RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS FOR THE NORTH CAROLINA COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT – DISASTER RECOVERY COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM

Whereas, on or about September 27-28, 2024, Tropical Storm Helene ("storm") devastated portions of Buncombe County and the incorporated municipalities;

Whereas, the North Carolina Department of Commerce, Division of Community Revitalization, has made funding available through the Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Community Infrastructure (CI) Program to support the recovery and revitalization of storm-impacted communities;

Whereas, the CI Program will fund projects in HUD-identified and State-identified Most Impacted and Distressed areas including Buncombe County;

Whereas, Buncombe County has identified eligible projects that address unmet disaster recovery needs, strengthen community resilience, support long-term economic recovery, and further the goals identified in the County's Tropical Storm Helene Recovery Plan;

Whereas, the County has undertaken a public engagement process consistent with the requirements of the CDBG-DR Community Infrastructure (CI) Program, including a public comment period beginning on July 31, 2026, and ending on August 28, 2026, during which written, electronic, and verbal comments were accepted from residents and stakeholders;

Whereas, the Buncombe County Board of Commissioners conducted a public hearing on August 18, 2026, to receive public input on the proposed applications prior to submission to the North Carolina Department of Commerce;

Whereas, comments received during the public participation process were reviewed and considered in the development and refinement of the proposed applications;

Whereas, under N.C. Gen. Stat. § 160A-17.1, counties are authorized to make contracts for and to accept grants-in-aid and loans from the federal and State governments and their agencies for constructing, expanding, maintaining, and operating any project or facility, or performing any function, which such city or county may be authorized by general law or local act to provide or perform;

Whereas, pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 158-7.1, counties are authorized to make appropriations for economic development purposes which are determined by the governing body of the city or county to increase the population, taxable property, agricultural industries, employment, industrial output, or business prospects of the city or county;

Whereas, pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 160D-1311, counties may engage in, accept federal and state grants, and appropriate fund for community development programs and activities, including programs concerned with the economic development needs of persons of low and moderate income; and

Whereas, the Board of Commissioners finds that submission of the proposed applications is in the best interest of Buncombe County and its residents, supports the County's ongoing disaster recovery and economic revitalization efforts, and will improve the business prospects of the County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BUNCOMBE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS:

1. The Board hereby authorizes the submission of the applications presented to the Board of Commissioners at the regular meeting on September 1, 2026, to the North Carolina Department of Commerce, Division of Community Revitalization, under the Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery Community Infrastructure (CI) Program for projects determined by the County to be eligible and competitive.

2. The County Manager, or her designee, is authorized to execute and submit all applications, certifications, assurances, forms, and other documents necessary to complete the application process on behalf of Buncombe County.

3. County staff are authorized to make such technical, administrative, budgetary, mapping, or narrative revisions to the applications as may be necessary or requested by the North Carolina Department of Commerce prior to or during the application review process, provided such revisions do not materially alter the intent or scope of the projects authorized by this Resolution.

4. If funding is awarded, acceptance of any grant award and execution of any grant agreement, contract, or other legally binding funding documents shall be subject to subsequent approval by the Buncombe County Board of Commissioners in accordance with applicable law and County policy.

5. This Resolution shall become effective upon its adoption.

This 1st day of September, 2026.

ATTEST

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS FOR THE COUNTY OF BUNCOMBE

_____
Sarah Gross, Clerk

_____
By Amanda Edwards, Chair

APPROVED AS TO FORM

_____
Curt Euler, County Attorney