

Proclamation

- WHEREAS, 1 in 6 kids in Washington state are food insecure, meaning their families struggle to provide regular access to adequate food; and
- WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated food insecurity, particularly among communities of color and households with children, the effects of which are still being felt by families; and
- WHEREAS, low-income families spend an additional \$300 per month in the summer months to provide food for themselves and their children; and
- WHEREAS, children who are food insecure are more likely to miss school, perform poorly academically, experience social, emotional, and mental health challenges, forgo healthcare, and develop chronic disease; and
- WHEREAS, The National School Lunch Program Seamless Summer Option and the Summer Food Service Program, which are funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and administered by the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction in Washington, play a vital role in alleviating food insecurity and helping low-income children get the nutrition they need during the summer months; and
- WHEREAS, Summer meal programs are most effective when paired with educational and enrichment activities, which provide students a fun, safe place to be with friends and stay active, help curb the learning loss experienced during the summer months, especially among low-income children, and prepare students to return to school ready to learn and thrive; and
- WHEREAS, 2/3 of students in Washington state are eligible for free and reduced-price school meals, yet most of these students do not access summer meals sites in their community; and
- WHEREAS, by increasing awareness about the Summer Meal programs through outreach in the community and investing in summer programming to attract more kids to meal sites, Washington can increase access to summer meals programs and ensure that no child goes hungry this summer; and
- WHEREAS, there will be 20 meal site locations around the City of Vancouver, which can be located by utilizing the Summer Meals Site Finder website: <https://usda-fns.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=e27b6688505340baa54f684193656cdb>

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Anne McEnery-Ogle, Mayor of Vancouver, do hereby proclaim the City of Vancouver's support and appreciation for the Free Summer Meals Program and encourage all residents to learn more about the program.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and cause the seal of the City of Vancouver to be affixed this 5th day of July, 2023.


ANNE McENERY-OGLE, MAYOR