

## Communication from Public

**Name:**

**Date Submitted:** 06/11/2024 03:57 AM

**Council File No:** 24-0600-S11

**Comments for Public Posting:** I am elderly with health and mobility problems and on a limited budget that depends on the Rapid Response Senior Meal Program for my meals. The city council seems to think the Covid pandemic is over, but health experts say otherwise and the pandemic is particularly dangerous to the health and economic well-being of vulnerable populations like myself. I urge you to keep this program because too many at-risk people depend on it to avoid food shortages.

## Communication from Public

**Name:**

**Date Submitted:** 06/11/2024 08:14 AM

**Council File No:** 24-0600-S11

**Comments for Public Posting:** I am a proud recipient of the meals provided by the Rapid Response Senior Meal Program. I want to share my personal experience with this incredible program and convey how vital it is to me and many others like me in our community. Without the support of the Rapid Response Senior Meal Program, I would have faced impossible choices between buying food and paying for my medication. The financial strain of incredibly high inflation has made everyday staples more expensive, and the only way to get sale prices at Ralph's grocery store is to buy multiple items at once, which is not always feasible. For someone on a fixed income, these barriers make it nearly impossible to afford the essentials needed to maintain a healthy diet. While the five meals I receive each week from the program don't cover all my nutritional needs, they help fill a critical gap. These meals are not just food; they are a lifeline. The quality and taste of the meals from Everytable far surpass those of other meal programs, some of which I do not qualify for. These meals are nutritious and delicious, making a significant difference in my health and well-being. Living in Los Angeles, I understand the City has many budgetary decisions to make. However, supporting the Rapid Response Senior Meal Program should be a priority. This program provides a small but crucial lifeline to 6,000 seniors who would otherwise struggle to get by. Not to mention the over 1,200 seniors on the waiting list. Many other expenses in the City's budget do not directly serve the most vulnerable and needy members of our community. The program has been my saving grace on countless days when I wouldn't have eaten without these meals. The high cost of gas makes it increasingly difficult to get to the grocery store, and even when I manage to get there, the physical effort required to prepare a decent meal can be overwhelming due to my ailments and mobility issues. This program has not only provided me with food but has also given me hope and a sense of dignity. Knowing that I have reliable, nutritious meals delivered to my door each week allows me to focus on other aspects of my health and life. It alleviates the constant worry of where my next meal will come from and allows me to live with a bit more peace of mind. I cannot emphasize enough how important it is for the City of Los Angeles to continue funding the Rapid Response Senior Meal Program. This

initiative is not just about providing food; it's about caring for our senior citizens and ensuring that we do not abandon those who have spent their lives contributing to our community. It is about showing compassion and support for those who need it the most. An increase in the prevalence of new Covid strains, possible bird flu infections, increasingly high temperatures and rising rents are just a few of the things we seniors have to manage. Please don't add not eating healthy to the list of the dangers and threats we all face everyday. Thank you for your attention to this matter. I hope you will consider the profound impact this program has on seniors like me and choose to maintain this vital service. If anything, I believe the program should be expanded, not defunded. I honestly don't know what I'll do if these meal deliveries stop. I will likely be squeezed by the financial needs to pay for rent, medicine and transportation. What do I give up? Do I eat only every other day? Do I miss rent and risk eviction and become homeless? What about the possibility of becoming hospitalized due to not eating or any of the other issues? I suspect the costs of those will far exceed the cost of the Rapid Response Meal Program managed by Everytable. Please help us seniors. Don't just dismiss us or let us fend for ourselves after contributing so much to the city over the years.

## Communication from Public

**Name:**

**Date Submitted:** 06/11/2024 08:18 AM

**Council File No:** 24-0600-S11

**Comments for Public Posting:** Our residents have been so thankful to receive the senior meals, and it would be a shame and a hard impact on them if this program were to be terminated

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Cheri Cathryn Williams

**Date Submitted:** 06/10/2024 06:31 PM

**Council File No:** 24-0600-S11

**Comments for Public Posting:** Please keep Senior Everytable Meals. I have no car, was in hospital a few weeks ago, and the nearest market is not walkable. I'm 62. Help us all blessings Cheri Williams