

CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM

CITY OF SHORELINE, WASHINGTON

AGENDA TITLE: Proclamation Declaring Mayor's Day of Concern for the Hungry
DEPARTMENT: Community Services
PRESENTED BY: Colleen Kelly, Community Services Manager
ACTION: ☐ Ordinance ☐ Resolution ☐ Motion
 ☐ Discussion ☐ Public Hearing ☒ Proclamation

ISSUE STATEMENT:

The Mayors' Day of Concern for the Hungry provides an opportunity for cities to spotlight the needs and efforts their communities are taking to address hunger as a local concern. Prior to the pandemic, one in four Shoreline residents experienced food insecurity which meant facing difficult choices among basic necessities and having to seek support from community resources. These resources include the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), weekend backpack for school kids, meal programs, and food banks. The meals programs, weekend backpacks and food banks all rely on donations of time, funds, and food to be able to meet the growing demand in Shoreline.

Since the onset of the pandemic, food insecurity is growing throughout the County. According to a recent report issued by King County, "the number of calls from King County residents seeking assistance with accessing food increased 7-fold between the beginning of February to the end of March." In addition, requests for food assistance were second only to requests for housing assistance with over 1,800 calls to 2-1-1 during April and May. Younger adults (ages 18-44), low-income adults (adults making less than \$25,000 per year), and adults who were unemployed, had a recent job loss, or were expecting a job loss were also more likely to lack sufficient food.

The City of Shoreline provided extensive food assistance through both the COVID Community Emergency Response Fund and later using CARES Relief Funding. As the pandemic continues, we know that food insecurity will remain a challenge for many in the Shoreline community. Unfortunately, given the concerns related to the Coronavirus, Hopelink will not be hosting its annual food drive. Financial contributions to support the food bank are welcome and encouraged, however.

RECOMMENDATION

The Mayor should read and present the proclamation.

Approved By: City Manager **DT** City Attorney **MK**



PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the City of Shoreline recognizes adequate nutrition as a basic need for each citizen; and

WHEREAS, food insecurity is a concern for one in four Shoreline residents; and

WHEREAS, Hopelink saw an 8% increase in foodbank usage over the past year prior to the start of the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, King County reports growing food insecurity since the start of the pandemic; and

WHEREAS, Hopelink and local food pantries at churches and schools rely on community contributions to meet this growing need;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Will Hall, Mayor of the City of Shoreline, on behalf of the Shoreline City Council, do hereby proclaim September 19, 2020 as the

MAYOR'S DAY OF CONCERN FOR THE HUNGRY

in the City of Shoreline and urge all citizens to generously support local food banks.

Will Hall, Mayor