



# City Manager's Office

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## MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** August 18, 2023

**TO:** Mayor and City Council

**THROUGH:** Doug Thornley, City Manager Approved Electronically

**FROM:** Nic Ciccone, Government Affairs Manager

**SUBJECT:** Sparks City Council Meeting – August 14, 2023

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This memo is intended to provide council an update on recent actions taken by the Sparks City Council related to rental assistance.

### Rental Assistance

On March 23, 2023, the Nevada Legislature introduced Assembly Bill 396 (AB 396). AB 396, as introduced, would have allocated \$44 million to Clark County for their rental assistance programs. Through the legislative process, the City of Reno's government affairs team worked with Washoe County's government affairs team to secure a direct allocation of \$6 million to Northern Nevada municipalities. The final version of AB 396 allocated \$3 million to the City of Reno, \$3 million to the City of Sparks, and \$12 million to Clark County over the 2023-2025 biennium. While there are no specific requirements in the legislation, expectations at the legislature were that the funding to the Northern Nevada municipalities would support the region, including residents in the unincorporated areas of the county.

During an informal conversation prior to August 14, 2023, Reno staff had offered to a City of Sparks' employee to administer the program region wide using the City of Reno's existing rental assistance infrastructure and procedures and to avoid duplicative efforts in the region. No formal offer or costs were negotiated at that time.

On August 14, 2023, the Sparks City Council (Agenda Item 9.3) discussed its options for a rental assistance program, using the \$3 million from AB 396. Two of the options included partnering with the City of Reno or the Reno Housing Authority (RHA) to administer the fund. The materials provided to the Sparks City Council represented the City of Reno would charge a 15% administrative fee to administer the funds, while RHA would charge 10%. The Sparks City Council directed its City Manager to accept the appropriation and pursue a contract with the Reno Housing Authority to support residents solely within the Sparks city limits.

Staff is preparing an item for the September 13, 2023 City Council meeting with a recommendation to provide rental assistance to City of Reno and unincorporated Washoe County residents using our existing rental and deposit assistance program.