

From: Kyra Kazantzis

Sent: Tuesday, May 5, 2020 1:03 PM

To: City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>; The Office of Mayor Sam Liccardo <TheOfficeofMayorSamLiccardo@sanjoseca.gov>; District1 <district1@sanjoseca.gov>; District2 <District2@sanjoseca.gov>; District3 <district3@sanjoseca.gov>; District4 <District4@sanjoseca.gov>; District5 <District5@sanjoseca.gov>; District 6 <district6@sanjoseca.gov>; District7 <District7@sanjoseca.gov>; District8 <district8@sanjoseca.gov>; District9 <district9@sanjoseca.gov>; District 10 <District10@sanjoseca.gov>; Esparza, Maya <Maya.Esparza@sanjoseca.gov>

Subject: SVCN Comment on City Council Agenda Item 3.6

May 5, 2020

Mayor Sam Liccardo and City Council

City of San José

Via email

Dear Mayor Liccardo and Councilmembers:

Over the past several weeks, Silicon Valley Council of Nonprofits has been coordinating with a number of hunger prevention nonprofits to work hand-in-hand with City EOC staff, who are working hard to ensure that families and individuals in need across our County have access to groceries and meal. We are incredibly appreciative of the dedication, passion, and long hours that these City staff show every day.

The process of establishing a cross-sector food partnership and a City food policy hasn't been without its challenges. And the unfamiliar role of feeding that the City has taken on and the unprecedented nature of this crisis have together created a confusing new environment for policy-makers, to be sure.

However, one thing that is clear is that there are many, many more members of our community who are now at risk of hunger and, among them, there are many who can't come in person to eat or even pick up free meals or groceries. It's also clear that nonprofits, together with our schools, carry much of the current responsibility when it comes to food. That is why it's disappointing to see food-related contracts that were scheduled to be approved at today's Council meeting be delayed.

We understand that FEMA has just sowed additional confusion about reimbursement—and that is troubling—but the City's responsibility to respond to the food need isn't dependent on such reimbursement. The contracts that are being postponed include The Health Trust's contract for Meals on Wheels expansion. The five-fold expansion of this program to serve our unhoused neighbors wasn't optional; THT recognized a need and responded to it—without a contract or a guarantee. Now the City should do the same.

Other nonprofit food contracts are even further behind and also should be expedited. Nonprofits are *already* delivering these services.

Please honor your commitment to feeding our people and supporting nonprofits who are—and will be for the long haul—out there doing the work and proceed with contract approval. SVCN, in the context of its new partnership with CADRE, is happy to support the City in navigating the reimbursement landscape.

Best,

Kyra Kazantzis | CEO

Silicon Valley Council of Nonprofits