

## STAFF REPORT

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**Date:** April 26, 2023

**To:** Mayor and City Council

**Thru:** Doug Thornley, City Manager

**Subject:** Staff Report (For Possible Action): Approval of the allocation of American Rescue Plan Act State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) to the City of Reno's Public Works Department for the purchase and installation of solar school zone flashing beacon systems in the amount of \$70,000 from ward specific allocated funds. (SLFRF Funds) [Ward 4]

**From:** Jenica Finnegan, Council Relations Manager

**Department:** City Manager's Office

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**Summary:**

Councilmember Ebert would like to allocate \$70,000 of American Rescue Plan Act State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) to Public Works for installation of solar school zone flashing beacon systems to improve safety in school zones in Ward 4. This amount will be drawn from ward specific allocated funds.

**Alignment with Strategic Plan:**

Public Safety

**Previous Council Action:**

August 25, 2021 - Council approved the use of SLFRF to support the City of Reno implementation plan.

**Background:**

The City of Reno received \$51,519,997 from the SLFRF and began allocating funds on August 25, 2021. Part of this allocation included \$70,000 to each Reno ward for ward-specific projects. The City of Reno Department of Public Works has identified a critical need for solar school zone flashing beacon systems to be installed at all elementary schools within the Reno city limits. This aligns with Goal B of the strategic plan: public safety, specifically strategy six: increase attention and efforts on traffic and pedestrian safety.

**Discussion:**

Councilmember Ebert would like to allocate \$70,000 from the American Rescue Plan Act SLFRF allocation plan adopted by Council at the August 25, 2021 Council meeting to the City of Reno's Public Works Department. These funds will be used to purchase and install solar school zone flashing beacon systems at three elementary schools in Ward Four who currently lack this critical safety infrastructure. In the 2019-2020 school year, there were 28 crashes involving students within school zones in Washoe County. Over time, the City of Reno has a goal of installing solar school zone flashing beacons in every school zone.

**Financial Implications:**

Funding is from Ward 4 specific SLFRF Funds.

**Legal Implications:**

Legal review completed for compliance with City procedures and Nevada law.

**Recommendation:**

Staff recommends Council approves the reallocation of funds.

**Proposed Motion:**

I move to approve staff recommendation.