CITY OF LOS ANGELES

CALIFORNIA



ANTONIO R. VILLARAIGOSA MAYOR Office of the CITY CLERK

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SHANNON HOPPES Council and Public Services Division

www.cityclerk.lacity.org

JUNE LAGMAY City Clerk

HOLLY L. WOLCOTT Executive Officer

When making inquiries relative to this matter, please refer to the Council File No.

June 21, 2012

To All Interested Parties:

Chief Legislative Analyst

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the City Council adopted the action(s), as attached, under

Council File No. <u>12-0002-S59</u>, at its meeting held <u>June 12, 2012</u>.

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City Clerk vm

cc: 8 Certified copies sent to Sacramento Representatives

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SUBJECT TO THE MAYOR'S APPROVAL

COUNCIL FILE NO. _____12-0002-S59_____

COUNCIL DISTRICT

COUNCIL APPROVAL DATE _____JUNE 12, 2012 _____

RE: THE CITY'S POSITION IN CONNECTION WITH THE 2012 FARM BILL RE-AUTHORIZATION

LAST DAY FOR MAYOR TO ACT

JUN 2 5 2012

[10 Day Charter requirement as per Charter Section 231(h)]

DO NOT WRITE BELOW THIS LINE - FOR MAYOR USE ONLY				
APPROVED		*DISAPPROVED		
		*Transmit objections in writing pursuant to Charter Section 231 (h)		
DATE OF MAYOR APPROVAL OR DISAPPROVAL	JUN 202012			
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MAYOR				
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TO CITY CLES REGULAR CO. AND S NT ON NEX

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JUN 08 2012 ARESOLUTION

P--- FS&ELECTIONS

WHEREAS, any official position of the City of Los Angeles with respect to legislation, rules, regulations, or policies proposed to or pending before a local, state, or federal governmental body or agency must have first been adopted in the form of a Resolution by the City Council with the concurrence of the Mayor; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives are currently considering making drastic cuts to, and changes to the structure of the benefit entitlements provided by, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), our nation's first line of defense against hunger, as part of the 2012 Farm Bill re-authorization; and

WHEREAS, the Food Research and Action Center (FRAC) estimates that 19.3 percent of all California households struggle to put food on the table; and SNAP is currently the nutritional lifeline for nearly 4 million Californians, including almost half a million people in the City of Los Angeles and 1 million in the County of Los Angeles; and

WHEREAS, SNAP is targeted to the most vulnerable households in our communities, with the average income of beneficiary households at only 57 percent of the federal poverty line; and 84 percent of SNAP benefits going to households with a child, senior, or disabled person; and

WHEREAS, SNAP not only benefits low-income families, it also helps the businesses that serve our low and moderate-income communities: in fact, Moody's Analytics estimates that every \$1 increase in SNAP benefits generates \$1.71 in economic activity; and

WHEREAS, S.3240, currently being considered in the U.S. Senate, proposes to restrict the state's ability to employ the "Heat and Eat" option, which gives states the flexibility to provide SNAP households with a nominal Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) benefit and by doing this, states are able to simplify the benefit calculation process and increase benefit allotments for a significant number of households; and

WHEREAS, experiences in states that have implemented the "Heat and Eat" option indicate that this simplification significantly reduces the administrative cost of SNAP, a major issue in California, and thus reduces lengthy waits and allows more residents to access the benefits they're entitled to; and

WHEREAS, the Senate Agricultural Farm Bill also makes changes to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program's optional Restaurant Meals Program (RMP) which would make this longstanding program option more difficult to implement, reducing the number of options to states struggling to address increasing rates of hunger among low-income elderly, disabled and homeless residents who cannot store or prepare meals safely at home; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. House Agricultural Committee has proposed cuts of \$33 billion to SNAP which would adversely affect current SNAP recipients and potential future applicants;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, with the concurrence of the Mayor, that by the adoption of this Resolution, the City of Los Angeles hereby urges the U.S. House of Representatives and U.S. Senate to strengthen, not weaken, our nation's nutrition safety net during the 2012 Farm Bill reauthorization by preserving the structure of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) as an entitlement program with robust funding to assist those living in hunger during these difficult economic times.

12-0002-559

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PRESENTED BY

RICHARD'ALARCÓN Councilmember, 7th District

SECONDED BY