

TO THE HONORABLE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF BERRIEN COUNTY MICHIGAN: Your Committee on Committees respectfully recommends the following:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, in response to the dangers of the Coronavirus disease COVID-19, Michigan Governor Whitmer issued Executive Order 2020-4 on March 24, 2020 declaring a State of Emergency and subsequent executive orders thereafter, which ordered Michigan residents, to the fullest extent possible, to stay home and stay safe; and

WHEREAS, Governor Whitmer then distributed “hazard pay” to state employees out of federal funds they had received to financially support the COVID-19 response; and

WHEREAS, the Berrien County Board of Commissioners via resolution #B2004222, asked the Governor and the State Legislature to provide adequate funding to Michigan local governmental units so that they may also provide comparable hazard pay, not only to those working in public safety, but, for all the Berrien County employees that continued serving as an essential employee during that time thus creating a higher risk for contracting COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, in September of 2020 and again in November of 2020, Berrien County officials were notified that they were awarded funding as part of the First Responders Hazard Pay Premium Program, however, those funds were regulated to only be used for those direct front line workers in the field of public safety; and

WHEREAS, a multitude of other County employees did not get hazard pay and yet continued to work throughout the pandemic without any additional pay; and

WHEREAS, the Committee on Committees have deemed it appropriate to provide to all eligible full-time employees, a one-time hazard pay bonus of \$1,000 for all full time employees that were employed during the pandemic and are still employed or who have recently retired.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the Berrien County Board of Commissioners authorizes a \$1,000 hazard pay bonus from the general fund to be paid to all eligible FT employees as determined by the Personnel and Human Services Committee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that elected officials are not eligible for the \$1,000 in hazard pay.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any prior recipients of the hazard pay bonus are not to receive an additional hazard pay bonus.

**RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,
BERRIEN COUNTY COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEES**

Teri Sue Freehling, Vice Chair

R. McKinley Elliott, Chair

Jim Curran, Admin Chair

Robert P. Harrison, PHSC Chair

Mamie L. Yarbrough, Finance Chair