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CITY OF SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-___

INTRODUCED BY:

Councilor Jamie Cassutt

Councilor Renee Villarreal

A RESOLUTION

**SUPPORTING THE APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS BY THE NEW MEXICO
LEGISLATURE FOR NEW MEXICO-GROWN FRESH FRUITS AND VEGETABLES
FOR SCHOOL AND SENIOR MEALS PROGRAMS AND RELATED EDUCATION
PROGRAMS FOR SCHOOLS AND FARMERS.**

WHEREAS, New Mexico has a vibrant food and farming culture that is significant to its rural economies that is the fourth largest economic sector and provides employment opportunities on farms and in the direct, wholesale, and retail markets, as well as in food processing, distribution, and value-added businesses, all while adding to the health and well-being of New Mexicans; and

WHEREAS, according to the United States Department of Agriculture Census of Agriculture, 2017 (“Census”), 1,538 New Mexico farmers sold \$98 million dollars’ worth of vegetables and melons and \$210 million dollars’ worth of fruits, nuts, and berries in 2017; and

WHEREAS, the New Mexico Legislature passed, and Governor signed the Food Initiative, a \$24.7 million program, as part of the state budget, to increase investment in New Mexico’s food, hunger, and agriculture initiatives; and

1 **WHEREAS**, a March 31, 2021, study released by Feeding America, said that in 2019
2 10.6% of Santa Fe County residents experienced food insecurity¹; and

3 **WHEREAS**, the New Mexico Human Services Department reports that in 2021 17 % of
4 Santa Fe’s children under age 18 repeatedly experienced food insecurity; and

5 **WHEREAS**, according to the New Mexico Public Education Department (“PED”),
6 approximately 333,300 students are enrolled in New Mexico schools and can participate in the
7 school meal programs operated by various schools throughout the state, and more than 241,400 of
8 these students -- 72 percent -- are eligible for free or reduced-price school meals; and

9 **WHEREAS**, the Food Service Director for the Santa Fe Public Schools stated in 2021 that
10 seventy percent of students in Santa Fe County and the City of Santa Fe participated in the school
11 meal program; and

12 **WHEREAS**, in 2022, the New Mexico School Nutrition Association found that, due to
13 inflation, local school meal programs have seen costs for food purchases increase by up to 25
14 percent; and

15 **WHEREAS**, federal funding supports school meals programs through the National School
16 Lunch Program that is funded through the Child Nutrition Reauthorization; and

17 **WHEREAS**, information from PED shows that the National School Lunch Program
18 provides public schools with a reimbursement of \$4.83 for free lunches, \$4.43 for reduced-priced
19 lunches; and \$1.27 for fully paid lunches; and

20 **WHEREAS**, the National School Lunch Program provides public schools with a
21 reimbursement of \$2.82 for free breakfasts, \$2.52 for reduced-price breakfasts, and \$0.65 for fully
22 paid breakfasts; and

23 **WHEREAS**, the Healthy School Meals for All Bill (Universal School Meals Program Act

¹ <https://feedingamericaaction.org/resources/state-by-state-resource-the-impact-of-coronavirus-on-food-insecurity/>

1 of 2021) made school breakfasts and lunches free for all children; and

2 **WHEREAS**, the State’s purchase of New Mexico grown fruits and vegetables for school
3 lunches and senior meals programs in New Mexico and will enhance the diet of school children
4 and seniors and help school and senior meal programs comply with federal rules that require fruits
5 and vegetables on meal plates; and

6 **WHEREAS**, there is an agricultural sector of fruit and vegetable farmers in New Mexico
7 that can respond to these new food markets for local produce in the school and senior meal
8 programs; and

9 **WHEREAS**, food and agriculture education programs and experiential learning are key to
10 increasing student access to and relationships with fresh and local produce, as well as to introducing
11 students to possible career paths; and

12 **WHEREAS**, increased funding from the State Legislature enables senior, early childhood
13 education and school meal programs and local school districts to purchase New Mexico-grown
14 produce, serve more fresh fruits and vegetables to Santa Fe’s children and seniors for their health
15 and well-being, provide related educational materials and experiential learning opportunities, and
16 support economic development and opportunities for local farmers; and

17 **WHEREAS**, seventy-five percent of the funding in the federal Farm Bill is the Supplemental
18 Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), which provides food security to nearly 540,000 New
19 Mexicans; and

20 **WHEREAS**, the GusNIP (Nutrition Incentive Program) Double Up Food Buck Program
21 provides important access to locally grown and raised foods in New Mexico; and

22 **WHEREAS**, the Santa Fe Farmers’ Market Institute reported over \$375,000 worth of
23 GusNIP Double Up Food Buck Program and SNAP sales in 2021 that both provided a nutrition
24 benefit to those who are food insecure and an economic benefit to the region’s farmers and ranchers;
25 and

1 **WHEREAS**, the federal Farm Bill Fresh Rx Program provides patients who are at-risk for
2 long-term diet related health outcomes due to unhealthy diets and/or lack of access to nutritious
3 foods fresh fruit and vegetable prescriptions to use at local farmers’ markets; and

4 **WHEREAS**, the Santa Fe Farmers’ Market Institute reported an increase of nearly 400
5 percent in the Fresh Rx program utilization year to date in 2022; and

6 **WHEREAS**, federal Farm Bill programs are designed to provide technical assistance and
7 conservation programs to assist farmers and ranchers in land stewardship and building their
8 businesses.

9 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Governing Body supports the
10 Legislature’s continued funding to expand the New Mexico Food Initiative and programs such as
11 the New Mexico-grown fresh fruits and vegetables for school and senior meals programs, related
12 education programs, the New Mexico Food Security Grant Program, and programs that expand
13 opportunities for farmers and ranchers.

14 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Governing Body supports the federal Child
15 Nutrition Reauthorization programs to benefit New Mexico such as the Healthy School Meals for
16 All Bill, which will provide free breakfasts and lunches for all children and increased funding for
17 programs such as Kids Eat Local Act, the School Food Modernization Act, the Women, Infants,
18 and Children Program (WIC), and WIC Farmers’ Market Nutrition Programs.

19 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Governing Body supports federal Farm Bill
20 programs that strengthen food assistance programs, ensure sufficient resources and access to
21 nutritious food for all people, and increase resources for New Mexico farmers and ranchers.

22 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Governing Body supports the New Mexico Food
23 & Agriculture Policy Council’s federal Child Nutrition Reauthorization and Farm Bill
24 recommendations.

25 **PASSED, APPROVED, and ADOPTED** the __ day of _____, 2022.

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ALAN WEBBER, MAYOR

ATTEST:

KRISTINE MIHELICIC, CITY CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



ERIN K. McSHERRY, CITY ATTORNEY