

**Marin County Board of Supervisors  
Resolution Declaring October 24, 2015 as ‘Food Day’ in Marin County**

1. WHEREAS, “Community Food Security” applies a systems approach to address the root causes of hunger and means that all community residents are able to obtain a safe, culturally acceptable, nutritionally adequate diet through a sustainable food system that maximizes community self-reliance and social justice;<sup>1</sup> and
2. WHEREAS, the Marin Food Policy Council, first established in 1994 to provide a framework for action to address Community Food Security, was the second such group to convene in the nation and reconvened in 2012 with the financial support and guidance of the Marin County Board of Supervisors; and
3. WHEREAS, Marin County’s commitment to Healthy Eating and Active Living (HEAL) is an intentional equity strategy to prevent chronic diseases caused in part by food insecurity and the Marin Food Policy Council is a HEAL Implementation Team; and
4. WHEREAS, although Marin County consistently ranks among the healthiest counties in the country,<sup>2</sup> many residents suffer from persistent health inequities, including diet-related diseases; and
5. WHEREAS, one in five Marin residents are at risk of hunger<sup>3</sup> and Marin County recognizes that hunger, food insecurity, and poor nutrition are pressing health issues that require immediate action, and
6. WHEREAS, the single most effective evidence-based strategy to provide immediate relief from food insecurity is to link residents to federally funded nutrition programs including CalFresh (California’s Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program or SNAP), Women Infants and Children (WIC), and School Meal Programs; and
7. WHEREAS, Marin County consistently ranks as one of the poorest performing counties in enrolling eligible people in CalFresh (ranking 55 out of 58),<sup>4</sup> and an estimated \$30 million of local economic activity could be generated with full participation; and<sup>5</sup>
8. WHEREAS, the ability to purchase foods close to home is critical to food security, but not every community in Marin has equal access to healthy and affordable food and many youth,

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<sup>1</sup> Hamm & Bellows, 2003

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.marincounty.org/main/county-press-releases/press-releases/2015/healthiest-032515>

<sup>3</sup> SF-Marine Food Bank

<sup>4</sup> <http://cfpa.net/CalFresh/CFPAPublications/PAI-FullReport-2015.pdf>

<sup>5</sup> <http://cfpa.net/county-profiles> (Marin County profile)

seniors, and low-income residents lack adequate transportation to access healthy and affordable food outside of their communities; and

9. WHEREAS, the Marin County Nutrition Wellness Program's Communities of Excellence in Nutrition, Physical Activity, and Obesity Prevention (CX3) assessments found that only 11% of stores in the Canal<sup>6</sup> and 0% of stores in Marin City<sup>7</sup> met "Neighborhood Food Store Quality" standards, indicating whether local stores were safely accessible to neighborhood residents and offered healthy, affordable foods; and
10. WHEREAS, small-scale, neighborhood-based food production and urban agriculture including community and school gardens increase access to healthy and local food, expand self-sufficiency, and foster resilient communities; and
11. WHEREAS, food recovery and gleaning are important strategies for providing healthy and affordable food while reducing the adverse consequences of food waste on the environment; and
12. WHEREAS, the Marin County Board of Supervisors supports equitable access to healthy and local food for all communities in Marin; and
13. WHEREAS, Food Day, on October 24, 2015, inspires events around the country and brings communities together to celebrate real food and advocate for improved food policies; and
14. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Marin County Board of Supervisors joins leaders across the United States in declaring October 24, 2015 as Food Day in Marin County;<sup>8</sup> and,
15. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Marin County Board of Supervisors encourages Health and Human Services, UC Cooperative Extension, and the Marin Food Policy Council to continue collaboration with other appropriate County and city departments and community partner agencies to explore the feasibility of the policy strategies outlined in the Marin Food Policy Council's 2015 Preliminary Report on Equitable Access to Healthy and Local Food in Marin County; and, be it
16. FURTHER RESOLVED, the Board of Supervisors encourages a presentation by the Marin Food Policy Council on the enclosed policy ideas by February 2016, followed by annual updates on progress towards these goals in conjunction with Food Day in October.

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<sup>6</sup> [https://www.marinhhs.org/sites/default/files/files/servicepages/2014\\_04/canal\\_fact\\_sheet.pdf](https://www.marinhhs.org/sites/default/files/files/servicepages/2014_04/canal_fact_sheet.pdf)

<sup>7</sup> [https://www.marinhhs.org/sites/default/files/files/servicepages/2014\\_04/marin\\_city\\_mtm\\_fact\\_sheet.pdf](https://www.marinhhs.org/sites/default/files/files/servicepages/2014_04/marin_city_mtm_fact_sheet.pdf)

<sup>8</sup> <http://www.foodday.org/about>