From:	Veronica Shepard
To:	Young, Victor (BOS)
Subject:	Fwd: Subject: Urgent Call to Action: Safeguarding Food Security for San Francisco"s Most Vulnerable
Date:	Friday, December 6, 2024 5:13:27 PM

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Hello Victor,
I failed to add your name when I sent this email below to the Rules Committee. Please add this to Monday's meeting. Thanks so much and have a great weekend.

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Veronica Shepard** <freespiritluves@gmail.com>
Date: Fri, Dec 6, 2024 at 12:26 PM
Subject: Subject: Urgent Call to Action: Safeguarding Food Security for San Francisco's Most Vulnerable
To: Walton, Shamann (BOS) <shamann.walton@sfgov.org>, <asha.safai@sfgov.org>, <aaron.peskin@sfgov.org>
Cc: Jonathan Butler <jzbutlerphd@gmail.com>, GUILLERMO REECE <greece7478@aol.com>, Bishop Jackson <pastorelj@gmail.com>, Dr. James McCray, Jr <tcdced@outlook.com>

Dear Members of the Board of Supervisors,
We write to express our deep concern regarding the proposed Ordinance 241119, which would establish the Office of Citywide Food Coordination (OCFC) and dissolve the Food Security Task Force (FSTF). While we recognize the importance of addressing food insecurity, we believe that the proposed changes may have unintended consequences, particularly for San Francisco's Black/African American community.

We are deeply troubled by the following aspects of the proposed ordinance:

1. **Delayed Food Security Report:** The extension of the Food Security Report to five years is a significant setback. Timely data is crucial to inform effective policies and allocate resources efficiently. The 2021 report highlighted significant disparities in food access for Black/African Americans, and a longer wait for the next report could delay critical interventions.
2. **Lack of Community Engagement:** Our organization, The San Francisco African American Faith-Based Coalition, has been actively working to address food insecurity in the Black/African American community for many years. Despite our efforts to engage with the Human Service Agency (HSA) and their City-wide Food Access Team, we have not been included in their decision-making processes. We have met with HSA Commissioners and made several

attempts to meet with their executive leadership with no avail.

3. **Misuse of the Term "BIPOC":** While the term BIPOC aims to acknowledge the experiences of marginalized communities, it can inadvertently obscure the unique challenges faced by Black/African Americans. We urge the City to prioritize targeted interventions for this community, which has historically been disproportionately impacted by food insecurity looking through a lens of health equity.
4. **Sudden Dissolution of the FSTF:** The abrupt dissolution of the FSTF, a dedicated body working on food security issues, and ensuring transparency and accountability raises serious concerns about the continuity of these efforts. We believe that a more collaborative approach is necessary to ensure a smooth transition and avoid disruptions to vital services and resources.

We urge you to reconsider the proposed ordinance and delay approval of this legislation before taking the following steps:

- **Prioritize Black/African American Communities:** Allocate targeted resources and support to address the unique needs of this community.
- **Engage with Community Organizations:** Foster meaningful partnerships with organizations like ours to inform decision-making and implement effective solutions.
- **Maintain the FSTF:** Retain the FSTF through June, 2026 to share current efforts and to ensure a coordinated and collaborative approach to food security as the City transitions to a new structure.
- **Accelerate the Food Security Report:** Expedite the release of the next report dated for October, 2025 to provide timely data and inform budget and policy decisions.
- **Create an accountability factor:** Develop a team of Community, Faith-Based and City partners to provide oversight and ensure transparency of all efforts.

We believe that by taking these steps, we can create a more equitable and food-secure San Francisco for all.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter.

Veronica Shepard

Founder & Board Member

San Francisco African American Faith-Based Coalition