

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE PROPOSED RESOLUTION

Catherine DeLazero and Sheldon Fine, Co-Chairpersons

May 24, 2022 at 7:00 PM via ZOOM

Re: Food Insecurity Budgetary Requests.

In order to counter Food Insecurity within the Community Board 7 catchment area, there is a need **to** distribute more healthy food and sign up more customers in need with essential food benefits by funding expanded community-based engagement.

While hunger rates in New York City are thankfully lower now than they were at the peak of COVID, they are still much higher than the levels seen prior to the pandemic. In response to food insecurity rates that increased by over 36 percent for all New Yorkers and 46 percent for children, the Mayor's Office of Food Policy administered a new \$63.5 million program called the Pandemic Food Reserve and Emergency Distribution (P-FRED). Since 2020, P-FRED has provided over 14 million pounds of fresh produce to food pantries throughout the city. Mayor Adam's preliminary budget excludes funding for the continuation of P-FRED past June 2022 yet no formal announcement has been made. However, Mayor Adam's announced his intentions to strengthen EFAP by establishing a produce procurement operation into the program for the first time in its 40 years of existence. announced his intentions.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT Community Board 7/ Manhattan **requests** that Mayor Adams and our City Council members support and fund through the New York City Budget, West Side Campaign Against Hunger's efforts within Community Board 7 catchment zone to distribute more healthy food and sign up more customers in need with essential food benefits by funding expanded community-based engagement; **(\$125,000)**

FURTHERMORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT Community Board 7/ Manhattan **requests** Mayor Adam and our City Council members Via West Side Campaign Against Hunger to support The Roundtable, Allies for Food Access, a dedicated network of emergency food providers collaborating to bring more resources to communities, so none of our neighbors go hungry by funding the training and technical assistance for additional emergency food partners; **(\$45,500)**

FURTHERMORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT Community Board 7/ Manhattan **requests** Mayor Adam and our City Council members to increase funding with an additional \$63.5 Million to the Emergency Food Assistance Program (EFAP) Baseline budget to accommodate the increased costs of adding fresh food into the program and continued need;

FURTHERMORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT Community Board 7/ Manhattan **urges** Mayor Adam and our City Council members to increase funding for EFAP beyond its current baseline level of \$23.8 million to a total of \$87.3M to account for the loss of P-FRED and adequately fund this expanded effort to include fresh food which is more expensive to purchase and distribute than shelf-stable food; and

FURTHERMORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT Community Board 7/ Manhattan **urges** Mayor Adam and our City Council members to increase investments in the Mayor's Office of Food Policy (MOFP). While there was an additional \$3.9M included in the FY22 City Budget to hire 7 staff members for the MOFP, there was no additional funding allocated towards the office in the FY23 preliminary budget.

**Subject to vote of the Full Board on June 7, 2022*