

Agenda Item: File ID20-00619
Date: 5/13/2020
Council Meeting Date: 5/14/2020

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2020 MAY 13 10:10 AM
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FRESNO CITY COUNCIL



Supplemental Information Packet

Agenda Item – ID 20-00619, Actions related to Fresno Micro Farmers Farm to Family Program, Item 4-A

Content of Supplement: Letters of Support

Supplemental Information:

Any agenda related public documents received and distributed to a majority of the City Council after the Agenda Packet is printed are included in Supplemental Packets. Supplemental Packets are produced as needed. The Supplemental Packet is available for public inspection in the City Clerk's Office, 2600 Fresno Street, during normal business hours (main location pursuant to the Brown Act, G.C. 54957.5(2)). In addition, Supplemental Packets are available for public review at the City Council meeting in the City Council Chambers, 2600 Fresno Street. Supplemental Packets are also available on-line on the City Clerk's website.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA):

The meeting room is accessible to the physically disabled, and the services of a translator can be made available. Requests for additional accommodations for the disabled, sign language interpreters, assistive listening devices, or translators should be made one week prior to the meeting. Please call City Clerk's Office at 621-7650. Please keep the doorways, aisles and wheelchair seating areas open and accessible. If you need assistance with seating because of a disability, please see Security.



ABIRC | Asian Business Institute
& Resource Center

Serving Asian Businesses in the Central Valley

7035 N. Fruit Ave
Fresno, CA 93711
559-476-3981

www.fresnoabirc.org

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May 13, 2020

Fresno City Council and Mayor
cc: Fresno City Clerk
2600 Fresno Street
Fresno, CA 93721

2020 MAY 13 P 4:40
CITY OF FRESNO
CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

May 11, 2020,

Dear City Council and Mayor,

The Asian Business Institute and Resource Center (ABIRC) has been serving our small Southeast Asian (SEA) farmers since the COVID-19 pandemic. We have witnessed the negative impact of this disease in our entire community, especially our most socially challenged and hard to reach communities. The majority of the small SEA farmers are monolingual, have low literacy, are not tech savvy, experience cultural and language barriers, and have limited financial resources. In addition, many of the emergency service providers in the community do not have the capacity or the bandwidth to serve our small SEA farmers. Because of these and other complex issues, notice of the initial emergency relief resources never reached these constituents.

I write this letter in support of the Farm to Families Program introduced by Councilmember Esmeralda Soria, Council President Arias and Councilmember Chavez. The Farm to Families Program is crucial to our farming community that is suffering from the impacts of the COVID-19 Pandemic. This farming community is the least apt to wither the COVID-19 pandemic without emergency support that directly reaches them with the understanding of cultural norms from an organization that has been working for SEA farmer advocacy for over two years.

Administered by ABIRC, the Farm to Families program would use \$500,000 in funding to provide small grants of \$1,000 for small farmers who would agree to donate all products to the California Food Bank. This program will not only help our farming communities but also our most vulnerable communities in need of food during these unprecedented times.

For these reasons, on behalf of ABIRC, we strongly urge you to support this necessary and crucial program and help our community as a whole during this pandemic.

Sincerely,

Blong Xiong – Executive Director

Fresno County
Farm Bureau
Serving agriculture since 1917



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CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

May 13, 2020

Fresno City Council
2600 Fresno Street
Fresno, CA 93721

Dear Fresno City Councilmembers,

On behalf of the Fresno County Farm Bureau, I write in support of the Farm to Families Program introduced by Council President Miguel Arias, Councilmember Luis Chavez and Councilmember Esmeralda Soria. The Farm to Families Program would be welcomed by many in our farming community that is suffering from the impacts of the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Administered by the Asian Business Institute and Resource Center, the Farm to Families program would use \$500,000 in funding to provide small grants of up to \$1,000 for farmers who would agree to donate surplus products to our local food bank. This program will help not only our farmers but also our most vulnerable communities in need of food during these unprecedented times.

Thank you for your consideration. Please reach out if you have any questions at 559-237-0263 or ryan@fcfb.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ryan Jacobsen", written over a horizontal line.

