



**City of Kingston
Report to Council
Report Number 24-165**

To: Mayor and Members of Council

From: Jennifer Campbell, Commissioner, Community Services;
Paige Agnew, Commissioner, Growth & Development
Services

Resource Staff: Ruth Noordegraaf, Director, Community Development &
Wellbeing and IIDEA

Date of Meeting: June 4, 2024

Subject: Fines For Food Update

Council Strategic Plan Alignment:

Theme: 4. Foster a Caring and Inclusive Community

Goal: 4.2 Help address food insecurity and sustainability.

Executive Summary:

On February 20, 2024 Council passed a motion directing one month of parking ticket revenue, estimated at \$180,000, be distributed equally to free food banks and food pantries. The Fines for Food program ticket collection took place between February 21st - March 21st and the total revenue collected surpassed the estimated \$180,000.

Staff have developed a proposed distribution plan, presented through this report, to support the various free food banks and food pantries based on current clientele and anticipated impact. Council approval is required for this distribution plan as it deviates from the original motion. Staff will work with recipients on impact reporting and will report back to Council by the end of 2024 on the results of the pilot project and options to continue this program.

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Recommendation:

That Council endorse the 2024 Fines for Food distribution plan with contributions to seven community agencies for food hampers and emergency pantry items.

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Authorizing Signatures:

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY COMMISSIONER

**Jennifer Campbell,
Commissioner, Community
Services**

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY COMMISSIONER

**Paige Agnew, Commissioner,
Growth & Development Services**

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY CHIEF

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

**Lanie Hurdle, Chief
Administrative Officer**

Consultation with the following Members of the Corporate Management Team:

Neil Carbone, Commissioner, Corporate Services Not required

David Fell, President & CEO, Utilities Kingston Not required

Peter Huigenbos, Commissioner, Major Projects & Strategic Initiatives Not required

Brad Joyce, Commissioner, Infrastructure, Transportation
& Emergency Services Not required

Desirée Kennedy, Chief Financial Officer & City Treasurer

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Options/Discussion:

Background

The Fines for Food initiative came out of a motion on February 20, 2024 moved by Councillor Glenn and seconded by Councillor Ridge:

Whereas City Council has included “Help address food insecurity and sustainability” as one of its priorities within its 2023-2026 Strategic Plan; and

Whereas food insecurity has become more prevalent in lower and middle-class income housed populations which has triggered different program changes including the Municipal Fee Assistance Program; and

Whereas food banks and pantries, including the Queen’s University and St. Lawrence College food banks, have all identified a surge in demand, particularly in low to middle class income households, over the last year and their inability to supply sufficient food and items to the community; and

Whereas the needs in the community and on post-secondary institutions are pressing, considering the end of the school semester in April 2024; and

Whereas the City of Kingston can leverage revenues, outside of property taxes, to support various programs such as Toys for Tickets;

Therefore Be It Resolved That staff implement a pilot project to establish “Fines for Food” month which would redirect parking revenues estimated at \$180,000 equally to free food banks and free food pantries only; and

That the 2024 operating budget be amended to reflect a reduction of \$180,000 in the transfer to the Parking Reserve Fund and a corresponding contribution to others; and

That Council direct staff to report back by the end of 2024 on the results of the pilot project and options to continue this program.

Analysis

Existing Services in the Community

The Kingston community has a variety of agencies that provide food hampers and food items to individuals and families. The approach differentiates between agencies and ranges from food hampers, good food boxes, and emergency pantries at community agencies, schools and post-secondary institutions. The key demographics for services ranges from students (elementary, high school and post-secondary) to individual adults, families and older adults.

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Staff reached out to the agencies that are providing free food hampers and/or emergency food items. Table one provides an overview of the agency, the service delivery, the impact and the budget information as available.

It is important to note that this is not a comparator of programs, as they are all different in delivery, scope and approach. This overview, as directed in the motion, does not include meal programs and other food programs in the community.

Table 1 - Overview of Agencies

Agency	Service Delivery	Impact	Budget
Partners in Mission Food Bank	Food hamper (approximately one week worth of groceries)	18,510 hampers distributed and 8,147 people served in Kingston and area (5,671 adults and 2,476 children) in 2023 1 in 19 adults in Kingston and Loyalist Township accessed the foodbank	Operating budget in 2024 is \$1,800,000 made up of grants, donations and event revenue 93% goes directly to hamper costs
Kingston Community Health Centres (KCHC) – Seniors Good Food Box	Provides older adults 55+ in need with fresh produce and grocery items delivered to their homes, at no cost *there is also a paid good food box program for all members of the community to access	400 older adults receiving boxes monthly Currently between 50 to 70 older adults on waitlist	Each box costs KCHC \$20, value of box is \$35 \$96,000 to support 400 boxes

