

**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](mailto: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](mailto:shamann.walton@sfgov.org)>, <[asha.safai@sfgov.org](mailto:asha.safai@sfgov.org)>, <[aaron.peskin@sfgov.org](mailto:aaron.peskin@sfgov.org)>  
**Cc:** Jonathan Butler <[jzbutlerphd@gmail.com](mailto:jzbutlerphd@gmail.com)>, GUILLERMO REECE <[greece7478@aol.com](mailto:greece7478@aol.com)>, Bishop Jackson <[pastorelj@gmail.com](mailto:pastorelj@gmail.com)>, Dr. James McCray, Jr <[tcdced@outlook.com](mailto: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

**From:** [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#)  
**To:** [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** Fw: Urgent Action Alert - Opposition to the Creation of the Office of Citywide Food Coordination, Ordinance # 241119  
**Date:** Monday, December 9, 2024 10:06:38 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[Current State Pre-Read Nov. 2024.pdf](#)

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Item 5 on today's Rules calendar.

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**From:** Geoffrea Morris <[msgeoffrea@gmail.com](mailto:msgeoffrea@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Monday, December 9, 2024 7:53:14 AM  
**To:** Peskin, Aaron (BOS) <[aaron.peskin@sfgov.org](mailto:aaron.peskin@sfgov.org)>; Walton, Shamann (BOS) <[shamann.walton@sfgov.org](mailto:shamann.walton@sfgov.org)>; Safai, Ahsha (BOS) <[ahsha.safai@sfgov.org](mailto:ahsha.safai@sfgov.org)>  
**Subject:** Fwd: FW: Urgent Action Alert - Opposition to the Creation of the Office of Citywide Food Coordination, Ordinance # 241119

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Hello Members of the Rules Committee

I, Geoffrea Morris, as a food security leader in San Francisco's southern neighborhoods, I want you all to know I am vehemently opposed Ordinance #241119. I believe this ordinance strips the legislative branch and the community of oversight on how government deals with food insecurity and food related illness such as hypertension and diabetes.

I have been talking to several food leaders and I want to share with you all an email thread that I have been privy to from the food bank. HSA in my opinion is using bully tactics to squash and chill food leaders voices. Instead of seeking my accountability, this legislation is the antithesis of creating legislation in a vacuum without community support feedback.

Geoffrea

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** **Tanis Crosby** <[tcrosby@sfmfoodbank.org](mailto:tcrosby@sfmfoodbank.org)>  
**Date:** Sat, Dec 7, 2024 at 4:32 PM  
**Subject:** FW: Urgent Action Alert - Opposition to the Creation of the Office of Citywide Food Coordination, Ordinance # 241119  
**To:** [msgeoffrea@gmail.com](mailto:msgeoffrea@gmail.com) <[msgeoffrea@gmail.com](mailto:msgeoffrea@gmail.com)>  
**Cc:** Marchon Tatmon <[mtatmon@sfmfoodbank.org](mailto:mtatmon@sfmfoodbank.org)>, Noriko Lim-Tepper <[nlim-tepper@sfmfoodbank.org](mailto:nlim-tepper@sfmfoodbank.org)>

Hi Geoffrea:

Nice speaking with you this afternoon – thanks for reaching out.

Some additional information below and attached.

In community,

-Tanis

In addition to what Marchon shares below – here is a recap of my perspective that I shared:

Ordinance # 241119 will harm San Francisco's ability to be effective in reducing Food Insecurity – this Ordinance is a rushed measure that has far reaching consequences

- The Food Security Task Force was established in 2005 to create a city-wide plan for addressing food insecurity. Today, this body has representation of diverse community members, advises the Board of Supervisors on how to end food insecurity, and tracks vital data on hunger and food programs, and makes recommendations on policies and programs to improve food security.
- Ordinance #241119 would:
  - **Eliminate focus on striving to end food insecurity** in SF, and replace it with an office within HSA to only to coordinate efforts.
  - **Eliminate representation** - This ordinance no longer provides the benefit of direct community advisory to the Board of Supervisors with structured representation – HSA would basically get to decide with whom they consult – and there is no specific means or requirement to include people with lived experience.
  - **Reduce transparency** – the proposed ordinance reduces reporting requirements from every two years, to every 5 years. It appears the only time the Board of Supervisors would hear about food insecurity is in receiving this report – once ever 5 years, from a County Dept – not from the community.
  - **Reduce focus on equity** – the new reporting requirements do not require an equity lens.

- Instead, the Board of Supervisors **should proceed with Prop E implementation.**
  - Prop E was passed by voters
  - Prop E recognizes that government bodies that are designed to provide public input and oversight on city departments and programs are a good thing that requires reform
  - Prop E will require a process for considering changes or cuts to Commissions, and the Food Security Task Force should be included in that process.

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**From:** Marchon Tatmon <[mtatmon@sfmfoodbank.org](mailto:mtatmon@sfmfoodbank.org)>

**Sent:** Friday, December 6, 2024 7:41 PM

**Cc:** Noriko Lim-Tepper <[nlim-tepper@sfmfoodbank.org](mailto:nlim-tepper@sfmfoodbank.org)>; Marchon Tatmon <[mtatmon@sfmfoodbank.org](mailto:mtatmon@sfmfoodbank.org)>

**Subject:** Urgent Action Alert - Opposition to the Creation of the Office of Citywide Food Coordination, Ordinance # 241119

Hi Community Partners!

My name is Marchon Tatmon, and I am the Associate Director of Policy and Advocacy at the San Francisco-Marin Food Bank. Sorry for this last-minute request, but could you take 2 minutes to complete this letter of opposition to establishing the Office of Citywide Food Coordination, ordinance# 241119?

The establishment of the San Francisco Office of Citywide Food Coordination, Dissolution of Food Security Task Force aims to help provide dignity, choice, and access to nutritious food options for our most marginalized community members experiencing food insecurity. However, while this proposed ordinance is well-intentioned, policy and program efforts centered on equity and access must not fail to be based upon processes and systems of equity and access that are inclusive of community input.

In June of 2024, the San Francisco Food Security Task Force, in collaboration with

community leaders and community-based organizations, published a report that included recommendations that ordinance 241119 does not include in its final legislation. For example:

- Build regional collaboration for food purchasing and distribution systems
- Proposed to shift (when FSTF sunsets) to a permanent Food Advisory Council
- Resources for people with lived experiences of food insecurity to participate in the Council
- Develop shared city priorities for equitable resource allocation regarding food security
- Sustaining the Food Security Task Force biennial report on food Insecurity

Ordinance 241119 also failed to go through a comprehensive planning and community participation phase that should have occurred prior to the launch and or consideration of any new, comprehensive initiative.

For these reasons, the San Francisco-Marín Food Bank asks you to sign on to our letter opposing this proposed legislation.

**Please submit your response by Dec 9, 2024, by 9 am. so we can submit this petition during the Rules Committee meeting on Monday, December 9<sup>th</sup> at 10 am.**

Please Sign on using this link: <https://forms.office.com/r/Lm9xHtQhg7>.

If you plan to attend in person and leave public comment, the committee meeting will take place in the City Hall Chamber, Room 250. We will meet in front of Room 250 at 9:45 am. You could also send an email on the 9<sup>th</sup> to the clerk of the board, Victor Young, [victor.young@sfgov.org](mailto:victor.young@sfgov.org), that will be included in the meeting minutes. Here is the [Agenda](#)!

Thank you!

In collaboration,

Marchon



**Marchon Tatmon, MPA**

Associate Director, Policy and Advocacy

San Francisco-Marin Food Bank

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