

ED GAINEY
MAYOR



KATHRYN VARGAS
DIRECTOR

CITY OF PITTSBURGH
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS & RECREATION
CITY-COUNTY BUILDING

November 26, 2024

Council President Lavelle and Members of Council
Fifth Floor
City County Building
Pittsburgh, PA 15219

Re: Food Justice Fund Awards

Dear President and Members of Council,

The Department of Parks and Recreation will be submitting a resolution authorizing the Mayor and the Director of Parks and Recreation to enter into four Agreements with Grow Pittsburgh, Just Harvest Education Fund, Jasmine Nyree Homes, and the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank for a sum not to exceed ONE MILLION ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND (\$1,100,000.00) dollars.

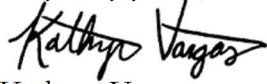
This resolution will authorize four agreements with organizations working to strengthen Pittsburgh's food system and food security. These awards are part of the "Food Justice Fund" ARPA allocation. City Council approved a use plan for three million dollars (\$3,000,000) of American Rescue Plan Act funds as a "Food Justice Fund" on July 18th, 2023 with resolution 466. The purpose of the Food Justice Fund is to increase public investment in a just, equitable, and sustainable food system, that supports our neighborhoods, local economy, and the environment. This use plan stated that one million and one hundred thousand dollars (\$1,100,000.00) would be used for "investments in Pittsburgh's food system" and awarded through the RFP process. Total annual costs shall not exceed ONE MILLION ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND (\$1,100,000.00) dollars, with total costs based on invoices, and shall be chargeable to and payable from account 0222905500.53901.00. The maximum spend for each contract will be as follows:

\$464,157.00 - Grow Pittsburgh
\$160,490.00 - Jasmine Nyree Homes
\$275,000.00 - Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank
\$200,353.00 - Just Harvest Education Fund

I am requesting to waive rule 8 so that these funds can move through the contracting process before the federal ARPA obligation deadline.

Should you have any questions regarding the resolution or agreement, please do not hesitate to contact my office. Your favorable consideration is appreciated.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kathryn Vargas". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping tail on the letter "s".

Kathryn Vargas
Director