



CITY OF SANTA BARBARA
Neighborhood Advisory Council

AGENDA DATE: April 12, 2017
TO: Neighborhood Advisory Council
FROM: Neighborhood Outreach and Services, Parks and Recreation
SUBJECT: Presentation of Food Distribution Program

RECOMMENDATION: That the NAC receive a presentation regarding the Food Distribution program serving our community at three City of Santa Barbara locations.

DISCUSSION: In 1997, the Parks and Recreation Department (Department) approached the Foodbank of Santa Barbara County and discussed the possibility of a developing a program that would provide free food to families at locations within the City of Santa Barbara. Later that year, the Department hosted the first food distribution event at the Lower Westside Center and more than 400 individuals were served.

Since 1997, the Food Distribution program has grown to 13 food distribution events per month at three City of Santa Barbara locations – Parque de Los Niños, the Franklin Neighborhood Center, and the Westside Neighborhood Center. Through these distributions, residents are provided with fresh, local produce and canned and packaged goods that are donated to the Foodbank from local grocery stores, farms and individuals through their food programs. During the first six months of Fiscal Year 2017, more than 45,000 pounds of food was distributed to local residents.

The success and growth of the program has been possible with the support of many generous community volunteers. In Fiscal Year 2016 alone, volunteers donated 1,500 hours to support food distribution events. Volunteers assist City staff with set up, breakdown, cleaning, distribution of food, translation and program outreach.

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