

From: [Micki Archuleta](#)
To: [cityclerk](#); [Robert Hypes](#); [Katalina Zambrano](#); [LGBTQ Merced](#); Jennifer.mcqueen@centralvalleypride.org; [Brown, Yvonna](#); [Villafana, Julian](#); mercedsheriffsoffice@countyofmerced.com; [policedepartment](#)
Subject: Free, Evidence-Based Module Now Available: A Community-Led Solution to County Missteps
Date: Monday, May 12, 2025 1:26:21 AM

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Dear Leadership,

Over the past several years, decisions made by counties across California — including ours — have repeatedly failed to support community-driven, evidence-based solutions for housing insecurity, behavioral health, and youth advocacy. These decisions have often prioritized top-down, performative initiatives while sidelining those most affected and best equipped to lead real change.

I am writing to offer you a way to begin repairing that.

Rebuilding Lives: Advocacy Through Action is a 5-unit, self-guided instructional module that complements the Rebuilding Lives educational game. Designed for alternative education settings, continuation schools, community programs, and transitional support services, this module helps participants build the skills to understand systems, identify social issues, develop persuasive messages, create advocacy plans, and reflect on their impact.

It is:

Free

Evidence-based

Designed by and for the people our systems have failed

Available now to any county office, youth provider, or educator seeking real outcomes

This is not another feel-good toolkit that avoids accountability. This is a direct response to years of missed opportunities, broken partnerships, and the silencing of grassroots leadership.

Your office has the opportunity to partner, pilot, or simply make use of a fully built, community-informed solution. Doing so would show a commitment to repairing trust and investing in prevention — not just containment.

If you would like access to the module, a walkthrough, or a conversation about how your agency or group can adopt or support this initiative, I am available.

But the materials are ready now. And the need is urgent.

Let's not make the same mistake twice.

Sincerely,
Micki Archuleta, PhD, MA, MEd (2025)
Creator, Rebuilding Lives: Advocacy Through Action

<https://dolphinvoyager.com>

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From: [Rocio Gonzalez](#)
To: [cityclerk](#)
Cc: [REDACTED] [Lissed Olivares](#)
Subject: Public Comments
Date: Monday, May 19, 2025 10:52:05 AM
Attachments: [Kind Neighbor Farmers" Market_flyer_english.png](#)
[Kind Neighbor Farmers" Market_Flyer_spanish.png](#)

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Hello,

Good morning, we would like to make a public comment at today's city council meeting. What time should we go to make a public comment?

Please see below:

Good evening Councilmembers and community members,

My name is Nelina, and I'm here on behalf of Kind Neighbor, in partnership with Golden Valley Health Centers, the Merced County Department of Public Health, and CalFresh Healthy Living.

We're excited to announce that our local farmers' markets are back—every other Wednesday from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. starting May 28th at Golden Valley Health Centers on Childs Avenue. And don't forget, we also have a year-round market every Saturday on 16th Street!

Our goal is to provide greater access to fresh, healthy food and wellness education, especially in areas like South Merced, where healthy options are limited. Many families in our community face chronic health challenges like diabetes, obesity, and alcoholism—issues that have also affected our own families. We want to be part of the solution.

We invite families who use EBT, WIC, or Senior FMNP coupons to shop at the market, as all of these benefits are accepted, making it easier for everyone to access nutritious food.

We're also offering free nutrition classes at the market to help families cook healthy meals on a budget and make the most of seasonal, local ingredients.

These markets are more than just a place to shop—they are spaces for connection, information, and community growth.

Thank you for your time and continued support. We hope to see you at the market!

Buenas tardes, miembros del Concejo y comunidad,

Mi nombre es Nelina y estoy aquí en representación de Kind Neighbor, en colaboración con Golden Valley Health Centers, el Departamento de Salud Pública del Condado de Merced y CalFresh Healthy Living.

Nos emociona anunciar que nuestros mercados de agricultores están de regreso—cada dos miércoles de 8 a.m. a 12 p.m. comenzando el 28 de mayo en Golden Valley Health Centers en Childs Avenue. Y les recordamos que también tenemos un mercado abierto todo el año, cada sábado en la calle 16.

Nuestro objetivo es ofrecer mejor acceso a alimentos saludables y educación sobre el bienestar, especialmente en áreas como South Merced, donde hay pocos recursos de alimentación saludable. Muchas familias enfrentan problemas crónicos como la diabetes, la obesidad y el alcoholismo, enfermedades que también han afectado a nuestras propias familias. Queremos ser parte de la solución.

Invitamos a todas las familias que usan EBT, WIC o cupones FMNP para personas mayores a que vengan al mercado—se aceptan beneficios de CalFresh, lo que facilita el acceso a alimentos nutritivos.

También ofreceremos clases gratis de nutrición en el mercado, donde enseñamos cómo preparar comidas saludables con un presupuesto limitado y aprovechar los ingredientes de temporada.

Estos mercados son más que un lugar para comprar—son espacios para la conexión, la información y el crecimiento comunitario.

Gracias por su tiempo y apoyo. ¡Esperamos verlos en el mercado!

Rocio Gonzalez|Founder|Health & Wellness For All|[Instagram](#)|[FB](#)|[Kind Neighbor](#)

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Comment for Item K.4 25-303 - Authorization of Use of South Merced Funding from General Fund of \$350,000 and economic Development Opportunity

Good afternoon Mayor, Councilmembers, and City Staff,

My name is Alicia Rivera and I work for Leadership Counsel. While it is encouraging to see the City Council prioritizing the restoration and improvement of the Stephen Leonard Youth Center, which serves as an important space for youth engagement and community programs, it is crucial to ensure that the use of South Merced's designated funding reflects the broader needs and priorities of the community.

The proposed allocation of over \$500,000 from General Fund CP240001 South Merced Improvement and Fund 1017- Economic Development Opportunity raises important concerns about how these resources are being used. Economic development funds should primarily be directed toward long-term investments that drive sustainable economic growth, create jobs, support small businesses, and improve infrastructure in underserved neighborhoods like South Merced.

Residents continue to face systemic challenges related to housing, employment opportunities, and access to essential services. These funds should be strategically invested in ways that directly uplift the community and improve quality of life over the long term.

Additionally, transparency and community engagement are vital. Major financial decisions, especially those involving funds intended for South Merced, should involve public input. Residents deserve to be informed when allocations are being considered, and they must have the opportunity to voice their priorities and participate in the decision-making process. This is not just about fairness—it's about making sure investments reflect the actual needs and aspirations of the people who live there.

Going forward, South Merced residents should be clearly informed about how these funds are being used and what they're intended for. There must be transparency and community involvement, especially when funding meant to support South Merced's economic opportunity is being reallocated.

Thank you,

Alicia Rivera