

To: Members of City Council

From: Dionne Williams, Executive Director, Office of Children's Affairs

Date: 7.13.2020

RE: Tasty Food Program (MPO with Michael's of Denver Catering, Inc. RR-20-0623)

Thank you for your consideration of the resolution approving a proposed Master Purchase Order (MPO) between the City and Michael's of Denver Catering Inc. This partnership will allow the City to provide healthy meals to Denver youth through a USDA, federally-reimbursed program supported by the Office of Children's Affairs.

While the MPO is being taken through the Council process by Purchasing, we'd like to take the opportunity to provide you with brief reminders and updates about the Tasty Food Program we administer through the Office of Children's Affairs (OCA).

Tasty Food provides free year-round meals to youth 18 years of age and younger, and has been a priority City program since 2012. The program is funded through the USDA, and annually serves between 132,000 to 190,000 meals across 24 to 30 sites in Denver, predominantly in recreation centers. These sites are strategically placed in neighborhoods with limited opportunities as part of OCA's health platform to address food security for children and youth.

*Tasty Food responds when our community is in crisis.* From the 2019 teacher strike to the current COVID-19 pandemic, Tasty Food pivots to ensure children receive fuel to nurture their minds and bodies. *Since schools closed on March 16<sup>th</sup>, Tasty Food has distributed an average of 830 meals daily,* more than twice the average number of meals given out during any school day and almost as many as typically served during the summer, when recreation centers are busy with programming, pools, and other activities. In just 3.5 months, nearly 63,000 meals have been provided to children and youth during this challenging time for many families.

After a strong partnership with Revolution Foods, OCA is ready to meet the ongoing community need through our competitively-selected vendor, Michael's of Denver Catering, Inc. We continue to monitor food security needs across Denver, and are available to address any questions you may have about our program as it pertains to your district or needs citywide.

Thank you for your attention to this essential program we're proud to administer.