

## RESOLUTION NO. 102-13

BY: **MARK CASSELBERRY**

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE OHIO ASSOCIATION OF FOODBANKS REQUEST FOR \$34 MILLION (\$17 MILLION EACH YEAR) TO SUPPORT THE CONTINUATION OF ITS GRANT APPLICATION, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

WHEREAS, out of Ohio's 10 largest cities, Parma had by far the greatest increase in poverty between 1999 and 2011, with an increase of 144.5%. (U.S. Census Bureau, *2011 American Community Survey: 1 Year Estimate*, September 20, 2012); and,

WHEREAS, Ohio's emergency food assistance network collectively served more than 2.3 million men, women and children in State Fiscal year (SFY) 2012 and in the same year provided more than 160 million pounds of food and grocery items to our clients. The network is operated by the Ohio Association of Foodbanks (the association) and is funded in part by a line item in Ohio's state budget, which is administered through the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services; and,

WHEREAS, the state funding directs food supplies to millions of Ohioans through the state's network of 12 Feeding American food banks and more than 3,300 food pantries and soup kitchens. This funding is a highly effective and fiscally responsible use of state dollars, and the association works tirelessly to leverage that funding to maximize its ability to get food to hungry Ohioans; and,

WHEREAS, in Cuyahoga County, the state food is distributed through the Cleveland Foodbank to its network of more than 600 programs throughout the community, including the following programs that serve residents of Parma: All Faiths Pantry, Holy Family Food Pantry, and Parma Baptist Church; and,

WHEREAS, our state-funded program – the Ohio Food Program and Agricultural Clearance Program (OFPACP) – has been praised for its effectiveness, demonstrated return on investment, and its efficiency in getting fresh foods and shelf-stable items to Ohioans in need. From every dollar of the \$12.5 million in state funding provided to the association in SFY 2012, 95 percent was used to purchase food or improve the distribution network; and,

WHEREAS, OFPACP – which for more than a decade has purchased surplus or unmarketable products directly from Ohio farmers, growers and commodity producers – is among the most unique and most replicated food programs, and in SFY 2012 supplied to Ohio's hungry citizens more than 40 million pounds of fresh, Ohio-grown, wholesome, highly nutritious agriculture products that normally would have gone to waste. *No other state program can illustrate this kind of return on investment* – serving millions of Ohioans in need, helping our state's farmers sell surplus foods, and improving hunger relief in all 88 counties;

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NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PARMA, STATE OF OHIO:

Section 1. That this Council hereby supports the Ohio Association of Foodbanks request for the 2014-2015 biennial budget \$34 million (\$17 million each year) to support the continuation of its grant application.

Section 2. That the Clerk of Council is hereby directed to forward a true and accurate copy of this Resolution to the Ohio Association of Foodbanks.

Section 3. That it is found and determined that all formal actions of this Council concerning and relating to the adoption of this Resolution were adopted in an open meeting of this Council, and that all deliberations of this Council and any of its committees that resulted in such formal action were in meetings open to the public in compliance with all legal requirements.

Section 4. That this Resolution is hereby declared to be an emergency measure necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health, safety and welfare of the City of Parma, and for the further reason that this measure is necessary due to this important issue, and this Resolution shall become immediately effective upon receiving the affirmative vote of two-thirds of all members elected to Council and approval of the Mayor, otherwise from and after the earliest period allowed by law.

PASSED: \_\_\_\_\_ PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_ APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_  
CLERK OF COUNCIL

FILED WITH  
THE MAYOR: \_\_\_\_\_ MAYOR, CITY OF PARMA, OHIO