

SUBSTITUTE RESOLUTION NO. RS2018-1507

A resolution requesting that the Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County refrain from providing economic incentives to Amazon or to any other entity unless and until employees of the Metropolitan Government receive cost of living adjustments.

WHEREAS, on November 13, 2018, Amazon.com, Inc. ("Amazon") announced intentions to open an Operations Center of Excellence in downtown Nashville, bringing an anticipated 5,000 jobs to the city; and

WHEREAS, in the same announcement, Amazon disclosed economic incentives which have been offered by the State of Tennessee and the Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County; and

WHEREAS, governmental incentives from both the State and Metropolitan Government are expected to total approximately \$102 million; and

WHEREAS, incentives from the Metropolitan Government to Amazon are expected to total approximately \$15 million, based upon a \$500 grant for each job created over seven years, subject to approval of the Metropolitan Council and the Industrial Development Board; and

WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Government has awarded millions of dollars in economic incentives to other companies, including the Healthcare Corporation of America (HCA), Bridgestone Americas, Inc., Asurion, LLC, and UBS Group AG (UBS), in recent years, and is likely to continue offering incentives to companies relocating to Nashville in the future; and

WHEREAS, in June 2018, the Metropolitan Council adopted Resolution No. RS2018-1249 which set forth a pay plan for Fiscal Year 2019 and repealed the scheduled three percent (3%) cost of living adjustment for Metro employees for FY19 and FY20 previously adopted pursuant to Resolution No. RS2017-719; and

WHEREAS, if the Metropolitan Government is unable to provide previously committed cost of living adjustments for its employees in the current fiscal year, inducements such as the \$15 million in expected economic incentives for Amazon should not be offered; and

WHEREAS, conversely, if the Metropolitan Government is able to afford \$15 million in economic incentives for Amazon, it should provide cost of living adjustments for current Metro employees; and

WHEREAS, the Metropolitan County Council requests that the Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County refrain from awarding economic incentives to Amazon or to any other entity unless and until employees of the Metropolitan Government receive cost of living adjustments.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT OF NASHVILLE AND DAVIDSON COUNTY:

Section 1. That the Metropolitan Council hereby goes on record as requesting that the Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County provide cost of living adjustments to employees of the Metropolitan Government if economic incentives are to be awarded to Amazon or any other entity. If the Metropolitan Government is unable to provide cost of living adjustments to Metro employees, however, no economic incentives should be given to Amazon or to any other entity.

Section 2. This Resolution shall take effect from and after its adoption, the welfare of The Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County requiring it.

INTRODUCED BY:

Bill Pridemore

Member of Council