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<p>Salvation Army – Community Pantry</p>	<p>Emergency food distribution for families</p>	<p>Approximately 150 individuals and families supported through the program each month</p>	<p>Including private donations, annual kettle campaign, grants and revenue through thrift stores</p> <p>83% of funding raised goes toward food</p>
<p>The Food Sharing Project</p>	<p>Community partnership with 88 schools in KFLA</p> <p>Each school designs their specific nutrition program based on their capacity</p>	<p>Impacting 16,000 students in the region</p>	<p>\$1,170,000 Operating Budget 2022-2023, \$857,000 goes toward food cost</p>
<p>St. Vincent de Paul - Food Pantry/Social Market</p>	<p>The emergency pantry (currently) provides approximately two days worth of food for clients</p> <p>*the model will change into social market in 2025 at new Bagot Street facility</p>	<p>4,024 individuals served (approximately 300 people/month)</p>	<p>Emergency pantry annual operating approximately \$63,000 (cash) (2023)</p>
<p>Queen’s University Food Pantry</p>	<p>The Food Bank Service, run by the Alma Mater Society (AMS), is available throughout the academic year at set hours. The program offers a variety of items for students and their families</p>	<p>On average, 15 students use the AMS Food Bank each day and approximately 35 students use the AMS Food Bank each week</p>	<p>Approximately \$51,000 is spent on food annually and largely funded by students through a mandatory student activity fee</p>

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<p>St. Lawrence College (SLC) Food Pantry</p>	<p>Run by SLC student association - students in need can currently apply for a voucher which can be redeemed at fresh market stands</p>	<p>There were approximately 650 (\$5) vouchers distributed in March 2024 289 vouchers were redeemed in April 2024</p>	<p>Small budget through mandatory student activity fee</p>
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Parking Ticket Collection for Fines for Food

For one month (30 days) immediately after the motion was passed between February 21, 2024 and March 21, 2024, parking ticket revenue collected was designated for the Fines for Food program. The total collected ticket revenue was approximately \$186,500 which allows the full \$180,000 to be distributed as was anticipated in the February Fines for Food Pilot.

Proposed Distribution for Fines for Food Pilot Phase

Based on the analysis from staff, a distribution for the pilot funding and its anticipated impact is proposed in Table two. It is important to recognize that it is challenging to compare all programs as their impacts and demographics are different. Staff have strived to create a distribution plan for the funds in an equal, fair and equitable way as was the intent of the motion and have identified and reached out to all providers that staff are aware of. As food programming is evolving in the community, there may be additional services that have not been included in the plan; therefore, staff recommend using a small portion of the pilot fund as contingency should it be required.

Table 2 - Fines for Food – Proposed Distribution and Anticipated Impact

<p>Agency</p>	<p>Fines for Food Pilot Funding</p>	<p>Impact</p>
<p>Partners in Mission Food Bank</p>	<p>\$50,000</p>	<p>Approximately 275 to 400 extra hampers (hampers are valued between \$125 and \$185 depending on family size)</p>

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KCHC – Seniors Good Food Box	\$25,000	This amount would allow an additional 45 to 50 seniors to come off the waitlist for the next two years.
St. Vincent de Paul - Food Pantry/Social Market	\$25,000	This will provide approximately 55 individuals/families with food for a year
The Food Sharing Project	\$35,000	This funding would provide an additional two weeks' value of food for the KFL&A program
Salvation Army – Community Pantry	\$10,000	Staff have not been able to obtain detailed budget information at this time, and therefore the recommendation is to provide a contribution that aligns with the Queen's and St Lawrence College program client numbers
Queen's University Food Pantry	\$10,000	This provides an increase of annual food funding of 20%
St. Lawrence College Food Pantry	\$10,000	This could provide an additional 2,000 vouchers valued at \$5 each to be distributed to the SLC student body.
Contingency Budget	\$15,000	This can be used for any additional programs in the community aligned with the Fines for Food motion and/or to support additional needs that may arise in 2024
Total	\$180,000	

Pilot - Next Steps

Staff will create a basic reporting tool for the Fines for Food pilot recipients in June 2024 and as directed in the motion in February 2024, report back to Council by the end of the fourth quarter of 2024 on the impact and potential next steps for the pilot.

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This timeline aligns with the creation of a broader community food strategy that staff are working on and includes food access, food production and distribution and skills development.

Financial Considerations

As directed in the motion on February 20, 2024, the 2024 operating budget will be amended to reflect a reduction of \$180,000 in the transfer to the Parking Reserve Fund and a corresponding contribution to the proposed food providers in this report.

Contacts:

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Other City of Kingston Staff Consulted:

Ben Leslie, Community Development Coordinator, Community Development & Wellbeing and IIDEA

Laird Leggo, Manager, Licensing, Parking Operations and Policy, Licensing & Enforcement Services