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CITY OF SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-__

INTRODUCED BY:

Councilor Jamie Cassutt

Councilwoman Renee Villarreal

Councilor Signe Lindell

A RESOLUTION

SUPPORTING THE NEIGHBOR TO NEIGHBOR FUND DRIVE 2022.

WHEREAS, according to Feeding America, New Mexico has one of the lowest rankings among states for food security; and

WHEREAS, the same study found that, in New Mexico, over 323,000 people seek food assistance annually; and

WHEREAS, additionally, over 19,200 people live in poverty in Santa Fe County including over 5,000 children; and

WHEREAS, the study also found that in Santa Fe County, one in three children were affected by hunger during the pandemic; 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

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

1 and

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

6 **WHEREAS**, in 2021, The Food Depot distributed an average of 885,153 pounds of food
7 each month, providing more than 737,627 meals to people in need, including the most vulnerable
8 in our community; and

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

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

15 **WHEREAS**, the drive has grown exponentially over the last ten years; and

16 **WHEREAS**, the onset of the novel coronavirus pandemic restricted the ability of the
17 Neighbor to Neighbor to conduct the annual food drive in the traditional manner; and

18 **WHEREAS**, instead, the Drive accepted monetary donations so that The Food Depot
19 could purchase food that will be distributed to needy families in northern New Mexico; and

20 **WHEREAS**, in 2020 the Santa Fe community raised \$170,979, equal to 854,895 pounds
21 of food, or 712,412 meals for those in need, illustrating the importance of the Neighbor-to-Neighbor
22 Fund Drive in accomplishing the mission of The Food Depot; and

23 **WHEREAS**, in 2021 the Santa Fe community raised \$201,428.99, equal to over 1 million
24 pound of food, or 805,716 meals for those in need, illustrating the importance of the Neighbor to
25 Neighbor Fund Drive in accomplishing the mission of The Food Depot; and

1 **WHEREAS**, the “Neighbor to Neighbor Fund Drive 2022” will benefit The Food Depot
2 with the donations raised by the Santa Fe area neighborhoods, businesses, and communities and
3 will culminate on Saturday, September 17, 2022; and

4 **WHEREAS**, the success of the Drive over the preceding ten years is evidence that it is
5 well situated to be an annual event in which neighborhood and businesses across the city look
6 forward to participating each year, with the encouragement and support of the City and its elected
7 officials.

8 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF**
9 **THE CITY OF SANTA FE** that the Governing Body supports and encourages the efforts of
10 “Neighbor to Neighbor Fund Drive 2022” benefitting The Food Depot, which runs until September
11 17, 2022.

12 PASSED, APPROVED, and ADOPTED this day ___ of _____, 2022.

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16 ATTEST:

ALAN WEBBER, MAYOR

17
18 _____
19 KRISTINE MIHELICIC, CITY CLERK

20 APPROVED AS TO FORM:

21 
22 _____
23 ERIN K. MCSHERRY, CITY ATTORNEY

24
25 *Legislation/2022/Resolutions/Neighbor to Neighbor Fund Drive*