

**A Proclamation of the City Council
of the City of Commerce Designating the
Month of May 2017 as
CALFRESH AWARENESS MONTH**

WHEREAS, many residents are still financially impacted by the recent "Great Recession." Los Angeles County experienced some of the highest unemployment rates in the nation. Unfortunately, many in need of immediate food assistance are unaware that they may qualify for CalFresh, the federally funded supplemental nutrition food benefit formerly known in California as the Food Stamps Program.

WHEREAS, one of the highest priorities of the Los Angeles county Department of Public Social Services (DPSS) is to reduce food insecurity in the nation's largest county and encourage healthy food choices.

WHEREAS, in the County of Los Angeles, only 59 percent of those eligible are receiving CalFresh food assistance, even though a record high of 1,179,471 individuals received the benefit in January this year.

WHEREAS, in May 2011, DPSS collaborated with various government agencies, community and faith-based organizations, food banks, schools, and supermarkets, to successfully implement the first comprehensive month-long CalFresh Awareness campaign to educate residents about the CalFresh Program and remove many of the barriers that were discouraging eligible families and individuals from applying.

WHEREAS, the department has since enlisted the help of the Department of Public Health, local schools districts, supermarket chains and farmer's markets and food banks in sharing the valuable information about nutrition education and the long-term benefits of exercising.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Commerce does hereby proclaim the month of May 2014, as "CalFresh Awareness Month", and urges families in need of food assistance to apply for benefits under the CalFresh Program.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 16th day of May, 2017.

Ivan Altamirano, Mayor

ATTEST:

Lena Shumway, City Clerk