



**BUSINESS OF THE CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF MERCER ISLAND**

**AB 6750
September 2, 2025
Consent Agenda**

AGENDA BILL INFORMATION

TITLE:	AB 6750: Hunger Action Month, Proclamation No. 366	<input type="checkbox"/> Discussion Only <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Action Needed: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Motion <input type="checkbox"/> Ordinance <input type="checkbox"/> Resolution
RECOMMENDED ACTION:	Approve Proclamation No. 366 proclaiming September 2025 as Hunger Action Month on Mercer Island.	

DEPARTMENT:	Youth and Family Services
STAFF:	Mayor Salim Nice Derek Franklin, YFS Administrator
COUNCIL LIAISON:	n/a
EXHIBITS:	1. Proclamation No. 366
CITY COUNCIL PRIORITY:	n/a

AMOUNT OF EXPENDITURE	\$ n/a
AMOUNT BUDGETED	\$ n/a
APPROPRIATION REQUIRED	\$ n/a

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this agenda bill is to proclaim September 2025 as Hunger Action Month on Mercer Island with Proclamation No. 366 (Exhibit 1) to raise awareness about the importance of food security and to inspire residents to take action.

BACKGROUND

September has historically been recognized as a month to focus on food security. [Hunger Action Month](#) was first launched by Feeding America in 2007 as an annual campaign to raise awareness about hunger in the United States. Mercer Island has historically recognized the regional Mayor’s Day of Concern for the Hungry each September, alongside a local grassroots initiative known as No Islander Goes Hungry (NIGH), which promotes giving to support food security. The Department of Youth and Family Services (YFS) continues to champion this cause as part of its mission to support the wellbeing of residents of all ages, and encourages the community to give in support of food security efforts

ISSUE/DISCUSSION

Every community in the country faces food security issues, including Mercer Island. Pre-pandemic, the Youth and Family Services Department (YFS) operated a drop-in food pantry out of the Luther Burbank Administration Building. The YFS Food Pantry distributed primarily shelf-stable food items sourced through a

combination of donations from school and community food drives and modest funding support from the YFS Emergency Assistance budget to ensure adequate pantry stock over the summer months when donations typically decreased.

During the Pandemic crisis, demand for food support increased dramatically. YFS closed the food pantry due to safety and operational concerns related to COVID-19 and introduced a grocery store cash card distribution system. This system was funded by a combination of YFS budget, COVID relief funds, and a significant increase in financial support from the Mercer Island Youth and Family Services Foundation. Peak demand saw an allocation of up to \$225,000 for food cards annually.

As the Pandemic subsided and demand reduced (although still significantly higher than pre-pandemic), the financial and strategic decision was made to stop the food card distribution program. To adapt to evolving demand, YFS partnered with Hopelink to bring a Mobile Food Market (truck) to Mercer Island to provide both shelf-stable and fresh food items to residents in need. Currently, approximately 75 households visit the Mobile Market per stop on Mercer Island, down from approximately 100 in 2024. This decrease can be partially attributed to increased referrals for larger families and those with dietary restrictions to Hopelink's central location in Bellevue. Hopelink notes that the Mercer Island Mobile Market stop is consistently one of the busiest on its regional schedule.

A YFS community partner, the Mercer Island Farmers Market, remains a key player in food security efforts on Mercer Island as their "Market Bucks" program for SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) eligible shoppers, sells out within 15-30 minutes.

During Hunger Action Month 2025, YFS calls upon residents to increase their awareness of the impact of food insecurity both on Mercer Island and nationally and to consider donating time or resources towards ending food insecurity. Additional information is available at www.feedingamerica.org. Mercer Island residents facing food insecurity can receive assistance by calling the YFS confidential intake voicemail line at (206) 275-7657.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Approve Proclamation No. 366 proclaiming September 2025 as Hunger Action Month on Mercer Island.