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Anatole Ashraf
Chairperson

Debra Markell Kleinert
District Manager

March 11th, 2024

Health and Human Services and Education and Unhoused & Shelter Committee

Meeting Minutes

This meeting was teleconferenced using Zoom

Attendees:

Lauren Springer, Chair
Warren Davis, Vice Chair
Amparo Abel-Bey
Leticia Vasquez
Dr. Rosamond Gianutsos

Andrea Thomas -Public Member

Guest

Jerome Nathaniel, City Harvest

Community Board 2 Staff

Debra Markell Kleinert, Community Board 2

Lauren Springer, Chair Health & Human Services and Education and Unhoused & Shelter Committee welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Lauren Springer introduced Jerome Nathaniel, Director of Advocacy Policy & Government Relations at City Harvest.

- Jerome Nathaniel presented a power-point presentation to the committee. (***presentation attached***)
- City Harvest is one of two food banks in NYC.
- And one of 204 across the nation.
- All the food banks are part of a nationwide coalition called Feeding America.
- Together they work to end hunger across America.
- City Harvest is the first and largest food rescue organization and started in 1982.

“Serving the Communities of Long Island City, Sunnyside, Woodside, and Maspeth”

- City Harvest has delivered and rescued over 77 million pounds of food that would normally have gone to waste.
- Grocers, farms, restaurants, etc. donate excess food that would otherwise go to waste, City Harvest then delivers food to hundreds of soup kitchen, food pantries free of charge, some food is then provided to residents in need through community centers and NYCHA developments.
- 21% of the food comes from farms and greenmarkets and 30% from produce wholesalers
- The need was always there for food banks but after COVID it increased.
- One element of the need of food banks is food insecurity and the cost of living
- Jerome Nathaniel stated poverty is based on the diet and how expensive the stapled items can be to purchase.
- NYC has 1,298,212 households that do not have sufficient incomes.
- City Harvest advocates for policies that aim to end hunger, decrease the demand for emergency food and shorten food pantry lines in communities throughout NYC.
- Jerome Nathaniel stated the State budget is due April 1, 2024. City Harvest is advocating for increased funding to support pantries and soup kitchens through different programs.
- Jerome Nathaniel shared a link: <https://p2a.co/JiAUyvZ> to get 5000 people to sign onto this letter for more funding for City Harvest programs.
- City Harvest does not work directly with schools, however, they do know that 1.1 million children that realize on school meals, their families are accessing the food panties.
- Jerome Nathaniel shared this link <https://www.cityharvest.org/food-map/> where you can type in any address and find a local market program near you.
- Lauren Springer made a recommendation to share the City Harvest presentation with the full CB2 board and the link to sign onto the petition for more funding for City Harvest. <https://p2a.co/JiAUyvZ>
- Feeding America is a national network of foodbanks. There are 205 foodbanks across the country and each foodbank covers a particular area.
- Advocate, Donate and Volunteer are three ways the community can help City Harvest.
- It was suggested to Jerome Nathaniel to share information that can be added to the CB2 newsletter.

Old Business:

- Committee discussion of putting community data into action.
 - Spatial Equity was mentioned. <https://www.spatalequity.nyc/>
 - New report on public bathrooms.

New Business:

- Try to get a representative from The Northwell School of Health Sciences to present at a Health & Human Services and Education and Unhoused & Shelter committee meeting.

Lauren Springer thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by:

Kim Waber