

# Mayor and Council Communication

DATE: 05/09/23

M&C FILE NUMBER: M&C 23-0351

LOG NAME: 80BLUEZONES

## **SUBJECT**

(ALL) Authorize Acceptance of a Grant from Blue Zones Project/North Texas Health Communities in the Amount Up to \$20,000.00 to Support the Fresh Access Program at 20 Fort Worth Community and Athletic Centers and Adopt Appropriation Ordinance

## **RECOMMENDATION:**

It is recommended that the City Council:

1. Authorize acceptance of a grant from Blue Zones Project/North Texas Health Communities in the amount up to \$20,000.00 to support the Fresh Access Program at 20 Fort Worth Community and Athletic Centers; and
2. Adopt the attached appropriation ordinance increasing estimated receipts and appropriations in the Grants Operating Other Fund, subject to receipt of the grant, in the amount up to \$20,000.00, for the purpose of purchasing supplies to support the program.

## **DISCUSSION:**

The purpose of this Mayor and Council Communication is to authorize the acceptance of a grant from Blue Zones Project/North Texas Health Communities, the nonprofit arm of Texas Health Resources, in the amount up to \$20,000.00 to support the Fresh Access Program at Fort Worth Community and Athletic Centers. Staff at Blue Zones reached out to indicate they wanted to provide mini-grants to support each location that currently are Fresh Access partners. There was no application process since the request came directly from Blue Zones.

The Fresh Access Program is guided by evidence-based practices, and Blue Zones works to create an environment that supports health and well-being. A critical component of this work is the focus on systems change to improve access to fresh food for all residents. Blue Zones has partnered with over 34 schools and community organizations to distribute over 665,850 pounds of fruits and vegetables to communities in need and continue support of both school and community gardens, local farms, and local businesses.

The goal of Fresh Access is to meet people where they are to offer access to fresh produce and nutrition resources to boost well-being. This is accomplished by partnering with trusted organizations to offer fresh fruits and vegetables and resources to the community and emphasizing the importance of community involvement to create healthier communities. In 2022, the Fresh Access program served over 21,000 people and distributed over 131,000 pounds of produce.

The grant will be used to purchase supplies and other program support expenses. These may include supplies for packing and distributing food, nutrition education, and storage.

The Fresh Access Program was first piloted in the summer of 2020 at 12 community center locations. Grant allocations will be distributed as described below:

<b>Location</b>	<b>Allocation</b>
Andrew Doc Session Community Center	\$1,000.00
Chisholm Trail Community Center	\$1,000.00
Como Community Center	\$1,000.00
Diamond Hill Community Center	\$1,000.00
Eugene McCray Community Center	\$1,000.00
Fire Station Community Center	\$1,000.00
Greenbriar Community Center	\$1,000.00
Handley Meadowbrook Community Center	\$1,000.00
HAWS Athletic Center	\$1,000.00
Highland Hills Community Center	\$1,000.00
Atatiana Carr-Jefferson Community Center at Hillside	\$1,000.00
Martin Luther King Community Center	\$1,000.00
North Tri-Ethnic Community Center	\$1,000.00
Northside Community Center	\$1,000.00
RD Evans Community Center	\$1,000.00
Riverside Community Center	\$1,000.00
Southwest Community Center	\$1,000.00
Sycamore Community Center	\$1,000.00
Thomas Place Community Center	\$1,000.00

Victory Forest Community Center

\$1,000.00

This program serves ALL COUNCIL DISTRICTS.

A Form 1295 is not required because: This M&C does not request approval of a contract with a business entity.

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**FISCAL INFORMATION / CERTIFICATION:**

The Director of Finance certifies that upon approval of the above recommendations and adoption of the attached appropriation ordinance, funds will be available in the current operating budget, as appropriated, in the Grants Operating Other Fund. Park & Recreation (and Financial Management Services) will be responsible for the collection and deposit of funds due to the City. Prior to expenditures being incurred, Park & Recreation has the responsibility to validate the availability of funds. This is an advance funding grant.

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