



BUSINESS OF THE CITY COUNCIL CITY OF MERCER ISLAND

AB 6134
September 20, 2022
Consent Agenda

AGENDA BILL INFORMATION

TITLE:	AB 6134: Mercer Island No Islander Goes Hungry (MI NIGH) Day, Proclamation No. 294	<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:	Proclaim September 23, 2022 as MI NIGH Day on Mercer Island	

DEPARTMENT:	City Council
STAFF:	Ali Spietz, Chief of Administration Tambi Cork, YFS Administrator
COUNCIL LIAISON:	n/a
EXHIBITS:	1. Proclamation No. 294
CITY COUNCIL PRIORITY:	n/a

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this agenda bill is to proclaim September 23, 2022 as “MI NIGH Day” on Mercer Island (see Exhibit 1).

BACKGROUND

The month of September is National Hunger Month and September 23 is observed each year as Hunger Action Day. On Mercer Island, a collaboration between the City’s Youth and Family Services Department, Mercer Island Youth and Family Services Foundation, Mercer Island Community Fund, Mercer Island Rotary Foundation, Mercer Island Farmers Market, and Mercer Island Chamber of Commerce has launched a campaign called NIGH: No Islander Goes Hungry, with the goal increasing awareness of food insecurity and raising funds for the MIYFS Food Pantry grocery gift card program.

Proclaiming Hunger Action Day on Mercer Island as “MI NIGH Day” recognizes that 5% of the Mercer Island population falls below the local poverty line, demand for food assistance from MIYFS is still double pre-pandemic levels, and that the entire community can play a role in eliminating food insecurity for children, families, and individuals on Mercer Island.

ISSUE/DISCUSSION

Food insecurity has been tremendously impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic on Mercer Island. In 2021, the YFS Food Pantry was accessed 3,377 times by Mercer Island residents, with no sustained decrease in 2022. Weekly usage of the pantry has more than doubled in households served, from 35 households/week in 2020 pre-pandemic, to an average of 75 households/week in 2022. The economic impact of the pandemic continues to disproportionately impact our most vulnerable residents, and YFS is grateful for the support of

the Mercer Island community, and collaborations like NIGH, so that the demand for services can continue to be met.

NIGH was formed in the spring of 2022 by three community organizations that have historically invested in the YFS Food Pantry – the Mercer Island Farmers Market, the YFS Foundation, and the Rotary Club of Mercer Island’s Foundation. The concept of NIGH – No Islander Goes Hungry – was created as a branded vehicle to promote awareness of food insecurity and a call to action in the form of financial donations for the YFS Food Pantry. NIGH’s goal is to raise \$125,000 for YFS by year-end – a donation of just \$12 from each Mercer Island household would make that possible.

The NIGH campaign was launched at Summer Celebration and continued to have a presence at Music in the Park, Art Uncorked, and the Mercer Island Farmers Market. For additional opportunities to support the NIGH campaign, look for the NIGH booths or NIGH signage at partner booths when attending the Pumpkin Walk, Harvest Market and YFS Foundation TreeLot later this year.

Contributions can be made via the YFS Foundation at www.minigh.org. 100% of donations made through this page will go directly towards YFS food assistance. As part of MI NIGH Day, on September 23, collaborating organizations, groups and individuals will be conducting campaigns to support the YFS Food Pantry.

Food Pantry services are available to all Island residents experiencing food insecurity by contacting the YFS Emergency Assistance Coordinator, Cheryl Manriquez, at Cheryl.Manriquez@MercerIsland.gov.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Proclaim September 23, 2022 as “MI NIGH DAY” on Mercer Island.