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City Council Partners with FIND Food Bank to Bring New Mobile Food Pantry to Desert Highland Neighborhood, Beginning Aug. 22

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A free mobile food pantry for local residents in need of food assistance is coming to the Desert Highland Gateway Estates neighborhood in Palm Springs, beginning **Thursday, Aug. 22.**

The neighborhood has long been in need of a grocery store. Lack of convenient access and transportation for some residents exacerbates the issue as more readily available foods tend to be processed from fast food restaurants, convenience and liquor stores. The nearest grocery store in the area is 2.6 miles away.

The new mobile food pantry, fully funded by the City of Palm Springs, will feature fresh produce, protein, dairy and grain items. Each family will receive approximately 20-35 pounds of food free of charge. FIND Food Bank will also provide community healthcare workers to assist residents with referrals to medical and mental health resources, government programs including CalFresh and MediCal, housing agencies, financial counseling and educational services.

“FIND Food Bank, the Desert’s regional food bank, distributes more than 10 million pounds of food assistance annually to an average of 85,000 individuals a month,” according to CEO Debbie Espinosa. “Partnering with the City of Palm Springs to bring our mobile food pantry to Desert Highland was a natural fit and we are excited to begin serving the neighborhood and educating residents about healthy food choices.”

The pantry will operate the second and fourth Thursday of each month from 5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. at the James O. Jessie Desert Highland Unity Center, 480 Tramview Road.

The idea to bring food assistance to Desert Highland incubated through a standing City Council Business Retention Subcommittee meeting with local residents and the business community, held every other month by Mayor pro tem Geoff Kors and Councilmember Christy Holstege.

“Palm Springs prides itself on supporting access and equality for everyone,” said Holstege, “The City Council is gratified to partner with FIND Food Bank to provide convenient fresh food, produce and resources to this important area of our city, which is home to the residents of Desert Highland and North Palm Springs.”

Kors added, “The Subcommittee is committed to ensuring that no area in our City is a food desert lacking access to fresh food and we will continue our work to bring a grocery store to the area.”

