

Memorandum

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR
AND CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Sarah Zárate

SUBJECT: SEE BELOW

DATE: June 10, 2024

Approved



Date

6/10/24

INFORMATION

SUBJECT: UPDATE ON FOOD INSECURITY AND MED 30 LEGISLATION AND FUNDING

This memorandum provides an update on the Intergovernmental Relations (IGR) team, within the City Manager's Office of Administration, Policy, and Intergovernmental Relations, efforts to pursue state and federal grant opportunities and legislative remedies for food insecurity programs and for the Emergency Medical Services Field Coordinator function (MED 30) positions in the Fire Department.

BACKGROUND

The IGR team presented the Fall Intergovernmental Relations Report ([Item 3.3 23-1629](#)¹) and the 2024 Legislative Program and Legislative Priorities ([Item 3.4 23-1630](#)²) for City Council adoption at the November 28, 2023 City Council meeting. For Item 3.4, Councilmember Torres issued a memorandum ([2024 Legislative Program and Legislative Priorities](#)³) that was subsequently approved by the City Council, providing direction for the IGR team to pursue state and federal grant opportunities and legislative remedies for food insecurity programs and for the MED 30 positions in the Fire Department.

¹ <https://sanjose.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=F&ID=12466570&GUID=6DAFBFF5-E79A-4F72-AC49-70FBDDD1B58B>

² <https://sanjose.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=F&ID=12466603&GUID=A7958A22-878F-4BEB-8C60-C5D835139231>

³ <https://sanjose.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=F&ID=12482888&GUID=4A89422E-5682-4037-8D6B-3332261A4A2C>

Food Insecurity

Food insecurity is a significant and persistent issue for the City's low-income residents and families, which was exacerbated throughout the COVID-19 pandemic and ensuing inflation that increased costs for food and everyday essentials. To address this issue, the IGR team included the following policy positions in the 2024 Legislative Program.

Food Security: Support funding and legislation to increase access to programs that address food insecurity and work to eradicate hunger.

Strengthen Family Safety Net: Support increased resources for youth in foster care. Support funding and legislation to increase access to food insecurity programs and eradicate hunger.

MED 30 Positions

The MED 30 function is vital to the day-to-day operations of the Fire Department. This function is filled by three Fire Captain positions with paramedic licenses who operate as Emergency Medical Service Field Coordinators 24/7 in three shifts (A, B, C) and provide logistical medical support for the field firefighter Emergency Medical Technicians and firefighter-paramedics. To support the continuity of this position in the Fire Department, the IGR team included the following policy position in the 2024 Legislative Program.

Emergency Medical Services: Support autonomy for the Fire Department to provide a full range of services. Support legislation to expand transport destination options (other than Emergency Rooms) for patients receiving pre-hospital care by first responders. Support funding for the Med 30 positions within the Fire Department.

The 2023-2024 Adopted Operating Budget authorized the elimination of the three Fire Captain positions that serve as MED 30. To ensure a smooth transition of the MED 30 functions, one-time funding of \$565,607 was temporarily authorized to extend these positions through December 31, 2023. The Fire Department issued an information memorandum to City Council on December 20, 2023, regarding the [Emergency Medical Services Field Coordinator \(MED 30\)](#)⁴. The memorandum stated that, due to additional and unusual workloads resulting from continued challenges related to the nationwide paramedic shortage, it was determined that \$282,804 would be required for the continuation of the three Fire Captain positions through March 2, 2024. Through the 2023-2024 Mid-Year Budget Review ([Item 3.3 24-68327](#))⁵, the City Council approved the allocation of \$600,000 to extend the three positions through June 30, 2024.

⁴ <https://www.sanjoseca.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/108080/638386773424800000>

⁵ <https://www.sanjoseca.gov/your-government/departments-offices/office-of-the-city-manager/budget/budget-documents/2023-2024-budget-documents/2023-2024-mid-year-budget-report>

ANALYSIS

Food Insecurity

The IGR team engaged the City's state and federal lobbying teams to discuss funding sources and corresponding legislation to fund food insecurity programs, and since November of 2023, has partnered with key stakeholders and issued three letters in support of bills addressing this issue.

Federal Legislation

In December 2023, the IGR team issued a letter of support for Senate Bill 2713 and House of Representatives Bill 6203, collectively known as the Farmers Feeding America Act, which is co-sponsored by Congressman Panetta. These companion bills would help ensure San José food banks can meet growing demand by expanding the United States Department of Agriculture's ability to purchase food directly from producers. Currently, the Senate bill (S. 2713) is in the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry, while the House bill (H.R. 6203) is in the Subcommittee on Nutrition, Foreign Agriculture, and Horticulture.

The IGR team coordinated with the County of Santa Clara's Office of Intergovernmental Relations and Second Harvest of Silicon Valley to amplify our advocacy efforts. The IGR team communicated the City's support for the County of Santa Clara's FY 2025 request for \$3 million in Congressionally Directed Spending from Congressman Khanna for improving food security. This funding would be used to invest in energy-efficient equipment and infrastructure upgrades necessary to ensure that a high volume of fresh foods and perishable food items can be accessed more readily, stored properly, and delivered safely to Santa Clara County food-insecure residents. The IGR team will continue to engage our partners and pursue additional opportunities to address this issue.

State Legislation

In April 2024, Mayor Mahan issued a letter of support for Assembly Bill 1967 by Assemblymember Jackson, which would create a Food Insecurity Officer tasked with coordinating and addressing food insecurity throughout state government operations. The IGR team issued a corresponding letter of support in May 2024. The IGR team also issued a letter of support for Assembly Bill 1961 by Assemblymember Wicks in May 2024. This bill, the End Hunger in California Act of 2024, would require the Strategic Growth Council to appoint and convene the End Hunger in California Master Plan Task Force to make recommendations for future comprehensive strategies aimed at addressing access to healthy and culturally relevant food for all Californians. Both bills are currently awaiting policy committee hearings in the California Senate. The IGR team continues to monitor the bills progress and advocate for their passage at critical points in the legislative process.

HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

June 10, 2024

Subject: Update on Food Insecurity and Med 30 Legislation and Funding

Page 4

MED 30 Positions

The IGR team engaged the City's state and federal lobbying teams to discuss potential legislation and funding sources to fund the three MED 30 positions. Additionally, the IGR team met with the City Manager's Budget Office to explore funding opportunities.

Identifying state and federal grant opportunities for the MED 30 positions is challenging due to the restrictions included in most state and federal grants that prohibit the use of funds for ongoing staff costs, especially for public safety functions. Unfortunately, the IGR team was not able to identify any state or federal legislation that would provide new funding sources for the MED 30 positions. The City's 2024-2025 Proposed Operating Budget does not include additional funding for the Med 30 positions. The IGR team will continue to engage our partners and pursue opportunities on this issue for the remainder of this legislative session and the next legislative session.

COORDINATION

This memorandum was coordinated with the City Manager's Budget Office and the Fire Department.

/s/

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For questions, please contact Zane Barnes, Deputy Director, Chief Intergovernmental Relations Officer, Office of Administration, Policy, and Intergovernmental Relations at zane.barnes@sanjoseca.gov.