**Good Food Box Program Proposal – Winter 2021**

The FCC is proposing to implement a delivery system for the Good Food Box Program during the 2021 Winter semester. A delivery system will increase both the accessibility and safety of the GFB program amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, as the MSU works to serve a diverse student body. The following sections outline the shortcomings of our current pick-up system, specifics of the proposed delivery system protocol, the benefits of this system, as well as safety and other considerations that we have taken into account.

**Good Food Box – Fall 2020**

During the 2020 Fall semester, patrons of the GFB were required to pick up their bag from TwelveEighty and transport it home. This made the program highly inaccessible, as each bag is approximately 20 pounds and very cumbersome to carry. For instance, during one of the pickup days, fruits and vegetables were found lying on the floor in MUSC, which had fallen from a GFB as one of our patrons presumably struggled to carry their bag out of the building.

Furthermore, the GFB has received a record low number of orders this semester, averaging 15 boxes/month compared to the typical average of 30 boxes/month. This may partly be due to the decreased number of students present in Hamilton this year. The FCC strongly believes, however, that the lack of accessibility of the program has also contributed to the decrease in orders. Indeed, food insecurity among students has only increased during the COVID-19 pandemic, making initiatives such as the Good Food Box Program even more important. We thus find it very troubling that our current system is not optimally organized to benefit members of the McMaster community who rely on it.

Lastly, the current pickup system requires at least one member of the FCC Executive (usually two) to be present on campus for three hours, as well as for each patron to enter MUSC as well. This is far from ideal as the university makes every effort to limit traffic on campus.

**Proposed Delivery System**

Under the new delivery system, patron of the GFB would be required to provide an address within Westdale to which their bag would be delivered. The Good Food Coordinator, Paige Guyatt, has access to a personal car and would personally delivery each bag to the patrons. Paige would drop the GFBs outside of each patrons door and send them an email/text message to let them know it has been delivered.

Patrons who live outside of Westdale would still be required to pick up their GFB on campus. It is, however, expected that very fewpatrons will take advantage of this option. As such, it would be inefficient for members of the FCC Executive to be physically present on campus to oversee the three-hour pickup slot typically provided, as only a few patrons would benefit from it. We thus suggest that Paige deliver the GFBs that will be picked up on campus to TwelveEighty, but that the staff who are already working there handle these pickups.

**Risk of Exposure**

As indicated above, this delivery system would significantly limit the in-person aspect of the Good Food Box Program by curbing the number of FCC Executives and patrons visiting campus. It would also decrease direct contact between FCC Executives and the patrons, as Paige will simply leave the GFBs outside of patrons’ homes, rather than interacting with them directly. Moreover, while the EB may have concerns about the GFBs being transported in Paige’s personal car, it is worth mentioning that under the current system, Paige already has to transport the bags from Grace Lutheran Church to campus. Thus, the existing pickup system is no safer, in this regard. That being said, Paige will continue to keep her car clean and limit the number of people who sit in it during the days prior to the transport of the GFBs.

**Risk of Giving the FCC Special Privileges**

The FCC recognizes that the EB has denied other services the option of delivering products to student houses. While we understand that it would be unfair for the EB to now grant the FCC similar privileges, it is worth noting that the GFBs we provide are extremely heavy (~20lbs), making them difficult if not impossible for students to carry home. Given this, we urge the EB to consider the special nature of our request, and the essential nature of our service.

**Difficulties for the TwelveEighty Staff**

The FCC Executive recognizes that if this protocol is implemented, some of our responsibilities will be transferred over to the staff of TwelveEighty. We would highly appreciate this, and would do everything possible to make their role in the Good Food Box Program as painless as possible. For instance, Paige will provide the staff with a list of the patrons who will be picking up a GFB in TwelveEighty and give them her personal cell-phone number so that they can contact her if there are any issues. We are of course open to implementing any other strategies that either the EB or TwelveEighty staff suggest regarding how to make this pickup protocol as seamless as possible.

We hope that the EB is convinced of the crucial nature of this delivery system and the strategies we have proposed to mitigate any safety or other concerns. We would also like to note that the first Good Food Box pickup/delivery day is February 2nd, and that we would typically start promoting it and accepting orders on January 10th. Thus, we are eager to hear of your decision so that we can being promoting the program to the McMaster community as soon as possible.

Thank you for your consideration,

The FCC Executive