



## **PRA FOOD DRIVE 2020**

Dear Parkview Residents,

A huge thank you for your ongoing generosity with regards to the various initiatives to alleviate hunger in our suburb and beyond during COVID 19.

We do, however, feel that it is time to sound an alarm around fraudulent misuse by some of the recipients of the PRA FOOD DRIVE food parcel and vouchers system. The PRA FOOD DRIVE information is posted on social media on a regular basis and if someone appeals to us, we contact them directly and get their information for our data base. We take care not to duplicate recipients. Sadly, it appears that some, definitely not all, recipients, are using multiple phone numbers and names to request more than 1 food parcel per household. We have also seen residents, who have shared their personal cell numbers with recipients over FB page, or donated vouchers in their personal capacity, being aggressively harassed for more assistance, often after the PRA have also donated FOOD DRIVE vouchers or hampers to them.

The sad but unavoidable truth is that the need is huge, and we can only do so much. Part of trying to be fair is to make sure that as many people receive assistance as possible. In order to avoid this misuse becoming widespread we, as the PRA, are:

- Keeping a detailed and current data base to avoid duplication and fraud.
- Channelling our support to Inner City CAN (Community Action Network) and Ward 87, Councillor Bridget Steer's initiatives as they have their own data bases in place to avoid duplication.
- If people appeal to us who are not in our area, we will assist them on a once- off basis, and thereafter, refer them to Inner City CAN, or Bridget Steer. Both are able to direct them to assistance closer to where they live. If they do not fall in our ward we refer them to feeding schemes in their area.

In order to assist us in making the distribution of the parcels fair, fraud free and efficient as possible, we ask you, the residents, to:

- Please avoid giving cash, food or vouchers from your home. Please see attached for information on Ward 87 food parcels and Inner City CAN initiatives.
- Please support the PRA FOOD DRIVE food parcel and voucher system. Just sending potential recipients to us but with no financial support, makes our task that much more complicated.
- Encourage people to apply for assistance to Inner City CAN, or Councillor Bridget Steer.
- Direct homeless people to surrounding shelters. Please see attached for information and addresses. Or direct those in need of food to Zoo Lake.

Thank you once again