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RESOLUTION NUMBER R- 302506

DATE OF FINAL PASSAGE APR 19 2007

WHEREAS, the San Diego Hunger Coalition [SDHC] is a 501(c)(3) organization that brings together local non-profits, community advocates, government employees, and elected officials to fight hunger in our County; and

WHEREAS, according to the United States Department of Agriculture, in 2004, 11.4 percent of Americans were hungry or food insecure; and

WHEREAS, according to the Center on Hunger and Poverty at Brandeis University, in 2004, 12.4 percent of Californians were hungry or food insecure; and

WHEREAS, according to the California Food Policy Advocates, in 2005, 27.9 percent of people in San Diego County, 813,200 people, were hungry or food insecure; and

WHEREAS, one of the San Diego Hunger Coalition's objectives is to increase participation in the Food Stamp Program [FSP]; and

WHEREAS, the San Diego Hunger Coalition engages over twenty community partners to reach out to Food Stamp eligible residents to teach people about the program, prescreen them to determine potential benefit levels, and assist them with the application process; and

WHEREAS, the Food Stamp Program has tremendous potential for improvement and provides us with an opportunity to make true change in our County; and

WHEREAS, between May 2000 and May 2005, the Food Stamp caseload in San Diego County fell by 11.7 percent; nationally during the same period, Food Stamp caseloads increased by 49.3 percent; and

WHEREAS, according to an October 2006 report released by the Food Research and Action Center [FRAC], San Diego ranks last among large urban areas with regard to Food Stamp Program participation. The report states that only 26 percent of eligible households are enrolled in the Food Stamp Program. This means that almost three-quarters of the households that are eligible for the program do not utilize it; and

WHEREAS, in Council District Three, City Heights utilizes only 31 percent and North Park utilizes only 18 percent of its available Food Stamp Program dollars which adds up to \$24,158,184 that are not being utilized, and 24,551 people that are not utilizing the available funding each year in those two communities alone; and

WHEREAS, the additional resources provided by the Food Stamp Program enable families to purchase fresh and nutritious food items because they have more money in their food budget; and

WHEREAS, the USDA states that \$5 in new Food Stamp benefits generates \$9.20 in economic activity; and

WHEREAS, because San Diego County has such a low enrollment rate, we are missing out on \$144,189,327 in federal dollars, and almost twice that in overall economic activity; these federal dollars would reduce hunger and food insecurity, improve nutrition, and enhance the overall quality of life in low-income communities; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the City of San Diego, that this Council, for and on behalf of the people of San Diego, does hereby commend the San Diego Hunger Coalition for its passionate commitment to the promotion of the Food Stamp Program, which is a benefit to all San Diegans.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that April 2007, be and is hereby proclaimed to be, "FOOD STAMP PROGRAM AWARENESS MONTH" in the City of San Diego.

APPROVED: MICHAEL J. AGUIRRE, City Attorney

By Catherine M. Bradley  
Catherine M. Bradley  
Chief Deputy City Attorney

CMB:jab  
02/23/2007  
Or.Dept:Council-Atkins  
R-2007-804

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was passed by the Council of the City of San Diego, at this meeting of APR 10 2007.

ELIZABETH S. MALAND  
City Clerk

By Jana Rechaudon  
Deputy City Clerk

Approved: 4-19-07  
(date)

Jerry Sanders  
JERRY SANDERS, Mayor

Vetoed: \_\_\_\_\_  
(date)

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JERRY SANDERS, Mayor