

RESOLUTION NO. 057-2025 (COTW),  
*First Reading*

By Councilmember Petras

A Resolution opposing federal and state cuts to food assistance programs that directly impact the Greater Cleveland Food Bank and its partners and urging the restoration of these funds to support families in need across Greater Cleveland and Cleveland Heights; and declaring the necessity that this legislation become immediately effective as an emergency measure.

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Agriculture recently canceled 20 shipments totaling over 553,000 pounds of food—valued at \$1 million—that were slated for delivery to the Greater Cleveland Food Bank (GCFB), significantly disrupting its ability to serve food-insecure residents across Northeast Ohio; and

WHEREAS, this cancellation comes at a time when demand for food assistance continues to grow, with more than 25% of those served by GCFB in 2024 seeking help for the first time; and

WHEREAS, the USDA has also announced the end of the Local Food Purchase Assistance (LFPA) program, effective June 30, 2025, which will result in the loss of nearly 1 million pounds of fresh, locally sourced food—including fruits, vegetables, and proteins critical to family nutrition; and

WHEREAS, the proposed \$7.5 million (25%) reduction in state food program funding in the upcoming Ohio budget would further compound the crisis, with the GCFB projecting a loss of 3.9 million pounds of food in 2025 and 5.1 million pounds in 2026 if funds are not restored; and

WHEREAS, Cleveland Heights residents are among those directly served by GCFB and its partner agencies, and our community stands to be significantly harmed by these reductions in emergency nutrition support; and

WHEREAS, access to healthy, nutritious food is a fundamental need and a matter of public health, equity, and dignity;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Cleveland Heights, Ohio, that:

SECTION 1. This Council strongly opposes the recent cuts by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the proposed reductions in Ohio's state budget to food assistance programs that impact the Greater Cleveland Food Bank and its agency partners.

SECTION 2. This Council urges the federal government and the Ohio General Assembly to fully restore funding to both the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC)

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program and the LFPA program, and to preserve funding for Ohio's Food and Agricultural Clearance programs in the state budget.

SECTION 3. The Clerk of Council is directed to send a copy of this resolution to all members of the Ohio delegation to the U.S. Congress; Ohio Representative Juanita O. Brent; Ohio Senator Kent Smith; Ohio Governor Mike DeWine; U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Brooke Rollins; and Kristin Warzocha, President and CEO of the Greater Cleveland Food Bank.

SECTION 4. It is found and determined that all formal actions of the Council relating to the adoption of this Ordinance 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 5. Notice of the passage of this Resolution shall be given by publishing the title and abstract of contents, prepared by the Director of Law, once in one newspaper of general circulation in the City of Cleveland Heights, or by posting the full text of this Resolution to the City of Cleveland Heights website.

SECTION 6. It is necessary that this Resolution become immediately effective as an emergency measure necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety of the inhabitants of the City of Cleveland Heights, such being the immediate need to advocate against these policies in order to effectively influence decision-makers and shape policy. Wherefore, provided it receives the affirmative vote of five or more of the members elected or appointed to this Council, this Resolution shall take effect and be in force immediately upon its passage; otherwise, it shall take effect and be in force from and after the earliest time allowed by law.



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TONY CUDA  
President of Council



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ADDIE BALESTER  
Clerk of Council

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PASSED: April 21, 2025

Presented to Mayor: 04/24/2025 Approved: 04/28/2025



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KAHLIL SEREN  
Mayor