



# PUBLIC STATEMENT

## City of Compton Public Statement May 26, 2021

Last night, CBS 2's Kristine Lazar chose to air an inaccurate story that sheds a negative light on the City of Compton and its City-supported Food Pantry, during the final weeks of the Pantry's operation. From the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, the City was focused on utilizing the resources that we had to directly benefit our residents. When schools and senior centers closed during the first stay-at-home order, it became apparent that there was a large need in our community for food and fresh produce. This need was only exacerbated when businesses started layoffs. This need is what prompted the City to create the Compton Food Pantry. The Compton Chamber was chosen to facilitate the program as they are well-equipped to manage the operations for a large community-wide program. The Food Pantry has served well over 100,000 people and their families, including our senior population.

Lazar's story centers on an allegation that there was food thrown away near the pantry even though she was made aware that the photo referenced was not from the Pantry. This was not included in her story. The Food Pantry is of course focused on limiting food waste to the extent possible. That said, if food spoilage occurs during transit, the Pantry cannot serve that food to residents as it may pose a threat. Food spoilage is an issue that every pantry must deal with. It is unclear why Lazar chose to target only the Compton Food Pantry for this misleading and inflammatory story.

The City is proud of its contributions to operate the Compton Food Pantry and for the ability to have directly served the community during a time of extreme need in the pandemic.

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