



**CITY OF ALBANY
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR**
24 EAGLE STREET
ALBANY, NEW YORK 12207
TELEPHONE (518) 434-5100
WWW.ALBANYNY.GOV

KATHY SHEEHAN
MAYOR

July 30, 2020

Hon. Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader, United States Senate
317 Russell Senate Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Majority Leader McConnell,

I write to emphasize the dire importance of providing federal aid to state and local governments experiencing revenue shortfalls as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic as soon as possible.

Municipalities across the country, including the City of Albany, have patiently waited 80 days since the House of Representatives quickly passed the HEROES Act – legislation that would have provided the \$19 million in lost revenue the City is facing for 2020, plus the anticipated revenue shortfall we are facing in 2021 – however we cannot wait any longer.

This funding is vital because we need each of our employees working in order to help our City recover from the impacts of COVID-19 and continue to reopen our economy. Our employees ensure our neighborhoods are safe, our parks are clean, our water is safe to drink, our buildings are habitable, and our first responders have the resources they need to serve our residents – work that is vital to the health and well-being of our city.

Without this funding, we will have to make drastic, unprecedented cuts to our budget, and in turn, our city services and our workforce. Without this funding, entire City departments will be eliminated, and others will be significantly reduced. Put simply: our City will be unrecognizable.

Do not abandon our first responders and our other front-line employees. Please pass the HEROES Act now to replace the estimated \$19 million in revenue we have lost this year, and the shortfall we anticipate next year, and ensure our employees can continue to work each day to help our City and our nation recover. We simply cannot wait any longer for this vital funding.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kathy M. Sheehan", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Kathy M. Sheehan
Mayor, City of Albany

CC. Hon. Charles Schumer, Minority Leader, United States Senate
Hon. Kirsten Gillibrand, Senator, United States Senate
Hon. Paul Tonko, Congressman, United States House of Representatives
Hon. Greg Fischer, President, US Conference of Mayors & Mayor of Louisville