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CITY OF SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-6

INTRODUCED BY:

Councilor Jamie Cassutt

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 the USDA Census of Agriculture, 2017 (“Census”), 1,538 New Mexico farmers sold \$98 million of vegetables and melons and \$210 million of fruits, nuts, and berries in 2017; and

WHEREAS, the Governor’s Office has recommended over \$24 million in its FY23 Executive Budget to increase investment in New Mexico’s food and agriculture in its Food, Farm and Hunger Initiative, introduced in the 2022 Legislative Session.; and

1 **WHEREAS**, a March 31, 2021, study released by Feeding America, said in 2019 that
2 10.6% of Santa Fe County residents experience food insecurity; and¹

3 **WHEREAS**, the Feeding America study also shows that, in New Mexico, the projected
4 overall very low food security rate for children in Santa Fe County in 2021 was 5.2%.

5 **WHEREAS**, food insecurity for New Mexicans overall was projected to be at 7.2% due
6 to the ongoing pandemic; and

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

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

14 **WHEREAS**, in 2019, the New Mexico School Nutrition Association found that local
15 school meal programs have seen costs for food purchases increase by of an average of 25 cents to
16 75 cents per meal, with the cost of fruits and vegetables representing as much as a quarter of the
17 increased cost; and

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

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

23 **WHEREAS**, the purchase of New Mexico grown fruits and vegetables will enhance the

¹ <https://feedingamericaaction.org/resources/state-by-state-resource-the-impact-of-coronavirus-on-food-insecurity/>

1 diet of school children and seniors and help school and senior meal programs comply with federal
2 rules that require fruits and vegetables on meal plates; and


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

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

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

14 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Governing Body supports funds to
15 support New Mexico-grown fresh fruits and vegetables for school and senior meals programs,
16 related education programs, and programs that expand opportunities for farmers and ranchers.

17 PASSED, APPROVED, and ADOPTED this 26th day of January, 2022.

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21 ALAN WEBBER, MAYOR

22 ATTEST:

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25 KRISTINE MIHELIC, CITY CLERK

1 APPROVED AS TO FORM:

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4 ERIN K. McSHERRY, CITY ATTORNEY

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Legislation/2022/Resolutions/2202-6 Locally Grown Food