



Los Angeles Community Action Network (LA CAN)

Dear Councilmember Jose Huizar,

The Los Angeles Community Action Network is in full support of your motion to get all Farmers Markets in the City of Los Angeles that take place on public space to be universally accessible to Cal Fresh recipients by way of using our EBT (electronic benefits transfer) cards. We would like to thank you for your leadership in making fresh, healthy food more accessible to individuals and families. We would also like to thank your staff in particular for taking our idea of a citywide policy and working with us to draft a motion. We hope that soon we can help you make this motion into law.

As you may know, the federal Cal Fresh Program is intended to put healthier foods on the table for many families and individuals that depend on the financial assistance to purchase food. However, for many communities in our city, particularly low income communities of color, those foods are very hard to find. In recent years, Farmers Markets have sprung up throughout Los Angeles with more than 50 Farmers Markets currently operating with locations in Watts, South Central and the Downtown area. Many markets, about half, already accept EBT cards as a form of payment but not all and that is why your motion is important to us.

Once again, thank you for ensuring that all people, no matter what income level we may find ourselves at, can make healthier choices in the foods we put in our bodies and help stimulate the local economy. Please let us know how we can be supportive in moving this forward in the form of technical assistance and/or community supportive.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Pete White".

Pete White
Executive Director