



AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY FORM

PROPOSED MEETING DATE: October 7, 2026
PREPARED BY: Scott Moore, City Manager
DEPARTMENT: Administration

AGENDA ITEM DESCRIPTION:

Consideration, discussion, and possible action regarding Operation Turkey 2026.

BACKGROUND/SUMMARY:

Operation Turkey is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to eradicating hunger by preparing, packaging, and delivering hot Thanksgiving meals to the homeless and less fortunate.

Founded in Austin, Texas in the year 2000 when a single resident decided to share his holiday leftovers with someone in need, it has since grown into a massive national movement operating entirely on volunteer power. It is unique for being **100% volunteer-run** with no paid staff, ensuring that contributions go directly toward feeding people.

The Process: How It Works

The entire operation relies on synchronized community teamwork, compressed into a high-impact window on Thanksgiving Day. The process typically involves:

- **Preparation and Cooking:** Volunteers gather early on Thanksgiving morning (or days prior for smoking turkeys) to cook traditional holiday meals, including turkey, stuffing, sides, and pie.
- **Assembly Lines:** Volunteers of all ages come together at designated staging locations to set up packing stations.
- **Care Package Integration:** Alongside warm food, meals are packaged with essentials like hygiene items, socks, warm clothing, and notes of encouragement.
- **Direct Delivery:** In just a matter of hours, drivers and walking volunteers hand-deliver the meals directly to individuals on the streets, at shelters, or to families facing hardship who might otherwise go without.

Why It Benefits the Community

Operation Turkey provides profound multi-layered benefits to local communities:

- **Combats Immediate Food Insecurity:** It ensures that vulnerable, unhoused, and low-income residents receive a nutritious, warm meal and do not feel forgotten on a major holiday.
- **Restores Dignity and Connection:** Beyond just calories, face-to-face delivery bridges social divides, offering human interaction, dignity, and a sense of belonging to people who are often marginalized.
- **Fosters Community Engagement:** It unites people from all walks of life - families, local businesses, students, and community leaders- giving them a direct, hands-on outlet to give back locally.

Bringing Operation Turkey to the City of Manor is a powerful way to extend regional holiday support directly to local families, seniors, and unhoused individuals who might otherwise slip through the cracks. Because neighboring Central Texas hubs already run massive operations, expanding an official drop point or satellite location to Manor is a natural progression.

How to bring Operation Turkey to Manor:

Step 1: Initiate Contact with National Leadership

Step 2: Secure a Local Staging Venue in Manor

Step 3: Build a Core Local Committee

Step 4: Leverage Community Networks for Promotion