

COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION MEETING

Wednesday, February 19, 2025

Documents Received after
Agenda Publication



The Peace Haven

17th February 2025

Dear City of Hayward Commissioners,

Subject: Urgent Request for Increased Funding Allocation for Peace Haven Freedom Store

We are writing to express our deep disappointment and concern regarding the recent funding recommendations for our organization, Peace Haven Freedom Store.

While we submitted a request for \$50,000 to continue providing critical services to the Hayward community, we were only recommended for \$10,000—identical to last year's allocation. This decision does not reflect the significant needs of the individuals and families we serve, nor does it align with the city's previous discussions acknowledging the importance of our work.

As an organization dedicated to alleviating food insecurity, Peace Haven Freedom Store serves over 2,500 individuals every month. We recover and distribute large amounts of food, ensuring that no one in our community goes hungry.

Our services are not only essential but also growing in demand. The rising costs of food, transportation, and operations have made it increasingly difficult to sustain our efforts with the limited funding we receive. Last year, we struggled to meet the needs of those relying on us, and with the current recommendation of \$10,000, we fear that our ability to serve the community will be severely impacted.

We distinctly recall the city council meeting where the Mayor and several Council Members voiced their support for increasing funding to our organization. There was a clear recognition of the vital role we play in the community and an acknowledgment that more resources should be allocated to support our work. Yet, despite these discussions, the recommended funding remains unchanged from the previous year.

This outcome is disheartening, as it does not reflect the city's stated commitment to strengthening social services for Hayward residents.

The reality is that the demand for our services has increased. Families facing financial hardship, seniors on fixed incomes, and individuals experiencing homelessness all rely on the food and resources we provide. Every dollar we receive goes directly toward helping those in need.

However, with limited funding, we are faced with difficult choices—whether to cut back on the amount of food distributed, reduce our operational capacity, or limit outreach efforts. None of these options are acceptable when so many people depend on us.



The Peace Haven

We strongly urge the city commissioners to reconsider our funding request and allocate the necessary resources to support us and ensure we can continue making a meaningful impact.

Peace Haven Freedom Store is a lifeline for thousands of residents, and it is crucial that the city stands with us in supporting this work. We are not merely asking for financial assistance—we are asking for a commitment to the well-being of our community.

We appreciate your time and consideration of this matter and look forward to your response.

We remain hopeful that the city will honor its commitment to supporting organizations like ours, which work tirelessly to meet the needs of Hayward's most vulnerable populations.

Sincerely,

Shubbie Aishida
Executive Director

EIN: 85-3455182

1063 A Street, Hayward, CA 94541 * www.thepeacehaven.org * (408) 680 6577

From: [Christina Antos](#)
To: [Emily Hwang](#)
Cc: [Estephanie Urbina](#)
Subject: # II. RPT 25-014, Attachment II Preliminary Recommendations (TVHC)
Date: Wednesday, February 19, 2025 2:38:02 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)
[image006.png](#)
[image007.png](#)
[image008.png](#)

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Good afternoon, Emily:

I hope you are doing well. I sent the below to Amy for the meeting tonight, but the instructions you sent last week say to also reach out to you as well.

On behalf of Tiburcio Vasquez Health Center, Inc. (TVHC), I am providing written commentary to agenda item **# II. RPT 25-014, Attachment II Preliminary Recommendations**.

We appreciate the City of Hayward's commitment to youth health and well-being and respectfully request reconsideration of the preliminary recommendation to award \$0 of our \$50,000 request for health education at Hayward High School's School-Based Health Center.

Our program delivers essential health education on preventive care, sexual health, substance use, nutrition, and chronic disease prevention—critical topics that directly impact students' well-being and academic success. Many students at Hayward High face barriers to accessing reliable health information, making our full-time, on-site Health Educator a vital resource for informed decision-making.

While Alameda County provides partial funding for our school-based health centers, our contract requires us to match at least 50% of the costs. To bridge this gap, TVHC actively secures local and private funding and bills Family PACT and other insurance programs. Support from the City of Hayward has been crucial in maintaining and expanding our youth health services over the years, and we urge you to continue this support.

