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**CITY OF SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2019-\_\_**

**INTRODUCED BY:**

Councilor Mike Harris

Councilor Renee D. Villarreal

**A RESOLUTION**

**SUPPORTING THE EIGHTH ANNUAL NEIGHBOR TO NEIGHBOR FOOD DRIVE;  
AND AUTHORIZING THE USE OF CITY VEHICLES AND STAFF TO ASSIST WITH  
COLLECTION OF THE DONATIONS.**

**WHEREAS**, according to Feeding American’s “Map the Meal Gap”, New Mexico consistently ranks as one of the worst states for food security; and

**WHEREAS**, in New Mexico, more than 320,000 people seek food assistance annually; and

**WHEREAS**, over 18,300 people live in poverty in Santa Fe County, with over 5,900 children in poverty; and

**WHEREAS**, in Santa Fe County, one in four children are affected by hunger; and

**WHEREAS**, research has demonstrated children who go without adequate healthy food cannot thrive nor learn well; and

**WHEREAS**, public and private partnerships can both feed children and improve the local agricultural economy; and

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**WHEREAS**, within the City, nearly 10% of low-income families live a mile or more from the nearest grocery store; and

**WHEREAS**, in Northern New Mexico, it is the mission of The Food Depot to end hunger in this area; and

**WHEREAS**, The Food Depot fulfills this goal through serving as the food bank for nine Northern New Mexico counties, providing food to more than 145 nonprofit agencies, including emergency food pantries, hot meal programs, homeless shelters, youth programs, senior centers, homes for the mentally disabled, and shelters for battered persons; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2018 The Food Depot distributed an average of 510,000 pounds of food each month, providing more than 425,000 meals to people in need, including the most vulnerable in our community; and

**WHEREAS**, more than just feeding people, The Food Depot is trying to help people change their lives; and

**WHEREAS**, every September since 2012, the neighborhoods in the Santa Fe area have participated in donating food to The Food Depot through an area-wide neighborhood association “Neighbor to Neighbor” Food Drive, in conjunction with the national “Hunger Action Month”; and

**WHEREAS**, this food drive has grown exponentially over the last seven years; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2017, 87 neighborhoods donated, in combination of pounds of food and monetary donations, a grand total of over 76 tons, or 152,297 pounds of food to the drive, thereby providing 126,914 meals for those in need; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2018, over 100 neighborhoods and businesses donated, in combination of pounds of food and monetary donations, a grand total of over 100 tons or 240,000 pounds of food to this drive, therefore providing over 200,000 meals for those in need; and

**WHEREAS**, the meals provided in 2018 to those in need are equivalent to nearly half of

1 one month’s distribution from The Food Depot, illustrating the importance of the Neighbor to  
2 Neighbor Food Drive to accomplishing the mission of the organization; and

3 **WHEREAS**, on Saturday, September 21, 2019, the neighborhood associations and  
4 communities of the Santa Fe area will again band together for the Eighth Annual Area-Wide  
5 “Neighbor to Neighbor Food Drive”; and

6 **WHEREAS**, the success of this program over the preceding seven years is evidence that  
7 the food drive will continue to be an annual event that neighborhood associations across the city  
8 look forward to participating in each year, with the encouragement and support of the City and its  
9 elected officials.

10 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF**  
11 **THE CITY OF SANTA FE** that it supports and encourages the efforts of the eighth annual  
12 “Neighbor to Neighbor Food Drive” on September 21, 2019.

13 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the City Councilors and appropriate staff, as  
14 determined by the City Manager, in conjunction with organizers of the “Neighbor to Neighbor Food  
15 Drive”, are requested to help inform all neighborhoods in Santa Fe of the food drive and to assist  
16 the neighborhoods and The Food Depot in collecting the food donations that are donated through  
17 this drive, providing trucks and personnel, as well as working cooperatively with Santa Fe County,  
18 so that we may all “Stand Together” to help stop hunger in our northern New Mexico communities.

19 PASSED, APPROVED, and ADOPTED this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2019.

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24 ALAN M. WEBBER, MAYOR  
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1 ATTEST:

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4 YOLANDA Y. VIGIL, CITY CLERK

5 APPROVED AS TO FORM:

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8 ERIN K. McSHERRY, CITY ATTORNEY

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25 *Legislation/2019/Resolutions/Neighbor to Neighbor Food Drive*