



December 6, 2023

Supervisor Ronen
City Hall
1 Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102

RE: Sponsorship for a Resolution Approving an Agreement with Fidelity National Information Services, Inc., for Wireless Payment Processing Services and Authorizing Acceptance of Debit Cards and Electronic Funds Transfers – No Cost

Dear Supervisor Ronen:

This Resolution would retroactively authorize the City to enter into an agreement with Fidelity National Information Services, Inc. (FIS) to continue to provide services to the Alemany Farmers' Market related to the "EBT point of sale machine" and reimbursements for same, allowing the continued acceptance of food assistance programs at the Market.

Background

San Francisco Administrative Code, Chapter 9A, Farmers' Market, subsection 9A.5., provides that all "Certified Farmers' Markets shall accept forms of payment from participants in federal, state, or City food assistance programs, including, but not limited to, the Special Supplemental nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), and the Electronic Benefits Transfer Project (EBT)" (all together "Food Assistance Programs"). For over twenty years, the Alemany Farmers' Market, under the jurisdiction and operation of the Real Estate Division (RED), has been accepting various forms of Food Assistance Programs, in addition to the EatSF, CalFresh, and MarketMatch programs.

Many if not all of these Food Assistance Programs use EBT debit cards for participants to redeem benefits for eligible foods at farmers' markets, including the Alemany Farmers' Market, in addition to vouchers, and other forms of payment. The Alemany Farmers' Market accepts EBT debit cards, provides participants with Alemany Farmers' Market tokens solely for use at the Market, and then receives electronic fund transfers from the State of California as reimbursement payments for same.

In or about July 2005, the Board of Supervisors and Mayor approved Resolution No. 543-05, Authorizing an agreement with J.P. Morgan Electronic Financial Services, Inc., to facilitate the use of state-issued EBT debit cards at the Alemany Farmers' Market. The State changed their exclusive agreement vendor from J.P. Morgan to FIS which currently manages issuance of US Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition Services Food stamp benefits to recipients in the State, including the state-issued EBT debit cards and EBT point of sale machines. Accordingly, in or about 2018, RED entered into a no cost agreement with FIS for Wireless Payment Processing Services for EBT at the Alemany Farmers' Market.

The average number of EBT users at the Alemany Farmers' Market ranges between 150 and 350 each week, with an average spending of over ten thousand dollars per week. RED wishes to ensure that food assistance program recipients continue to have easy access to fresh, nutritious and wholesome foods through the Alemany Farmers' Market and would like to continue with the no cost agreement with FIS to allow food stamp benefit recipients to continue to use state-issued EBT debit cards when making purchases at the Alemany Farmers' Market.

California Government Code Section 6159 (c) authorizes a city and county to accept a debit card or electronic funds transfer for the payment of a charge due a City and County upon obtaining authorization from the governing body that has fiscal responsibility for that agency. In addition, the term of the agreement with FIS might exceed ten years as there is no end date and will terminate upon the State of California selecting a new EBT Wireless Payment Processing Services vendor.

Approval of the Resolution will comply with both State and local law, and ensure that the EBT food stamp programs continue at Alemany Farmers' Market.

Thank you for sponsoring this legislation. Should you have any questions, please contact Claudia J. Gorham, Deputy Managing Director of the Real Estate Division at 415.713.6020 or Claudia.gorham@sfgov.org.

Sincerely,



Andrico Q. Penick
Director of Property