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CITY OF SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-2

INTRODUCED BY:

Councilor Signe I. Lindell

Councilor Renee Villarreal

Councilor Chris Rivera

Councilor Jamie Cassut-Sanchez

A RESOLUTION

**IN SUPPORT OF 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 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 a 2019 UNM Bureau of Business and Economics study (2019 UNM Study), the dollar value of New Mexico's agriculture production is \$2.18 billion with \$96.3 million in fruits and vegetables providing approximately 10,000 jobs and \$900 million in annual wages; and

WHEREAS, the New Mexico Department of Agriculture publicizes studies that show that for every dollar that goes to local agricultural producers, \$1.80 is circulated in the local

1 economy; and

2 **WHEREAS**, the 2019 UNM study shows that if every New Mexican consumer
3 purchased 15 percent of their food from New Mexico farmers and ranchers, farm income would
4 increase by \$328 million; and

5 **WHEREAS**, according to a 2019 Feeding America study, in New Mexico, 324,000
6 people, one in every four adults, experience food insecurity, including 118,030 children; and

7 **WHEREAS**, that same study found that the annual cost to feed people experiencing food
8 insecurity in New Mexico is estimated to be \$158,536,000, at an average cost of \$2.87 per meal;
9 and

10 **WHEREAS**, the study also states that 12.4 percent of Santa Fe County residents, or
11 approximately 18,000 people, experience food insecurity; and

12 **WHEREAS**, additionally it was found that the annual cost to feed people experiencing
13 food insecurity in Santa Fe County is estimated to be \$10,499,000, at an average cost of \$3.36 per
14 meal; and

15 **WHEREAS**, the Feeding America study also shows that in New Mexico approximately
16 98,000 seniors fall below 185 percent of the federal poverty income guidelines, and
17 approximately 56,000 seniors fall below 130 percent the federal poverty income guidelines; and

18 **WHEREAS**, the National School Lunch Program makes it possible for all school
19 children in the United States to receive a nutritious lunch every school day; and

20 **WHEREAS**, Feeding America, in its 2019 study, found that many children consume at
21 least one-half of their daily calories at school and, for many food served at school is the only meal
22 they eat daily;

23 **WHEREAS**, according to the New Mexico Public Education Department (“PED”),
24 approximately 333,300 students are enrolled in New Mexico schools and can participate in the
25 school meal programs operated by various schools throughout the state, and more than 241,400 of

1 these students -- 72 percent -- are eligible for free or reduced-price school meals; and

2 **WHEREAS**, the Food Service Director for the Santa Fe Public Schools has stated that
3 more than 16,000 students in Santa Fe County and the City of Santa Fe participate in the school
4 meal program; and

5 **WHEREAS**, in 2019 the New Mexico School Nutrition Association found that local
6 school meal programs have seen costs for food purchases increase by of an average of 25 cents to
7 75 cents per meal, with fruits and vegetables representing as much as a quarter of the increased
8 cost; and

9 **WHEREAS**, information from PED shows that the National School Lunch Program
10 provides a reimbursement of \$3.31 for free lunches, \$2.91 for reduced-priced lunches; and \$0.39
11 for fully paid lunches; and

12 **WHEREAS**, the National School Lunch Program provides a reimbursement of \$1.79 for
13 free breakfasts, \$1.49 for reduced-price breakfasts, and \$0.31 for fully paid breakfasts; and

14 **WHEREAS**, Santa Fe County has implemented an Accountable Health Community, in
15 partnership with the City of Santa Fe, with the vision that that all County residents, regardless of
16 income, have access to high-quality health care and are linked to resources they need for health
17 and well-being, including food; and

18 **WHEREAS**, increasing consumption of healthy food is a priority in the *Santa Fe*
19 *County Health Action Plan*, including increasing the percentage of adolescents and the percentage
20 of adults within the County consuming five or more fresh fruits and vegetables a day; and

21 **WHEREAS**, promoting healthy food habits and increasing consumption of healthy food
22 is a goal in the *Santa Fe County Senior Services Strategic Plan*, including integrating fresh
23 produce into meals provided at County senior centers; and

24 **WHEREAS**, the purchase of New Mexico grown fruits and vegetables will enhance the
25 diet of school children and seniors and help school and senior meal programs comply with federal

1 rules that require fruits and vegetables on meal plates; and

2 **WHEREAS**, there is an agricultural sector of fruit and vegetable farmers that can
3 respond to these new food markets for local produce in the school and senior meal programs, as
4 well as in grocery stores; and

5 **WHEREAS**, Santa Fe County has launched “The AgriGate of Santa Fe County”, the
6 region’s new online platform for cultivating connections within the local food community, that
7 will allow food producers, including farmers, ranchers, and gardeners, to link with local food
8 buyers, with access to financial and technical support and other resources; and

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

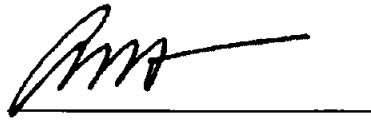
12 **WHEREAS**, increased funding from the State Legislature enables senior and school
13 meal programs and local school districts to purchase New Mexico-grown produce, serve more
14 fresh fruits and vegetables to Santa Fe’s children and seniors for their health and well-being,
15 provide related educational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

17 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Governing Body joins with the
18 Board of County Commission of Santa Fe, the City and County Advisory Council on Food
19 Policy, New Mexico Food and Agriculture Policy Council, New Mexico School Nutrition
20 Association, and other agencies and organizations, in requesting that the New Mexico State
21 Legislature appropriate funds to support New Mexico-grown fresh fruits and vegetables for
22 school and senior meals programs, related education programs, and programs that expand
23 opportunities for farmers and ranchers.

24 **PASSED, APPROVED, and ADOPTED** this 8th day of January, 2020.

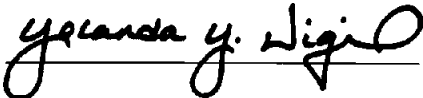
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ALAN M. WEBBER, MAYOR

ATTEST:



YOLANDA Y. VIGIL, CITY CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



ERIN K. McSHERRY, CITY ATTORNEY

Legislation/2020/Resolutions/2020-2 NM Grown