Without this funding — and with anticipated reductions in federal, state, and county resources over the next couple of years — TVHC may be forced to make difficult decisions, including workforce reductions and cost-saving measures that would significantly impact students and the broader community. We urge the city to reconsider and support this vital program.

Thank you for your time and understanding. Please let us know if you need any more information.



Christina Antos

Director of Business Development

Tiburcio Vasquez Health Center

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Hayward, CA 94541

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Email: christinaantos@tvhc.org



From: Aine Minihane Smith <AMinihane@eldercarealliance.org>

Sent: Wednesday, February 19, 2025 2:14:52 PM

To: Amy Cole-Bloom <Amy.Cole@hayward-ca.gov>

Cc: Janice Roberts <JRoberts@ElderCareAlliance.org>

Subject: Agenda Item I: Public Comments for City of Hayward Community Services Commission

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Dear Amy,

We would like to submit three comments for public comment from two of the agencies we serve in Hayward—Hayward Senior Center and La Familia.

Additionally, Janice Roberts, our Director, will be attending in person and would like the opportunity to speak during the public comment section. Please let us know if there are any specific procedures she should follow to participate.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Best wishes,

Aine Minihane-Smith

Development Manager

"Having a Mercy Brown Bag pickup location at the Hayward Senior Center has truly been a game-changer for our seniors. It provides a much-needed opportunity for them to access healthy groceries much closer to where they live, making it easier for them to stay nourished. The best part is that our seniors really enjoy it and look forward to it each time. It's become an important part of their routine, and we're so grateful for this partnership that helps us support their health and well-being."

— Susie, Coordinator, Hayward Senior Center

"Hello, my name is Roberta Crawford. I am 66 years old and live with my adult disabled daughter. We are on a very limited income—I receive only \$660 per month in survivor benefits from my late husband.

I want to express my deep gratitude for the **Mercy Brown Bag Program** and the food distribution at the Hayward Senior Center. The quality and variety of food were

outstanding—fresh fruits, vegetables, rice, eggs, cheese, even catfish and greens. It's been a long time since I've had groceries like that.

Beyond the food itself, the people running the program were so kind and welcoming. It truly made a difference for me and my daughter.

I also want to sincerely **thank the City of Hayward for making senior nutrition a priority. Mercy Brown Bag Program** is a huge asset to our community and to my household specifically. For people like me, this isn't just about food—it's about dignity, health, and survival. Your continued support means the world to us.

Thank you."

Roberta Crawford, Mercy Brown Bag Recipient

"Since partnering with Mercy Brown Bag, La Familia's older Latina residents now have access to fresh, nutritious food twice a month. This funding ensures that vulnerable seniors in our community continue to receive the healthy meals they need to thrive. We deeply appreciate the City of Hayward's commitment to supporting food security for older adults."

- Evelia Servin, Coordinator, La Familia

From: Carl Gorringer <carl@sungallery.org>
Sent: Wednesday, February 19, 2025 2:51:05 PM
To: Amy Cole-Bloom <Amy.Cole@hayward-ca.gov>
Subject: For CSC Meeting tonight (Agenda item II)

CAUTION:This is an external email. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you know the content is safe.

Please forward this to the CSC meeting tonight:

Dear Community Services Commission:

Hi, my name is Carl Gorringer, and I'm currently on the Board and now Treasurer at the Sun Gallery since last November. We at the Sun Gallery have had to deal with some issues this past year, and so I came to your meeting last November 20th to let you know that we had removed the individuals causing the problems. Unfortunately, it had to come down to a recall of the Board, which our members did with a unanimous vote. We haven't had any issues since and have a really wonderful Board now.

The Sun Gallery is celebrating our 50th year as a gallery and 60th year as an organization this year, one of only 2 art gallery organizations in Hayward. We will be showcasing pieces and representing some of Hayward's finest artists, including our very own Andrew Kong Knight, with an upcoming reception on Saturday March 15th 2-6 PM. You may have seen some of his murals along the B Street movie theater!

