

# CITY OF OAKLAND

## AGENDA REPORT

FILED  
OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK  
OAKLAND  
2007 NOV 15 PM 3:24

TO: Office of the City Administrator  
ATTN: Deborah Edgerly  
FROM: Department of Human Services  
DATE: November 27, 2007

RE: **A Resolution Authorizing The Allocation Of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Funds In The Amount Of \$25,000 From Reprogrammed Funds And Authorizing The City Administrator To Enter Into A Grant Agreement With The Elmhurst Food Pantry In The Amount Of \$25,000 For Operating Expenses For The Period From December 1, 2007 Through June 30, 2008**

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### SUMMARY

A resolution has been prepared authorizing the allocation of \$25,000 in CDBG funds from reprogrammed funds and authorizing the City Administrator to enter into a grant agreement with the Elmhurst Food Pantry in the amount of \$25,000 for operating expenses for the period from December 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008.

### FISCAL IMPACTS

Funding in the amount of \$25,000 for operating expenses of the Elmhurst Food Pantry is available from CDBG Reprogrammed Funds (Fund 2108), CDBG Administrative Unit (Organization 88949), Miscellaneous Contract Services (Account 54912), and Reprogramming Funds Project (G10050). Staff has determined that these funds are not restricted and may be used for the intended purpose.

Funds will be transferred from Community and Economic Development Agency (CEDA) to Department of Human Services (DHS) for administration of the program, allocating \$25,000 from CDBG Reprogrammed Funds (2108), CDBG Administrative Unit Organization (88949), Miscellaneous Contract Services Account (54912), and Reprogramming Funds Project (G10050) to the Elmhurst Food Pantry Project Fund (2108), DHS Administrative Unit Organization (78111), Miscellaneous Contract Services Account (54912), and Elmhurst Food Pantry Project (G34500) for operating expenses of the Elmhurst Food Pantry.

### BACKGROUND

The Elmhurst Food Pantry operates an emergency brown bag hunger relief program for very low-income residents of the Elmhurst District in East Oakland at 9437-B International Boulevard. The program provides approximately 200 brown bags of nutritious food per week to seniors, adults and families in several of the poorest census tracts in Oakland.

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Community and Economic Development Committee  
November 27, 2007

The Elmhurst Food Pantry has a long history of providing hunger relief services to the East Oakland community. As a founding member of the Emergency Food Providers Advisory Committee (EFPAC) in 1985, the Elmhurst Food Pantry has provided grassroots leadership and direction to city-wide hunger relief efforts for over twenty years. EFPAC is a membership group of churches and community based organizations representing each of the seven Community Development districts in Oakland. The EFPAC network of food pantries plays a vital role in the City of Oakland Hunger Program, which distributes emergency food throughout the city.

As are most EFPAC member organizations, the non-profit Elmhurst Food Pantry is operated almost entirely by volunteers. There is only one paid staff member who provides part time administrative support for the program. The organization collaborates with EFPAC membership organizations in the other six (6) Community Development Districts to distribute food resources provided through the City of Oakland Hunger Program and the Alameda County Community Food Bank. These and other food donors allow the Elmhurst Food Pantry to procure bulk food needed to provide nutritious bags of groceries on an emergency basis to Elmhurst District residents. Volunteers at the food pantry perform the labor needed to package the bulk foods into brown bags for distribution to low income residents.

