significant demand for the critical services our cities provide. Our cities not only help ensure the safety of our communities, but also employ thousands of essential workers. As cities face diminished revenues, any cuts to municipal staff impact both the ability to provide those services and contribute to our economic downturn. Absent direct federal assistance, some cities may have to make cuts to their workforce, exacerbating the economic and public health crisis we are facing.

The State of Florida has received more than $8.3 billion from the Coronavirus Relief Fund. While we appreciate efforts to try and address the financial impacts to the state and the 12 direct CARES Act recipients in the previous round of federal relief packages, due to the population thresholds in the CARES Act, only one Florida city qualified for direct federal support.

We need Congress to pass dedicated and flexible funding for all cities in the next stimulus package. **This is not a request for a handout, nor a call for a federal bailout.** Direct emergency funding to municipalities focused on COVID-19 will help to support local jobs and small businesses, protect local first responders and residents, and maintain essential services and keep neighborhoods safe.

Fiscally strong local governments are the key to ensuring a strong and successful recovery for the state of Florida. We not only want America to survive but also to thrive; and that begins at the local level.

Your attention to this matter is very much appreciated. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Eula R. Clarke
City of Stuart Mayor

ERC/rc

cc: City of Stuart Commissioners
David Dyess, City Manager
Allison Payne, Florida League of Cities *(**Sent via Email:** apayne@flcities.com)*