I wanted to bring to your attention a couple of items:

1. The Sun Gallery's previously awarded grant of \$20K for FY2024-25 contract had been canceled by city staff mid-term. We received the first 50% last December, but it looks like we won't be receiving the rest that we were expecting this spring.
2. We sent in an application requesting \$20K for FY2025-26 by the due date last December. I heard that the application may not have been forwarded to the CSC. I also submitted documentation that staff requested from us, as much as we could do given the circumstances we had to deal with. We understand the staff had a process they needed to follow.

We are currently in a dire financial situation. We can no longer afford to have paid staff to manage the gallery, so I, our board President Dorsi Diaz, and others have had to volunteer our time doing tasks that would normally be paid for. We didn't expect the half that was already awarded to be cut. We're finding it difficult to obtain other grant funding. We're fortunate that HARD (our landlord) had offered to give us rent relief, but it isn't enough.

We'd like to continue hosting art receptions, school field trips, Summer Art camps for the kids, and do more with our new Makerspace and courtyard event space. We'd like to continue to be a 3rd space for the community, which there aren't very many in Hayward.

The Sun Gallery brings all of this to the community on a shoe-string budget so a \$30K cut is a major blow for us!

I'm asking that the CSC please help provide us funding and not cut us off during our anniversary year!

Thank you,

Carl Gorrige, Treasurer
Sun Gallery Board of Directors
carl@sungallery.org

From: Jung-Sun Kim <kimjungsun925@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, February 19, 2025 3:49 PM

To: Amy Cole-Bloom <Amy.Cole@hayward-ca.gov>

Cc: Mark Salinas <Mark.Salinas@hayward-ca.gov>; jroberts@eldercarealliance.org

Subject: Comments about Mercy Brown Bag Program (MBBP)

CAUTION: This is an external email. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you know the content is safe.

My name is Grace Kim and I am the recently retired (as of Jan. this year) Resident Services Coordinator of Eden Issei Terrace in Hayward - a 100-unit community for low income seniors 62 and older, and owned/managed by Eden Housing, Inc. of Hayward. I would like to say a few words about the unique value of the Mercy Brown Bag Program as I was privileged to experience it for the past 7 years.

I started working with this organization in 2018, when I organized resident volunteers to drive their cars twice a month and pick up bagged groceries from the local senior center to distribute to fellow residents back at Eden Issei. The next year, Eden Issei was chosen to be part of MBBP's pilot program to have their mobile pantry truck come directly to the property to distribute groceries. I had a regular team of resident volunteers (up to 6) and 1 volunteer from the outside community work at the truck twice a month bagging groceries (about 40 bags) to be delivered to two other Eden Housing senior properties, providing help to Eden Issei's residents while choosing/bagging their own groceries at the truck, and making a few home deliveries to fellow homebound residents.

Throughout the years, the Mercy Brown Bag Program has been very solid and the best partnership by far that I've experienced in my 24 years as Eden issei's Services Coordinator. The MBBP not only provides nutrition and well-balanced and free groceries, but they provide peace of mind and added financial security to seniors on their very small incomes, and the program is its own special social event! It is something very much looked forward to twice a month and very much missed the rest of the month. I attribute this social value to the great team of resident volunteers who work at the truck - they work for the right reasons to serve and give back and help as much as they can. They provide great customer service! They have told me repeatedly how much the work means to them - their sense of pride is palpable. The 1 outside volunteer told me that it is her favorite volunteer work and she volunteers at numerous places. She has stayed on with Eden Issei for 5+ years.

To sum it up, I have never seen something that the seniors look forward to so much and rarely fail to remember attending. Services Coordinators, especially ones who work with

seniors, tend to worry about seniors' ability to remember to come to events/be willing to participate, and that is not an issue with the Mercy Brown Bag Program. Along with the 40 bags consistently provided to the two other senior sites in Hayward, Eden Issei's attendance at every Brown Bag event consistently is at 75-85 households! The consistency tells me everything - that the program has immense value for the individual and for community life at Eden Issei Terrace.

I hope MBBP continues to be supported as much as possible. Thank you very much.

Best,
Grace Kim
hs6mik@gmail.com