



CITY OF KIRKLAND
Department of Parks & Community Services
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MEMORANDUM

To: David Ramsay

From: Carrie Hite, Deputy Director
Jennifer Schroder, Director

Date: September 2, 2009

Subject: Eastside Month of Concern for the Hungry

RECOMMENDATION:

Council authorizes the Mayor to sign the Eastside Month of Concern for the Hungry Proclamation.

BACKGROUND DISCUSSION:

As Council may recall, the City of Kirkland launched a city-wide food drive last year to help fill the shelves at Hopelink before the holiday season. It was successfully implemented with the assistance of the neighborhood associations, Youth Council, Senior Council, Human Services Advisory Committee, Hopelink, and several staff.

During the debrief and evaluation of last year's event, several members of the planning committee were interested in inviting other East King County cities to participate in a region wide food drive. An initial discussion occurred at the Eastside Human Services Forum in February, 2009. This discussion generated interest from all partner cities. Staff has been planning with other cities, and food programs that serve this area this past year.

The East King County food drive will be officially launched on September 26th, and will extend through October 24th, making this the Eastside's Month of Concern for the Hungry. The Emergency Feeding Program sponsors a Mayor's Day of Concern for the Hungry in September every year. The Eastside planning group decided to launch on this day, to help kick off the Mayor's Day, and extend it to the Month of Concern for the Hungry.

The cities of Kirkland, Redmond, Bellevue, Issaquah, Mercer Island, and Sammamish are participating. In addition, Hopelink, Emergency Feeding Program, Renewal Food Bank, Mercer Island Food Bank and Issaquah Food Bank will all be recipients of this drive. Our collective goal is to raise 200,000 pounds of food (or 100 tons).

The planning has been a very collaborative process. The City of Kirkland has been providing project management and will be writing the proclamation, designing the logo and creating advertisements and news releases. The City of Redmond will be producing a video piece about the drive that can be shown on the cable channels of participating cities. The City of Bellevue will be creating a web page with interactive map with the drop off locations. The food programs will be producing a flyer, a common food list, and routing the pickup map for all cities.

In Kirkland, we have two neighborhood leaders, Cindy Bienz and Janet Pruitt, who will be coordinating the city wide food drive as part of this regional effort. In addition, the Youth Council, Senior Council, Human Services Advisory Committee, and others will be involved in the drive.

Brian Anderson, Operations Manager, Emergency Feeding Program, Cindy Bienz, and Janet Pruitt will be present at the September 15th Council meeting to receive the Eastside Month of Concern for the Hungry Proclamation.





A PROCLAMATION OF THE CITY OF KIRKLAND

Designating September 26-October 24, 2009 as "Eastside's Month of Concern for the Hungry"

WHEREAS, the Cities of Kirkland, Redmond, Bellevue, Issaquah, Sammamish, and Mercer Island recognize adequate nutrition as a basic goal for each citizen; and

WHEREAS, no parent should have to send a child to school hungry, no baby should be without the comfort of the feedings needed for mental and physical growth, and no elderly person's health should be jeopardized by lack of appropriate foods; and

WHEREAS, food banks, emergency and hot meal programs, local churches, social service agencies, and hundreds of volunteers are striving each day to stem the rising tide of hunger, but still need more help; and

WHEREAS, the human spirit will prevail in those who want to have a positive impact in lives of others who are hungry and in need now as winter approaches and low incomes must be stretched to cover increasing fuel, electricity and rental costs; and

WHEREAS, the Emergency Feeding Program of Seattle & King County coordinates an annual food drive, which will be held at participating grocery stores throughout King County on Saturday, September 26, 2009, to help support the efforts of their program and the area's food banks in fighting hunger; and

WHEREAS, the East King County Cities of Kirkland, Redmond, Bellevue, Issaquah, Sammamish, and Mercer Island are committed to supporting the efforts of local food banks and emergency feeding and meal programs;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mayor James L. Lauinger, on behalf of the Kirkland City Council, do hereby proclaim September 26 - October 24, 2009 as "**Eastside's Month of Concern for the Hungry**" and strongly urge all citizens to help those who are hungry by donating non-perishable items that will benefit the Emergency Feeding Program, Hopelink, World Impact Network Renewal Food Bank, ARAS Foundation Sammamish, Issaquah Food Bank, and Mercer Island Food Bank.

Signed this 15th day of September, 2009

James L. Lauinger, Mayor