

12-0002-559

TO CITY CLERK FOR DEPOSIT ON NEXT  
REGULAR CO. MEETING TO BE POSTED

#64 RESOLUTION

RULES & ELECTIONS

RULE 13 NEW MEG  
6-12-12

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 long-standing 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 re-authorization 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.

ORIGINAL

JUN 8 - 2012

PRESENTED BY Richard Alarcón  
RICHARD ALARCÓN  
Councilmember, 7<sup>th</sup> District

SECONDED BY [Signature]

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