



NEW YORK STATE SENATE  
NEW YORK STATE ASSEMBLY

April 7, 2020

Governor Andrew M. Cuomo  
Executive Chamber  
The Capitol  
Albany, New York 12224

Dear Governor Cuomo:

We write to request the immediate release of \$5 million to the “Metropolitan New York Coordinating Council on Jewish Poverty” (known as Met Council) from the 2020/21 Budget Special Public Health Emergency Appropriation Account. As has been widely reported, significant undesignated emergency funds for New York’s food pantries are to be disbursed from this account for expenses in the COVID-19 pandemic.

With the Passover holiday starting Wednesday night, Met Council has been working overtime as New York’s only kosher food bank to provide nutrition, tradition, and dignity to vulnerable kosher New Yorkers. This past month alone, they have distributed millions of pounds of free food to 149 distribution sites across New York despite the greatest challenges.

Temporary workers are replacing elderly volunteers to keep their warehouse and pantries open. And despite cancelled produce shipments, disrupted supply chains and spikes in the wholesale price of food staples, Met Council is continuing service to 225,000 existing clients and 40 regular food pantries while mobilizing emergency food to thousands of additional families facing new financial hardship.

Met Council has even taken it upon themselves to provide homebound Holocaust survivors with food deliveries directly to their homes. Through a new warehouse that they have secured, and with limited private funding, Met Council just launched a pilot with Uber that is delivering food directly to the homes of 500 Holocaust survivors. You can read more about it here in the [New York Post](#) and [AM New York](#).

Without the rapid disbursement of these funds, it is impossible for them to sustain the growing food security needs of the kosher community that has been especially hard hit during this pandemic. As you know, Met Council has already incurred millions in emergency expenses and contingencies related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Please immediately provide this \$5 million funding to Met Council so they can continue to provide emergency kosher food to the most vulnerable New Yorkers.

SENATORS:

Joseph Addabbo, Jr.  
Brian Benjamin  
Alessandra Biaggi  
David Carlucci  
Leroy Comrie  
Simcha Felder  
Michael Gianaris  
Andrew Gounardes  
Brad Hoylman  
Todd Kaminsky  
Brian Kavanagh  
Liz Krueger  
Kevin Parker  
Diane Savino  
Toby Ann Stavisky

ASSEMBLY MEMBERS:

Peter Abbate, Jr.  
Thomas Abinanti  
Stacey Pheffer Amato  
Brian Barnwell  
Edward C. Braunstein  
Harry B. Bronson  
Robert Carroll  
Michael Cusick  
Steven Cymbrowitz  
Carmen N. De La Rosa  
Jeffrey Dinowitz  
Simcha Eichenstein  
Deborah J. Glick  
Richard Gottfried  
Andrew Hevesi  
Brad Hoylman  
Latoya Joyner  
Charles Lavine  
Joseph Lentol  
Nicole Malliotakis  
Walter Mosley  
Félix W. Ortiz  
Dan Quart  
Daniel Rosenthal  
Linda Rosenthal  
Nily Rozic  
Rebecca Seawright  
Aravella Simotas  
Chris Tague  
David Weprin

cc: Mr. Robert Mujica, New York State Budget Director  
Ms. Melissa DeRosa, Secretary to Governor Andrew M. Cuomo