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CITY OF SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-__

INTRODUCED BY:

Councilor Carol Romero-Wirth

Councilor Jamie Cassutt-Sanchez

Councilor Renee Villarreal

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, such as the 2019 UNM Study, that show that for every dollar that goes to local agricultural producers, \$1.80 is

1 circulated in the local economy; and

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

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

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

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

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

13 **WHEREAS**, the Feeding America study also shows that, in New Mexico, approximately
14 98,000 seniors fall below 185 percent of the federal poverty income guidelines, and approximately
15 56,000 seniors fall below 130 percent the federal poverty income guidelines; and

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

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

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

25 **WHEREAS**, the Food Service Director for the Santa Fe Public Schools has stated that

1 more than 16,000 students in Santa Fe County and the City of Santa Fe participate in the school
2 meal program; and

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

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

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

12 **WHEREAS**, the purchase of New Mexico grown fruits and vegetables will enhance the
13 diet of school children and seniors and help school and senior meal programs comply with federal
14 rules that require fruits and vegetables on meal plates; and

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

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

21 **WHEREAS**, increased funding from the State Legislature enables senior and school meal
22 programs and local school districts to purchase New Mexico-grown produce, serve more fresh
23 fruits and vegetables to Santa Fe's children and seniors for their health and well-being, provide
24 related educational materials and experiential learning opportunities, and support economic
25 development and opportunities for local farmers.

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


7 PASSED, APPROVED, and ADOPTED this ___ day of _____, 2021.

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11 ALAN WEBBER, MAYOR

12 ATTEST:

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14 _____
15 KRISTINE BUSTOS-MIHELICIC, CITY CLERK

16 APPROVED AS TO FORM:

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18 _____
19 ERIN K. McSHERRY, CITY ATTORNEY

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25 *Legislation/2021/Resolutions/Locally Grown Food*