



BUSINESS OF THE CITY COUNCIL CITY OF MERCER ISLAND

AB 6981
September 1, 2026
Consent Agenda

AGENDA BILL INFORMATION

TITLE:	AB 6981: Hunger Action Month, Proclamation No. 395	☐ Discussion Only
RECOMMENDED ACTION:	Approve Proclamation No. 395 proclaiming September 2026 as Hunger Action Month on Mercer Island.	☒ Action Needed: ☒ Motion ☐ Ordinance ☐ Resolution

DEPARTMENT:	Youth and Family Services
STAFF:	Mayor David Rosenbaum Derek Franklin, YFS Administrator
COUNCIL LIAISON:	n/a
EXHIBITS:	1. Proclamation No. 395
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 2026 as Hunger Action Month on Mercer Island with Proclamation No. 395 (Exhibit 1) to raise awareness about the importance of food security and to inspire residents to take action and help build a future where no one goes hungry.

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 that corresponds with the National Hunger Action Month. The City of Mercer Island Department of Youth and Family Services (YFS) continues to champion food security as part of its mission to support the wellbeing of residents of all ages and encourages the community to contribute to support the effort.

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.

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 with substantial financial contribution from the Mercer Island Youth and Family Services Foundation.

As the Pandemic subsided and demand reduced, 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. The truck currently stops on Mercer Island every other Wednesday. YFS augments the food security needs of residents with exceptional need with food/grocery cards from its Emergency Assistance program. Currently, residents from approximately 85 unique households visit the Mobile Market per stop on Mercer Island.

During Hunger Action Month 2026, 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. 395 proclaiming September 2026 as Hunger Action Month on Mercer Island.