

# Memorandum

**TO:** HONORABLE MAYOR AND  
CITY COUNCIL

**FROM:** Councilmember Torres

**SUBJECT:** 2024 Legislative Program and Legislative Priorities    **DATE:** November 28, 2023

Approved

Date: 11/28/2023



## **RECOMMENDATION**

1. Accept Staff report; and
2. Seek state and federal grants for food insecurity programs in alignment with the Legislative Program.
3. Seek state and federal grants for the Med 30 position within our fire department in alignment with the Legislative Program.
4. Return before June 30<sup>th</sup> with an information memorandum on the status of items 2 and 3.

## **DISCUSSION**

Amidst the holiday season and year-round, the demand for food insecurity programs has surged after the pandemic. Unfortunately, funding for these programs has dwindled with the ending of the COVID-19-era American Rescue Plan. The heightened need for food security initiatives is intricately tied to Silicon Valley's high cost of living.

According to Second Harvest of Silicon Valley, 1 in 14 people and 1 in 22 children grapple with hunger. The holiday season intensifies the strain on families, a reality vividly witnessed while volunteering at Martha's Kitchen. During Thanksgiving week alone, Martha's Kitchen served an astonishing 75,000 meals. The sight of families and seniors forming lines around the block at the Mexican Heritage Plaza to collect produce and food further underscores the pressing issue of food insecurity. Second Harvest, employing a market-style approach, has experienced a substantial increase in the number of individuals served, reaching 16,853 in the last year, up from the previous year's figure of 11,233.

Considering these challenges, it is imperative for the city to actively seek grants or government funding to bolster local organizations engaged in the crucial task of ensuring no residents go to bed hungry.

We must maintain our Paramedic Supervisor position, Med 30, as it ensures we protect our residents and our firefighters when disaster strikes. As our calls for service have increased, it is essential to maintain this position as they assist not only the public with housing and care after a fire loss but also assist our SJFD and SJPD personnel when injured or infected on the scene of an emergency. The city needs to look for grants to maintain this position for our residents.

*The signers of this memorandum have not had, and will not have, any private conversation with any other member of the City Council, or that member's staff, concerning any action discussed in the memorandum, and that each signer's staff members have not had, and have been instructed not to have, any such conversation with any other member of the City Council or that member's staff.*