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City staff to donate \$5,000 to food bank in lieu of bonuses

By Pippa Fisher

The city of Lafayette will this year forgo their annual employee bonuses, instead donating the money to the Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano.

City Manager Niroop Srivatsa brought the matter to the council for approval at the Nov. 23 meeting, crediting City Clerk Joanne Robbins for coming up with the idea.

The annual bonuses are discretionary but Srivatsa noted that, "While this has been a difficult year and city staff has worked very hard during these unprecedented circumstances," she would not be recommending a bonus program. The \$5,000 is already budgeted.

"The pandemic has had a significant impact on businesses and our community," said Srivatsa in the staff report. "While our General Fund has not taken as bad of a hit as we had projected in June, there are no signs that the local economy will get back to normal any time soon."

The council unanimously backed this decision.

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