

Communication from Public

Name: Maria Altamira

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Comments for Public Posting: Dear Chairperson and Honorable Members of the Budget, Finance, and Innovation Committee, My name is Maria Altamira, and I am a resident of Los Angeles who the Emergency Rapid Response Senior Meals program has profoundly impacted. I am writing to express my deep concern about the impending end of funding for the meals provided by Revolution Foods, which has been a lifeline for me and many other seniors in our community. As a recipient of these meals, I cannot overstate the significance of this program in my life. The meals provided are not just sustenance; they represent security, health, and dignity. Many of us, particularly those who are elderly and have limited mobility, struggle with food insecurity and access to nutritious meals. The program has ensured that we receive high-quality, balanced meals regularly, which has directly impacted our health and well-being. The Emergency Rapid Response Senior Meals program has been more than just a temporary solution during the pandemic; it has become an essential part of our daily lives. The extension of funding beyond late August is crucial for several reasons:

Nutritional Health: Many seniors, including myself, rely on these meals for proper nutrition. Consistent access to nutritious food helps manage chronic conditions, boosts immunity, and improves overall quality of life. **Economic Stability:** Affording nutritious food can be a significant challenge for many low-income seniors. The program alleviates this financial burden, allowing us to allocate our limited resources to other essential needs such as medication and housing. **Social Connection:** Receiving these meals provides a vital connection to the community. The regular interaction with delivery personnel, who often check on our well-being, reduces feelings of isolation and loneliness, which are prevalent among seniors. **Public Health and Safety:** Ensuring seniors have access to regular meals helps to reduce hospital visits and long-term healthcare costs. Proper nutrition and food security are foundational to maintaining public health, particularly for vulnerable populations. Councilmember Heather Hutt's motion to extend the funding is necessary to continue supporting those who need it most. The discontinuation of this program would have dire consequences for many seniors in our city, leading to increased health risks and economic strain. It is imperative that the City Council recognizes the importance of sustaining this program and

acts to secure its future. I urge you to consider this program's profound impact on our lives and take the necessary steps to ensure its continuation. Your support is crucial in helping us maintain our health, independence, and dignity. Thank you for your time and attention to this critical issue.