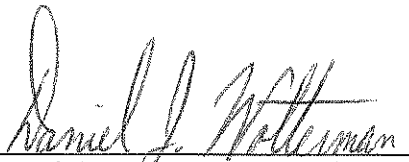


**Resolution of the Board of Directors  
In Support of the Houston Food Bank's Expanded Services in the  
Houston Region**

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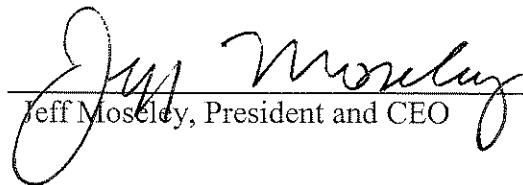
The Greater Houston Partnership supports the Houston Food Bank's desire to expand services in Houston through the enlargement of its warehouse and distribution facility.

- The expansion will allow the Houston Food Bank to address the issue of hunger with greater efficiency.
- It will further serve citizens in Houston, who are afflicted by hunger, by providing a means to not merely survive, but reasonably contribute to our community.
- The expansion of the Houston Food Bank impacts the quality of life of nearly 900,000 residents of our city yearly.



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Daniel J. Wolterman, Chairman



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Jeff Moseley, President and CEO



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Daniel G. Bellow, Secretary

## MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** August 6, 2008

**TO:** Greater Houston Partnership Board of Directors

**FROM:** Bob Nicholas, Chairman  
Quality of Life Advisory Committee

**SUBJECT:** Resolution of the Board of Directors In Support of the Houston Food Bank's Expanded Services in the Houston Region

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### RECOMMENDATION

The Greater Houston Partnership supports the Houston Food Bank's desire to expand services in Houston through the enlargement of its warehouse and distribution facility.

### BACKGROUND

The Houston Food Bank has entered into an agreement to purchase the SYSCO warehouse buildings on I-10. This is part of a \$35 million growth strategy developed by the Board of Directors over the past two years to expand distribution to meet national food banking standards. This new facility will be the largest food bank in the nation, and the Houston Food Bank will feed nearly 900,000 individuals in our community that are at risk of being hungry or not having access to enough food.

### HUNGER STATISTICS

#### *Texas has great wealth, but:*

- 16% of Texans – 3.5 million people – are at risk of being hungry and malnourished. This is the 3<sup>rd</sup> highest food insecurity rate in the nation.
- The child poverty rate in Texas is 23.2%.

#### *Houston is even more challenged to meet the needs of those with limited resources.*

- 1 in every 6 Texans at risk of hunger lives in the greater Houston area – approximately 890,000 people.
- To feed their families, these individuals turn to nearly 400 food pantries, soup kitchens and other agencies for assistance.
- These organizations receive the majority of the food they distribute from the Houston Food Bank.

## **HOUSTON FOOD BANK OVERVIEW**

The Houston Food Bank (HFB) **leads the fight against hunger** by serving as a nonprofit food procurement resource and wholesaler. HFB distributes food to the hungry in 18 counties, populated by more than 5 million people in southeast Texas.

Based in a 73,000 sq. ft. warehouse, the Food Bank's truck fleet delivers food to nearly 400 nonprofit hunger agencies and relief programs, including:

- Churches and human service organizations
- Community food pantries
- Soup kitchens
- Shelters for the homeless and abused
- Nutrition sites for children and the elderly

## **GROWTH NEEDS AND EXPANSION PLAN**

Food supply is not a limiting factor to increasing the Food Bank's volume. Through its strong procurement network, HFB can increase the food that is available for distribution, and obtains food and products immediately when needed.

Two factors do limit growth:

1. The current facility is too small to accommodate additional distribution. The Food Bank has far exceeded the capacity at its primary location. Current demand for Food Bank products necessitates the use of two additional bulk storage sites to supply agencies with the food they need. Industry experts agree that a central location is the most efficient facility configuration, and that HFB must be able to store at least 300% more food to meet the region's demand.
2. The capacity of HFB's agency partners is limited, so the distribution model must be modified and the distribution outlets expanded. Agency partners must expand their infrastructure (more space, more freezers, more refrigerators) and operating funds to distribute more food

In 2007, HFB bid successfully to purchase SYSCO's warehouse, refrigeration and office complex immediately east of downtown Houston. With more than 400,000 square feet, this facility will meet HFB's growth needs and house the ex-offender training collaborative. The county probation and TDCJ participants will also provide labor to enable the large scale increase in output in food distribution. SYSCO will vacate the property in 2010, and the purchase transaction will be completed before that time.

To meet the need for expanded distribution, HFB will also invest in a larger truck fleet and will assist its distribution partners in purchasing refrigerators and freezers to store larger quantities of food.

## **REVENUE**

- \$10.8 million in private funding already secured from Houston foundations and corporations
- Requests are being made to other private donors as well as the Federal Government, Harris County and Houston.

## **PUBLIC/PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS EXPAND IMPACT AND DEFRAY OPERATING COSTS**

The additional space in the SYSCO buildings allows HFB to expand existing public and private partnerships and develop new ones, including:

- Texas Department of Criminal Justice – 30 inmates work and are trained in the current Food Bank warehouse. In the new location, this number will increase to 120. This model of job training is effective, as evidenced by extremely low recidivism rates, and provides an excellent, low cost source of good labor for HFB.
- Harris County Probation Department – HFB will provide probationer trainees and counseling/case management. Up to 300 probationers will participate in this program per day.
- Baylor College of Medicine – On-site medical clinic will provide a site for staff and physician training, and will serve as a site for mobile health units that will reach out to the community.
- Houston Community College System – Will provide course materials, instructors, and equipment for vocational trainings programs.
- The WorkSource – Will provide placement, career counseling and financial aid services. The WorkSource is part of the Texas Workforce Solutions network and partners with the Texas Workforce Commission to provide services.

## **FISCAL IMPACT**

Enhanced quality of life in the City of Houston will ensure services to special needs populations in the region are met.

## **OPPOSITION**

No known opposition

## **RESOURCES REQUIRED**

None