



BOSTON CITY COUNCIL

Committee on Strong Women, Families, and Communities

Liz Breadon, *Chair*

REPORT OF COMMITTEE CHAIR

October 19, 2021

Dear Councilors:

The Committee on Strong Women, Families, and Communities was referred the following dockets for consideration:

Docket #0958, Message and order authorizing the City of Boston to accept and expend the amount of One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000.00) in the form of a grant for the No Kid Hungry, awarded by Share Our Strength to be administered by the Office of Food Access. The grant will fund school-based food programs (BosFoodLove) and the Community Hub Schools Initiative.

Docket #1014, Message and order authorizing the City of Boston to accept and expend the amount of Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$500,000.00) in the form of a grant for the FY21 Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program, awarded by the Nation Institute of Food and Agriculture-USDA, to be administered by the Office of Food Access.

These matters were sponsored by the Administration, and were referred to the Committee on September 15, 2021 (#0958) and September 29, 2021 (#1014).

Summary

Docket #0958 requests approval to authorize the City of Boston to accept and expend the amount of One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000.00) in the form of a grant for the No Kid Hungry, awarded by Share Our Strength to be administered by the Office of Food Access. The grant will fund school-based food programs (BosFoodLove) and the Community Hub Schools Initiative.

Docket #1014 requests approval to authorize the City of Boston to accept and expend the amount of Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$500,000.00) in the form of a grant for the FY21 Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program, awarded by the Nation Institute of Food and Agriculture-USDA, to be administered by the Office of Food Access. The grant would fund projects to increase the purchase of fresh fruits and vegetables by low-income SNAP consumers

Information Received at Hearing

The Committee held a hearing on Dockets #0958 and #1014 on Friday, October 1, 2021. Catalina Lopez-Ospina, Director, Office of Food Access (OFA) provided testimony on behalf of the Administration.

Director Lopez-Ospina discussed Docket #1014 and stated that OFA was awarded a grant from the FY21 Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program through the National Institute of Food and the United States Department of Agriculture in the amount of \$500,000 to be administered over the next three years. She stated that this grant will be used to fund an expansion of the Boston Double Up Bucks program, a SNAP incentive program where individuals can get 50 percent off fresh fruits and vegetables with their EBT card at participating grocery stores and corner stores. Specifically, this new funding will allow for additional store locations to participate in the Boston Double Up Bucks program. Currently there are 12 stores participating in this program in neighborhoods across the city with the anticipation of an additional 4 to 6 more stores with this new funding.

Director Lopez-Ospina discussed Docket #0958 and stated that OFA was awarded \$100,000 in the form of a grant from No Kid Hungry through Share Our Strength. This grant will be used to increase funding for the BosFoodLove program which aims to increase the participation of breakfast and lunch opportunities at Boston Public Schools and Charter school students and families. Specifically, this funding will assist in providing culturally appropriate for in school settings and to extend the full-time manager position of the BosFoodLove program to improve engagement with youth and community members and organizations.

Committee Chair Recommended Action

As Chair of the Committee on Strong Women, Families, and Communities, I recommend moving the listed docket from the Committee to the full Council for discussion and formal action. At that time, my recommendation to the full Council will be that this matter **OUGHT TO PASS**.



Liz Breadon, Chair
Committee on Strong Women, Families,
and Communities