

FOOD CHARTER FOR THE CITY OF SACRAMENTO

Approved by the City Council April, 2004

Recognizing the Importance of Food Security in Sacramento

WHEREAS, the City of Sacramento supports “the fundamental right of everyone to be free from hunger,” as stated in the United Nations Covenant on Social, Economic and Cultural Rights, and envisions our community one day free from hunger; and

WHEREAS, that vision is far from present reality, as documented in the Sacramento Hunger Commission’s periodic study, “*Hunger Hits Home*,” published in 1989, 1992, and 2004; and

WHEREAS, every Sacramento resident should have access to an adequate supply of nutritious and affordable food; and

WHEREAS, food security, or access to an adequate, nutritious diet, contributes to the health and well-being of residents while reducing their need for medical care; and

WHEREAS, food brings people together in celebrations of community and is an important part of the city’s diverse culture; and

WHEREAS, food and food production, are central to Sacramento’s economy, and the commitment to food security can strengthen the food sector’s growth and development.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the City of Sacramento, that to promote food security, we will:

- Champion the right of all residents – adults, children, seniors, and the disabled -- to adequate amounts of safe and nutritious food without the need to resort to emergency food providers;
- Advocate for income, employment, housing, and transportation policies that support secure and dignified access to the food people need;
- Encourage the development of community gardens that increase food self-reliance, improve fitness, contribute to a cleaner environment, and enhance community development;
- Promote the preservation of local agricultural lands and support urban agriculture;
- Encourage the recycling of organic materials to nurture soil fertility and reduce waste;
- Foster a civic culture that inspires all Sacramento residents and all city departments to support food programs that provide cultural, social, economic, and health benefits;
- Support events highlighting the city’s diverse and multicultural food traditions; and
- Partner with community agencies, residents’ and cooperative groups, businesses, and government organizations to increase the availability of healthy foods and achieve our goals to combat hunger in the community.

ISSUED: This 8th day of April 2004