

2024 -- S 2258

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2024

SENATE RESOLUTION

RECOGNIZING AND THANKING THE ELISHA PROJECT FOR ALL IT HAS DONE IN
SERVICE TO THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

Introduced By: Senator Jonathon Acosta

Date Introduced: February 08, 2024

Referred To: Recommended for Immediate Consideration

1 WHEREAS, The altruistic mission of the Elisha Project is to serve Black, Indigenous,
2 and People of Color (BIPOC) communities within Rhode Island with essential resources and
3 culturally relevant support with a focus on bringing these diverse communities together through
4 service, sharing, teaching and learning; and

5 WHEREAS, It all began with a family of five dispensing 24 packed lunches to the
6 hungry on the streets of Providence, to more recently providing approximately 5 million pounds
7 of food for those with the most need in our State; and

8 WHEREAS, To date, the Elisha Project has accomplished myriad life-changing projects
9 including collaborations with Seven Stars Bakery and The East Side Market, the launch of
10 EPShareMarket which supported the US Census, to the "COVID BOX HOME DELIVERY
11 PROGRAM" that made 1,000s of deliveries to families and individuals during the pandemic; and

12 WHEREAS, In addition, the Elisha Project has partnered with USDA to distribute 5-10
13 trailers of food weekly, partnered with Dunkin, Market Basket, and Swansea Country Club to
14 distribute 10,000 Turkeys, partnered with RI Office of Healthy Aging to provide culturally
15 specific meals to Seniors, and partnered with the Patriots Social Justice Initiative to obtain a 26
16 foot delivery truck to expedite additional project endeavors; and

17 WHEREAS, Joining forces with the City of Pawtucket, the Elisha Project acquired a
18 warehouse and office area space for its HQ in Pawtucket and became the official food rescue and
19 food insecurity partner of the City. In Providence, the Project launched the EP Bodega concept

1 with CCRI, JWU, and Times 2 Academy, and ultimately hit a milestone of distributing 150,000
2 lbs. of food during a 10-week period; and

3 WHEREAS, By the end of 2023, the Elisha Project has held more than 24 Share Markets,
4 executed more than 250 direct deliveries of food, supplies, and essential items, thus ensuring that
5 those who faced barriers to access are included, particularly during challenging times; and

6 WHEREAS, The Elisha Project's deep commitment to its mission, guided by equity,
7 inclusivity, and empathetic service has made a significant difference in the lives of those they
8 serve, and they are eminently deserving of our recognition and gratitude; now, therefore be it

9 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island hereby recognizes the Elisha
10 Project as the State's official food rescue partner and thanks them for all they have done in service
11 to the people of Rhode Island, and we moreover wish them many more years of success; and be it
12 further

13 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
14 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to George L. Ortiz, Jr., the Elisha Project.

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