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DECEMBER 8, 2020

Support for the Restaurant Workforce and Vulnerable Communities

The recently announced restrictions on dining establishments are of great concern to Los Angeles County given that restaurants are the backbone of our economy. Although COVID-19 cases are increasing and safeguards are necessary, it is incumbent on government to provide support to those industries and their employees severely impacted. The CARES Act funding offers opportunities to support restaurants and provide healthy, cultural-competent meals to vulnerable communities. The CARES Act funding has been fully allocated, but it is possible that some funding may be unspent or more may be made available before the end of the year. If that is the case, the nonprofit organization World’s Central Kitchen (WCK) offers a unique opportunity to activate restaurants and kitchens in California to feed marginalized and vulnerable communities. With philanthropic support, WCK has already provided over 20 million nutritional meals in its effort to feed Californians through its “Restaurants for the People” program. Restaurants for the People aims to keep the devastated restaurant industry

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afloat by getting restaurant and food workers re-hired and able to provide for their families, and by reinvigorating our agricultural communities hit hard by shuttering restaurants. Besides getting critically needed meals to those experiencing food insecurity, the program resonates widely throughout the economy, including continued employment for restaurant industry workers, support for the farms and producers that serve the restaurants, the shipping and distribution companies that transport the food, as well as bolstering a fast-depleting tax base to help keep the County's economy as strong as possible during the crisis.

There are many more residents in Los Angeles County than WCK can serve. By taking advantage of the "on the ground" success and expertise of nonprofit organizations like WCK, Los Angeles County has the opportunity to not only reinvigorate the County's restaurant and agricultural industries but also to get thousands of its workers rehired and once again providing for their families –thereby substantially reducing local government COVID-19 mitigation costs, and helping to ensure as quick an economic recovery as possible.

WE, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors direct the Chief Executive Office to allocate up to \$10 million of any unspent or future CARES Act funding to enter into a sole source contract with World Central Kitchen that would fund restaurants across Los Angeles County to provide meals to vulnerable communities.

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