### **KEY ISSUES AND IMPACTS**

Hunger and malnutrition are chronic problems in Oakland. The Alameda County Community Food Bank published a study on hunger in Alameda County entitled "Hunger: The Faces & Facts". The study is available for downloading at the Alameda County Community Food Bank Web Site ([www.accbf.org](http://www.accbf.org)). The study presents the results of a survey of 211 Alameda County Food Bank member agencies and 439 individuals, selected at random, who turned to one of the Food Bank's emergency food providers in Spring 2001. Follow up studies were conducted in 2004 and 2005. The findings of the survey were as follows:

- 43% of all individuals who receive emergency food assistance in Alameda County are children under the age of 18; 10% are 5 years old or under.
- In 47% of surveyed households with children, either a parent or child, or both, experience hunger.
- In 32% of surveyed households with children, the children have missed meals due to lack of food or not having enough money to buy food, and 21% report that often their children do not have enough to eat.
- Only 10% of surveyed parents report their children participate in the summer lunch program, while 60% of the Food Bank's pantries and 100% of soup kitchens report an increase in children receiving emergency food assistance during the summer.
- 73% of the households surveyed have incomes below the federal poverty level.
- 37% of households surveyed have at least one employed adult; 9% have two working adults.
- 28% of surveyed households depend on Social Security or Supplemental Security Income (SSI) for their primary source of income.

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- The average monthly income of all Alameda County households receiving emergency food assistance is \$831 compared to the median monthly income of \$4,662 of Alameda County households in 1999.
- 45% of surveyed respondents had to choose between paying for food or rent.
- 49% of surveyed respondents had to choose between paying for food or utilities.
- 28% of surveyed respondents had to choose between paying for food or medicine or medical care.

Despite the great need for hunger relief in Oakland, the resources available to support such efforts have diminished over time. Local funding for the hunger safety net has declined precipitously, especially from CDBG – a 56% reduction since Fiscal Year (FY) 2002/2003. The Elmhurst Food Pantry is one of a number of small non-profit organizations that have been hit hard by decreases in the amount of CDBG funds available. Aside from CDBG there are very few sources of unrestricted public funding available for hunger relief purposes. For its long term viability and sustainability as an organization, the Elmhurst Food Pantry needs to diversify its funding base and develop a fundraising plan. Until such planning is implemented, a short term infusion of operating capital is needed to avert closure of this important community program.

## **PROGRAM DESCRIPTION**

The Elmhurst Food Pantry is open on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays every week from 10 AM until 2 PM and on other variable days depending on available food resources. On Mondays and Fridays, emergency food is provided to low-income individuals and families. On Wednesdays, seniors over 55 years of age receive emergency food brown bags. The Elmhurst Food Pantry is a member of EFPAC, and distributes food to the community in cooperation with the City of Oakland Hunger Program. The program distributes over 1,000 brown bags of groceries per year through the City program. The Elmhurst Food Pantry is also a member of the Alameda County Community Food Bank, and participates in the USDA food program and the Food Bank's Shared Maintenance Scholarship program, which provides matching resources to small non-profit food provider agencies. In all, the Elmhurst Food Pantry provides over 11,000 emergency brown bags of groceries per year to very low income Elmhurst residents.

## **SUSTAINABLE OPPORTUNITIES**

### **Economic:**

Programs and services for very low-income persons, including the working poor, provide a stable environment that permits them to more readily access employment opportunities.

### **Environmental:**

Emergency food programs contribute to the maintenance of a stable environment for very low-income families who must sometimes choose between paying rent and buying groceries. These emergency food resources supplement their limited incomes and contribute to a sustainable urban environment.

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**Social Equity:**

The expenditure of City funds upon the most needy in the community provides for the most basic of human needs and assists low income persons in maintaining a stable household environment for themselves and their families.

**DISABILITY AND SENIOR CITIZEN ACCESS**

The Elmhurst Food Pantry is accessible to persons with disabilities and has special food distribution programs targeted towards seniors.

