

# RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

*No. 405*

**Approved December 11, 2020**

WHEREAS, On November 23, 2020, the Rhode Island Community Food Bank released its annual Status Report on Hunger which has highlighted the significant hardship many Rhode Islanders are facing as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, The status report found that one in four Rhode Island households lacks adequate food, the highest percentage in over two decades, and that the levels of food insecurity are highest in Black and Latino Communities, the same communities that are also experiencing disproportionately high levels of COVID-19 cases; and

WHEREAS, In order to meet the increased demand for food assistance, the Community Food Bank has increased its food distribution by 1.6 million pounds which is a 45% increase from before the pandemic; and

WHEREAS, The Providence City Council recognized the growing challenge of food insecurity early on in the pandemic and immediately developed a comprehensive outreach and on-going food distribution strategy prioritizing the areas where the most affected communities reside; and, which has been made possible due to the establishment of a thoughtful and critical partnership with the Elisha Project; and

WHEREAS, The Elisha Project is a movement that is focused on bringing diverse communities together through service, sharing, teaching and learning - with the mission of addressing food insecurity and operating by the motto "There is Always Enough to Share"; and

WHEREAS, Through the partnership with the Elisha Project, the Providence City Council hosted twenty-four (24) events across the City, serving as a model of distribution by allowing our most vulnerable City residents to access approximately eight hundred sixteen thousand (816K) pounds of nutritious meals, equivalent to six hundred eighty thousand (680K) meals; and

WHEREAS, Despite the incredible efforts of the Rhode Island Community Food Bank, Elisha Project, and countless other non-profit organizations, without immediate action by the Federal Government many of the most critical food assistance programs will be in jeopardy of running out of money and therefore unable to continue to provide the necessary aid to so many of Rhode Island's most vulnerable residents.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Providence City Council hereby urges Rhode Island's congressional delegation to:

1. Pass another COVID-19 relief bill that brings back supplemental unemployment compensation and boosts SNAP benefits throughout the pandemic; and
2. Work with the USDA to provide P-EBT for all children from low-income families when schools are closed.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Providence City Council urges the Rhode Island Department of Human Services to implement a comprehensive SNAP outreach program to help newly unemployed Rhode Islanders enroll.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Providence City Council urges all members of the Rhode Island General Assembly to support the Governor's call for increased funding for the Food Bank.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That, upon passage, copies of this resolution be sent to each member of Rhode Island's congressional delegation, the Honorable Governor of the State of Rhode Island, the Director of the Department of Human Services, and to the members of the Providence delegation.

IN CITY COUNCIL

DEC 03 2020

READ AND PASSED

Sabina Mats

PRES.

Shawn Selker

CLERK

I HEREBY APPROVE.

[Signature]

Mayor

Date:

12/11/20