



**TOWN OF FAIRFAX**  
**STAFF REPORT**  
**May 6, 2015**

**TO:** Mayor and Town Council  
**FROM:** Michele Gardner, Town Clerk   
**SUBJECT:** Adoption of a Resolution Supporting Public and Private Efforts to Promote Community Food Security and Increase Enrollment in the Cal Fresh Program

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**RECOMMENDATION**

Adopt the resolution.

**DISCUSSION**

Councilmember Reed requested that this item be added to the agenda for the Council's consideration.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

None

**ATTACHMENT**

Resolution

## RESOLUTION 15-\_\_

### A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF FAIRFAX SUPPORTING PUBLIC AND PRIVATE EFFORTS TO PROMOTE COMMUNITY FOOD SECURITY AND INCREASE ENROLLMENT IN THE CAL FRESH PROGRAM

**WHEREAS**, access to safe, nutritious, and culturally acceptable food is a basic human right and is essential to human health; and,

**WHEREAS**, food security is a state in which all persons obtain a nutritionally adequate, culturally acceptable diet at all times through local non-emergency sources; and,

**WHEREAS**, food insecurity results in poorer nutritional intake, unhealthy eating behaviors that persist sometimes for decades after the food insecurity experience, and is associated with poor health outcomes in all populations; and,

**WHEREAS**, the California Food Policy Associates ranked Marin 54th out of 58 counties in California for Cal Fresh (food stamp) utilization; and,

**WHEREAS**, 125 Ross Valley community families a week are served at the Fairfax Community Church Food Pantry; and,

**WHEREAS**, there are still many individuals and families in Fairfax and the surrounding communities who live solely on fixed incomes and have 'food insecurity', i.e., don't have enough food, particularly at the end of the month; and,

**WHEREAS**, data from the Marin County Health and Human Services' CalFresh program tells us that over 300 families in Fairfax are likely eligible for food stamps right now but don't receive them; and,

**WHEREAS**, May has been declared Cal Fresh Awareness Month by the State of California and by the County of Marin; and,

**WHEREAS**, food insecurity is due to the inability to secure sufficient financial resources to purchase enough nutritious food to support a healthy diet on a consistent basis; the inability to access affordable, nutritious, and culturally appropriate foods safely and conveniently; and the inability to prepare healthy meals and/or the knowledge of basic nutrition, safety, and cooking; and,

**WHEREAS**, the key challenges to our community's ability to afford enough nutritious food to support a healthy diet on a consistent basis include the high cost of living, low benefit levels and under-enrollment in CalFresh (known nationally as Supplemental Nutrition 4 Assistance Program (SNAP) and formerly known as Food Stamps); and ineligibility of many food insecure residents to receive CalFresh; and,

**WHEREAS**, the key challenges to residents' ability to access affordable, nutritious, and culturally appropriate foods safely and conveniently are insufficient healthy and affordable food retail outlets; nonprofit food programs are at capacity with a growing wait list for meals for homebound seniors, for adults with disabilities and at free congregate dining rooms; low participation in school meals; inadequate capacity for out-of-school-time meals; and rising food costs; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Fairfax Town Council recognizes that hunger, food insecurity, and poor nutrition are pressing health issues that require immediate action; and

**WHEREAS**, it will take collaboration and collective action among the public and private sectors to change policies, systems, and the environment to ensure that all local residents are food secure and hunger free;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fairfax Town Council declares May 2015 CalFresh Awareness Month; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Fairfax Town Council supports efforts to ensure that all Fairfax residents are food secure and hunger free with all deliberate speed; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that in order to ensure that all local residents are food secure and hunger free, the Fairfax Town Council supports expanding federal nutrition programs; supporting community partners' ability to meet the growing need for food; encouraging and assisting community efforts to meet the growing need for food and food security; and supporting local, sustainable food production; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Marin Department of Health and Human Services is encouraged to create a Food Security Task Force and is requested to explore strategies (and associated costs) for a voucher redeemable for healthy foods at local retailers including grocery stores, corner stores, farmers markets, modeled after similar vouchers in other cities.

The foregoing Resolution was duly passed and adopted at a meeting of the Town Council of the Town of Fairfax held in said Town on the 6<sup>th</sup> day of May 2015, by the following vote, to wit:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

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Barbara Coler, Mayor

Attest

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Michele Gardner, Town Clerk