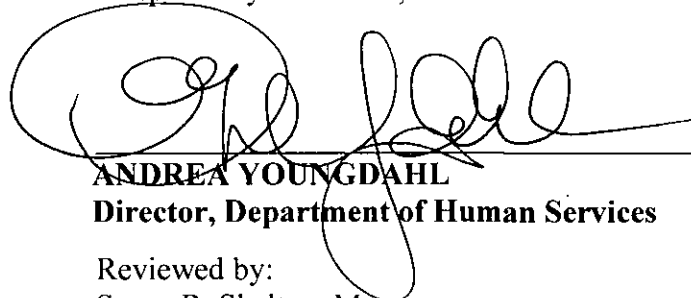
**RECOMMENDATIONS AND RATIONALE**

That the Council approves the resolution authorizing the allocation of \$25,000 in CDBG funds from reprogrammed funds and authorizing the City Administrator to enter into a grant agreement with the Elmhurst Food Pantry in the amount of \$25,000 for operating expenses for the period from December 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008.

**ACTION REQUESTED OF THE CITY COUNCIL**

Approve the attached resolution authorizing funding for operating the Elmhurst Food Pantry.

Respectfully submitted,




**ANDREA YOUNGDAHL**  
**Director, Department of Human Services**

Reviewed by:  
Susan R. Shelton, Manager  
Community Housing Services

Prepared by:  
Michael K. Church  
Program Analyst II

APPROVED AND FORWARDED TO THE  
COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE:




Office of the City Administrator

Item: \_\_\_\_\_  
Community and Economic Development Committee  
November 27, 2007

2007 NOV 15 PM 3:24

# OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL

Approved as to Form and Legality

  
City Attorney

RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_ C.M.S.

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**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ALLOCATION OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) FUNDS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$25,000 FROM REPROGRAMMED FUNDS AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR TO ENTER INTO A GRANT AGREEMENT WITH THE ELMHURST FOOD PANTRY IN THE AMOUNT OF \$25,000 FOR OPERATING EXPENSES FOR THE PERIOD FROM DECEMBER 1, 2007 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2008**

**WHEREAS**, hunger and food insecurity are serious problems in low-income communities in Oakland; and

**WHEREAS**, the Elmhurst District is home to many low-income residents who are in need of hunger relief; and

**WHEREAS**, the Elmhurst Food Pantry provides hunger relief services to low-income residents of the Elmhurst District; and

**WHEREAS**, the Elmhurst Food Pantry is in need of operating funds in the amount of \$25,000 to avert closure of the facility and the loss of much needed hunger relief services; and

**WHEREAS**, funds in the amount of \$25,000 are available from CDBG Reprogrammed Funds (2108), CDBG Administrative Unit Organization (88949), Miscellaneous Contract Services Account (54912), and Reprogrammed Funds Project (G10050); now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**: That the City Council authorizes the City Administrator to allocate \$25,000 from CDBG Reprogrammed Funds (2108), CDBG Administrative Unit Organization (88949), Miscellaneous Contract Services Account (54912), and Reprogramming Funds Project (G10050) to the Elmhurst Food Pantry Project Fund (2108), DHS Administrative Unit Organization (78111), Miscellaneous Contract Services Account (54912), and Elmhurst Food Pantry Project (G34500) for operating expenses of the Elmhurst Food Pantry; and be it

**FURTHER RESOLVED**: That the City Council authorizes the City Administrator to enter into an agreement with the Elmhurst Food Pantry for \$25,000 for operating expenses for the period of December 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008; and be it

**FURTHER RESOLVED:** That the City Council authorizes the City Administrator to conduct all negotiations, execute and submit all documents, including but not limited to applications, agreements, amendments, modifications, payment requests, and related action which may be necessary to operate the Elmhurst Food Pantry; and be it

**FURTHER RESOLVED:** That said agreements shall be reviewed as to form and legality by the Office of the City Attorney and copies will be filed in the Office of the City Clerk.

IN COUNCIL, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA, \_\_\_\_\_, 2007

**PASSED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:**

AYES - BROOKS, BRUNNER, CHANG, KERNIGHAN, NADEL, QUAN, REID, AND  
PRESIDENT DE LA FUENTE

NOES -

ABSENT -

ABSTENTION -

ATTEST:

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**LATONDA SIMMONS**  
City Clerk and Clerk of the Council  
of the City of Oakland, California