



# Memorandum

**TO:** MAYOR REED

**FROM:** Councilmember Sam Liccardo

**SUBJECT:** BUDGET DOCUMENT

**DATE:** May 22, 2013

Approved

Date

5-22-13

## RECOMMENDATION

That the following proposal be adopted.

### Proposal

Program/Project Title: Senior Nutrition – On-Site Cooking of Meals

Amount of City Funding Required: \$276,643

Fund Type: General Fund, Essential Services Fund

Anticipated Outcomes: All stakeholders, including city staff, acknowledge that we would better serve our seniors through the senior nutrition program if the cooking of the food occurred on-site, and if it uniquely catered to the diverse clientele at each of our centers. While PRNS has sincerely striven to work with our current service provider to improve the quality of the food, it still does not meet the standards established by PRNS employees who cooked the food on-site.

Parks staff proposes to increase senior nutrition funding by \$100,000, which will result in seniors receiving a soup or salad with their meal. While we appreciate staff's effort to improve the meal, the quality of the food remains disappointing to many of our constituents. Widespread disaffection with the food quality has led to defection from our senior nutrition programs, as seniors have voted with their feet. Sadly, many of these same seniors suffer enormously from malnourishment and lack of social contact, both of which were traditionally provided through this program.

Staff has indicated that they intend to place the senior nutrition program out for an RFP sometime early next year; but again, unless the RFP calls for on-site cooking, the quality of the food will remain an issue with participants. As such, if we have the opportunity to resolve the "quality" issue without the expense of an RFP, we should do so without delay.

This is not to say that the City should pay for all of the costs associated with on-site cooking. The County, as our partner in providing senior nutrition, should bear a responsibility as well. Currently, the County's reimbursement to the city accounts for 60% of senior nutrition funding. Thus, if cooking on-site is restored, the County should contribute 60% of that cost as well, or \$414,965. The city's portion would amount to \$276,643. Accordingly, the City should place at least \$276,643 in reserve and direct the City Manager to

negotiate with the County for the remainder of the funds needed for on-site cooking. Should the County agree to contribute their share to support on-site cooking, the City could forgo the RFP entirely (and save the costs associated with such a process), and reinstate on-site cooking by city staff. If the County does not contribute their fair share of this increased burden, the City can still pursue an RFP (catered or with on-site cooking) and this \$276,643 can be applied toward that effort.

**Funding Source**

Program/Project Title: Senior Nutrition – On-Site Cooking of Meals

Amount of City Funding Change: \$276,643

Fund Type: General Fund, Essential Services Fund

Anticipated Outcomes: Requested funding changes would affect benefits or services for San José residents, businesses, community groups, etc., as described below:

This recommended funding change would provide a much better level of quality of food to our seniors.

Department or Organization: Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services

Department or Organization Contact:

Name: Julie Edmonds-Mares

Phone number: 535-3570

E-mail address: julie.edmonds-mares@sanjoseca.gov

This change is:

One-time     Ongoing

The City Service Area to which the change best relates:

- Community and Economic Development Services
- Environmental and Utility Services
- Neighborhood Services
- Public Safety
- Strategic Support
- Transportation and Aviation Services