Ryan Jacobsen
CEO

CC: Fresno City Mayor Lee Brand; Fresno City Clerk Yvonne Spence





SGU VETERANS AND FAMILIES OF USA, INC.

4582 E. Harvey Ave., Suite 103

Fresno, CA 93702

Tel. (559) 250-8761



Fresno City Council and Mayor

Cc: Fresno City Clerk

2600 Fresno Street

Fresno, CA 93721

May 11, 2020

Dear City Council and Mayor,

As a member of the community of Fresno, I am writing this letter of in support of the Farm to Families Program introduced by Councilmember Esmeralda Soria, Council President Arias, and Councilmember Chavez. The Farm to Families Program is crucial to our farming community that is suffering from the impacts of the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Administered by ABRIC, the Farm to Families program would use \$500,000 in funding to provide small grants of \$1,000 for small farmers who would agree to donate all surplus products to the California Food Bank. This program will not only help our farming communities but also our most vulnerable communities in need of food during these unprecedented times.

For these reasons, on behalf of SGU Veterans, we strongly urge you to support this necessary and crucial program and help our community as a whole during this pandemic.

Sincerely,

Cher Vang
Vice President/CEO

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CITY CLERK'S OFFICE



LAO VETERANS OF AMERICA, INC.

ອົງການນັກສືບຕໍ່າຄາວແຫ່ງສະຫະລັດອະເມລິກາ

A Non-Profit Organization

4903 E. Kings Canyon Road, Suite 281 • Fresno, CA 93727 • (559) 252-3561 • Fax (559) 475-0648

Fresno City Council and Mayor
Cc: Fresno City Clerk
2600 Fresno Street
Fresno, CA 93721

May 11, 2020,

Dear City Council and Mayor,

As a member of the community of Fresno, I am writing this letter of in support of the Farm to Families Program introduced by Councilmember Esmeralda Soria, Council President Arias, and Councilmember Chavez. The Farm to Families Program is crucial to our farming community that is suffering from the impacts of the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Administered by ABRIC, the Farm to Families program would use \$500,000 in funding to provide small grants of \$1,000 for small farmers who would agree to donate all surplus products to the California Food Bank. This program will not only help our farming communities but also our most vulnerable communities in need of food during these unprecedented times.

For these reasons, on behalf of Lao Veterans of America Institute, we strongly urge you to support this necessary and crucial program and help our community as a whole during this pandemic.

Sincerely,

Lt. Cheurchai vang
President

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Fresno City Council and Mayor Lee Brand
Cc: Fresno City Clerk
2600 Fresno Street
Fresno, CA 93721

May 13, 2020

Dear Fresno City Council and Mayor Brand,

Small-scale, minority-operated family farms in Fresno County are suffering from the economic impacts of the COVID-19 Pandemic. Many of these farms have lost sales due to restaurant closures and reduced sales at farmers markets and other venues where they sell their produce. These include many Southeast Asian farms that sell specialty produce at farmers markets, roadside stands, and to wholesale restaurant suppliers. While several programs for receiving and distributing unsold produce from farms during the pandemic have been created, these programs are not accessible to very small-scale farms that rely primarily on direct marketing to consumers. An alternative is needed to keep these farms in business during the current crisis that has disrupted their usual markets. For example, a small grants program to partially compensate farmers for donating unsold produce to food banks would assist small-scale family farms while also providing culturally relevant specialty produce to food-insecure communities and vulnerable populations.

As the Small Farms and Specialty Crops Advisor with the University of California Cooperative Extension in Fresno County, I and my program staff are in contact with small-scale farmers who are experiencing these losses in sales. We commit to assisting farmers to accessing any assistance programs that the City of Fresno might support, and to advertising them on our weekly radio show in Hmong.

I would be happy to further discuss the needs of this farming community, as well as potential solutions. If you have any questions and would like to contact me, I can be reached at rdwillard@ucanr.edu or 559-696-5360.

Sincerely,

Ruth Dahlquist-Willard, Small Farms and Specialty Crops Advisor
University of California Cooperative Extension, Fresno and Tulare Counties