

**RESOLUTION COMMITTING THE CITY TO INCREASING ACCESS  
TO HEALTHY FOODS, AND ADOPTING A FOOD ACCESS  
POLICY AND PLANNING GUIDE**

WHEREAS, 16.3 percent of American children and adolescents ages 2 to 19 are obese, and 31.9 percent are obese or overweight, which translates into 12 million children and adolescents who are obese (BMI  $\geq$  95<sup>th</sup> percentile) and more than 23 million who are either obese or overweight (BMI  $\geq$  85<sup>th</sup> percentile), according to the Journal of the American Medical Association; and

WHEREAS, in the Las Vegas metropolitan area, 34.2 percent of children and 60.2 percent of adults are obese or overweight, according to the Center for Disease Control; and

WHEREAS, research indicates that overweight children and adults are at greater risk for numerous adverse health consequences, including type 2 diabetes, heart disease, stroke, high blood pressure, high cholesterol, certain cancers, asthma, low self-esteem, depression and other debilitating diseases; and

WHEREAS, studies show that the medical costs of obesity have risen to \$147 billion each year; and

WHEREAS, good nutrition is a central part of any obesity prevention effort as healthier diets could prevent at least \$71 billion per year in medical costs, lost productivity and lost lives, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture; and

WHEREAS, studies show that most Americans do not eat enough fruits, vegetables or whole grains; and

WHEREAS, in many neighborhoods, families have limited access to full-service supermarkets; and

WHEREAS, research indicates that improvements to the “built environment”—including, bike and pedestrian friendly streets, adequate public transportation, access to healthy food retailers, access to parks and trails and grocery stores, or the lack thereof — have a significant impact on obesity rates; and

WHEREAS, individual effort alone is insufficient to combat obesity’s rising tide and significant societal and environmental changes are needed to support individual efforts to make healthier choices; and

1 WHEREAS, the City Council has established "Safe & Healthy City" as one of the  
2 priorities of the City and has specified expanded access to healthy affordable food by prioritizing  
3 grocery stores or markets as essential components of neighborhoods; and

4 WHEREAS, the City Council recognizes that obesity is a serious public health threat  
5 to the health and well-being of adults, children, and families within the City's boundaries.

6 NOW, THEREFORE, BASED UPON THE FOREGOING, BE IT RESOLVED BY  
7 THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LAS VEGAS AS FOLLOWS:

8 1. To commit the City to do all it can to increase the number of grocery stores in underserved  
9 communities and take other actions to increase these communities' access to healthy food, including  
10 fresh fruits and vegetables.

11 2. To direct the City's Department of Planning to review and revise all laws and policies that  
12 might erect unnecessary barriers to community gardening, farmers' markets, or related activities and  
13 to work to identify any transportation barriers to accessing supermarkets or farmers' markets and  
14 determine where there are opportunities to increase access to healthy food through the location of  
15 grocery stores in proximity to residential areas and through public transportation.

16 3. To pledge its support for community efforts to establish and maintain farmers' markets,  
17 recognizing that farmers' markets provide fresh produce to community residents, support small  
18 farmers, and build community.

19 4. To adopt the Food Access Policy and Planning Guide that is attached to this Resolution, and  
20 to direct the Department of Planning:

21 A. To use the Guide in order to review the General Plan, the Unified Development Code,  
22 subdivision regulations, and other plans, codes, and regulations, and, as part of future updates of those  
23 documents, prepare proposed revisions that could increase access to healthy foods and decrease access  
24 to unhealthy food retail outlets where appropriate.

25 B. In conducting the aforementioned reviews, to consider implementing zoning  
26 restrictions on unhealthy food retail outlets.

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1 C. As part of future updates, to discuss steps taken to implement this Resolution,  
2 additional steps planned, and any desired actions that would need to be taken by the City Council or  
3 other agencies or departments to implement the steps taken or planned.

4 PASSED, ADOPTED, AND APPROVED this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2013.

5 CITY OF LAS VEGAS

6  
7 BY \_\_\_\_\_  
CAROLYN G. GOODMAN, Mayor

8 ATTEST:

9  
10 BEVERLY K. BRIDGES, MMC  
City Clerk

11 APPROVED AS TO FORM

12 Val Steef 6-4-13  
Date

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