



# BUSINESS OF THE CITY COUNCIL CITY OF MERCER ISLAND

**AB 6323**  
**September 5, 2023**  
**Consent Agenda**

## AGENDA BILL INFORMATION

<b>TITLE:</b>	AB 6323: No Islander Goes Hungry Day, Proclamation No. 316	<input type="checkbox"/> Discussion Only <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Action Needed: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Motion <input type="checkbox"/> Ordinance <input type="checkbox"/> Resolution
<b>RECOMMENDED ACTION:</b>	Approve Proclamation No. 316 proclaiming September 23, 2023 as No Islander Goes Hungry Day.	

<b>DEPARTMENT:</b>	Youth and Family Services
<b>STAFF:</b>	Ali Spietz, Chief of Administration Derek Franklin, YFS Administrator
<b>COUNCIL LIAISON:</b>	n/a
<b>EXHIBITS:</b>	1. Proclamation No. 316
<b>CITY COUNCIL PRIORITY:</b>	n/a

<b>AMOUNT OF EXPENDITURE</b>	\$ n/a
<b>AMOUNT BUDGETED</b>	\$ n/a
<b>APPROPRIATION REQUIRED</b>	\$ n/a

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of the agenda bill is to raise awareness about national Hunger Action Month, the regional Mayor’s Day of Concern for the Hungry, and to proclaim September 23, 2023 as No Islander Goes Hungry Day to raise awareness about the importance of food security and to inspire residents to take action.

## BACKGROUND

The Mayor’s Day of Concern for the Hungry has historically been a regional effort among King County municipalities, in coordination with the King County Emergency Feeding Program, to identify a day each September to focus on food security. The timing of the effort aligns with September being National Hunger Action Month. The first No Islander Goes Hungry Day was launched in 2022 with a proclamation to correspond with the Mayor’s Day of Concern for the Hungry. The No Islander Goes Hungry Day provides messaging, awareness, and a means for local financial giving to the Youth and Family Services (YFS) Department’s food security efforts via a dedicated fundraising platform hosted by the Mercer Island Youth and Family Services Foundation.

## ISSUE/DISCUSSION

Every community in the country faces food insecurity in different ways. On Mercer Island, food insecurity rates continue to be influenced by the COVID-19 pandemic and inflation. This results in a disproportionate

impact on residents living at or below the poverty level. YFS food security efforts scaled-up during the pandemic to meet the emerging need. In 2023, food pantry utilization increased by approximately 40% from 2022 based upon average weekly use rates through July 31, 2023. The number of households served in 2023 is averaging 106 households per week compared to 75 in 2022 and 35 in 2020. In the first half of 2023 (January through June), food card distribution totaled \$106,850. During the same period in 2022, the total was \$69,975—an increase of approximately 52%.

To help support YFS food security programming, the No Islander Goes Hungry effort was formed in the spring of 2022 by three community organizations with a shared history of support for the YFS Food Pantry: the MIYFS Foundation, the Mercer Island Farmers Market, and the Rotary Club of Mercer Island’s Foundation.

September 23, 2022 was proclaimed the first No Islander Goes Hungry Day on Mercer Island. The concept of No Islander Goes Hungry was created as a branded vehicle to promote awareness of food insecurity locally and as a call to action in the form of financial donations towards YFS food security efforts. The group suggests a \$23.00 donation (or more) on September 23 as this amount can support the basic food needs of one family of four for a day.

As part of No Islander Goes Hungry Day collaborating organizations, groups, and individuals will be conducting campaigns in the community to support YFS food security efforts. Contributions can be made via the MIYFS Foundation-hosted website [www.minigh.org](http://www.minigh.org). 100% of donations go directly towards YFS food assistance.

YFS food security support is available to any Island resident experiencing food insecurity by contacting the YFS Emergency Assistance Coordinator, Cheryl Manriquez, at [cheryl.manriquez@mercerialand.gov](mailto:cheryl.manriquez@mercerialand.gov) or by calling the YFS confidential intake line at (206) 275-7657.

## **RECOMMENDED ACTION**

Approve Proclamation No. 316 proclaiming September 23, 2023, as No Islander Goes Hungry Day on Mercer Island.