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## COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES CONSUMER AFFAIRS ADVISORY COMMISSION

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December 16, 2021

Rafael Carbajal, Director  
Los Angeles County Department of Consumer and Business Affairs  
320 W. Temple St. Room G-10, Los Angeles CA, 90012

### **SUBJECT: Supporting Countywide Programs and Initiatives to Combat Food Insecurity in Los Angeles County**

Dear Director Carbajal:

At the regular meeting of the Los Angeles County Consumer Affairs Advisory Commission (CAAC) held on November 18, 2021, the CAAC motioned and unanimously voted to request that the County of Los Angeles and the Board of Supervisors (Board) implement and support programs and initiatives that aid in combating food insecurity across Los Angeles County. More than ever, and as further complicated as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the issue of food insecurity, including food deserts, food swamps, access to affordable food options and the effect of inflation on people with limited income dependent upon SNAP/Food Stamps has become a central issue for the various cities, communities, and neighborhoods of Los Angeles County. On behalf of the CAAC, I hereby make such request.

### **BACKGROUND**

For calendar year 2021, the CAAC approved and implemented five (5) Commission Goals. The fifth goal implemented is to ascertain the consumer needs of each Supervisorial District through interaction with members of the public, followed by describing how these needs are being met (or should be met) by Los Angeles County. What began as a need brought up by the 2<sup>nd</sup> Supervisorial District, became recognized through Commission discussion, as an entire County need.

After much discussion, the following suggestions/programs are supported by the CAAC:

1. Support local food growers on a County level
2. Allow pilot programs to permit Grocery Trucks (the size of Food trucks), that could (similar to the old Helms Bread Trucks) bring fresh groceries into



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neighborhoods with few fresh food options nearby. These Mobile Markets could go down streets in the neighborhoods, or place themselves in a parking lot or park -- same time/s every week, with locally-grown produce. This would help the local growers, local entrepreneurs and families with convenient fresh fruits and vegetables.

Therefore, the CAAC remains strongly and unequivocally in support of initiatives and food programs, as exemplified above, that would provide the much needed support, assistance and resources to Los Angeles County consumers and residents. The CAAC further believes that by increasing the access to better and more affordable food options, the County can address the ongoing need to create equity, diversity, and inclusion. The CAAC hereby request this letter of recommendation be sent to the Board recommending that the County of Los Angeles and the Board further explore ways to address food insecurity for consumers and residents of the County.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter. Your recommendation (with this letter attached) to the Board at the earliest possible date would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Joan Patsy Ostroy  
Chair, Consumer Affairs Advisory Commission