



**CITY OF SANTA BARBARA**  
**PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION REPORT**

**AGENDA DATE:** January 23, 2019  
**TO:** Parks and Recreation Commission  
**FROM:** Recreation Division, Parks and Recreation Department  
**SUBJECT:** Commission Recognition of Food Distribution Volunteers

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Commission receive a presentation regarding the Food Distribution program and recognize program volunteers for their commitment to serving the community through the food distribution program held at three City of Santa Barbara locations.

**DISCUSSION:**

In 1997, the Parks and Recreation Department (Department) approached the Foodbank of Santa Barbara County to discuss 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 for more than 400 individuals.

Currently, the Food Distribution program, coordinated by City staff, is held 11 times 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. Recently, the Foodbank began distributing USDA food supplies, which added meats and cheeses for the food distribution. In the first six months of Fiscal Year 2019, more than 1,400 individuals received support from this program.

The success and growth of the program is attributed, in part, to the support of many generous community volunteers. Throughout 2018, over 30 volunteers assisted City staff with set up, breakdown, cleaning, distribution of food, translation, and program outreach. A number of volunteers have been active for more than 15 years and rarely miss a distribution. Through rain or shine, and even during the Thomas Fire and January 9 Debris Flow, volunteers continued to serve program participants and assist the City with the implementation of the program providing healthy nutrition to residents.

It is with great gratitude that the Parks and Recreation Department recommends that the Commission recognize the volunteers of the Department's Food Distribution program for their time and dedication.

**PREPARED BY:** Susan C. Young, Neighborhood and Outreach Services Supervisor

**SUBMITTED BY:** Rich Hanna, Parks and Recreation Assistant Director

**APPROVED BY:** Jill E. Zachary, Parks and Recreation Director