MOTION

In the City of Los Angeles, many neighborhoods are "food deserts" where it is difficult to find fresh and healthy food. Local Farmers' Markets are a great way of bringing fresh produce into these communities. Neighborhoods facing "food desert" conditions are predominantly low-income communities, and studies have shown that these same communities suffer a disproportionate burden of chronic diseases related to obesity and poor diet. Increased access to fresh fruits and vegetables through Farmers' Markets, can help alleviate diet-related chronic conditions.
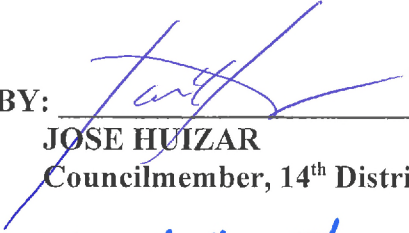
The CalFresh Program (California implementation of Federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) improves the health and well-being of its recipients by providing them with a monthly allocation for food purchases. These benefits can only be used to purchase food in locations that accept Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) cards. Only 47% of the 65 active Farmers' Markets within the City of Los Angeles accept EBT cards as a form of payment. Farmers' Markets that accept EBT payments report increase in sales that are of benefit to both vendors and Farmers' Markets.

The City Council should take action to ensure that all Certified Farmers' Markets within the City of Los Angeles accept EBT cards as a form of payment.
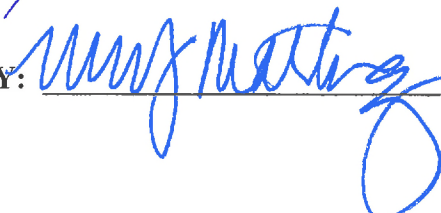
I THEREFORE MOVE that the Department of Public Works, with the assistance of City Attorney, be instructed to take the following actions:

1. Report on the City's current authority to require EBT access at all Farmer's Markets;

2. Develop a policy for monitoring and enforcing EBT access requirements at farmers' markets, including disciplinary actions for markets that fail to comply and accept CalFresh benefits; and,

3. Require proof of EBT card acceptance by providing a Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) number issued by the United States Department of Agriculture when applying for a special events permit to operate a farmers' market on City property.

PRESENTED BY: _____

JOSE HUIZAR
Councilmember, 14th District

SECONDED BY: _____

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