



# PROCLAMATION

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

**WHEREAS**, summer is the hungriest time of year for many children when families struggle to make up for lost school meals, and food insecurity tends to increase; and,

**WHEREAS**, 53 percent of school-aged kids—30 million in total—qualify for free or reduced-price school meals but don't get these meals when school is out for the summer; and,

**WHEREAS**, children who are food insecure are more likely to miss school, perform worse academically, experience social, emotional, and mental health challenges, forego healthcare, and develop chronic disease; and,

**WHEREAS**, summer meal programs are most effective when paired with educational and enrichment activities, which provide students a fun, safe place to be with friends and stay active, help curb the learning loss experienced during the summer months, especially among low-income children, and prepare students to return to school ready to learn and thrive; and,

**WHEREAS**, there are numerous organizations facilitating summer meal programs in Fort Worth, including a robust program led by the Tarrant Area Food Bank – the Ready to Learn program –an initiative to address childhood hunger through the expansion of in-school markets, targeted kids' nutrition education, and the construction of a kid-friendly market where families can receive nutritious groceries on-site at the Tarrant Area Food Bank; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Tarrant Area Food Bank currently supports 72 in-school markets and plans to scale to 100 in-school markets by the end of the calendar year; and,

**WHEREAS**, Fort Worth is committed to increasing awareness about summer meal programs, and helping ensure that more kids have access to summer meal sites in Fort Worth so no child goes hungry this summer.

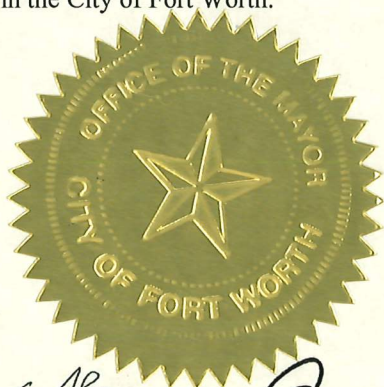
## NOW THEREFORE:

The City of Fort Worth does hereby proclaim May 2024, as:

# SUMMER MEALS MONTH

in the City of Fort Worth.

IN TESTIMONY, WHEREOF, we have hereunto set our hands and caused the Official Seal of the City of Fort Worth, Texas to be affixed this 14<sup>th</sup> day of May A.D., 2024.



Mattie Parker  
Mayor

Carlos E. Flores  
Council Member District 2

Michael D. Crain  
Council Member District 3

Charlie Lauersdorf  
Council Member District 4

Gyna M. Bivens  
Council Member District 5

Jared Williams, Ph.D.  
Council Member District 6

Macy Hill  
Council Member District 7

Chris Nettles  
Council Member District 8

Elizabeth M. Beck  
Council Member District 9

Alan Blaylock  
Council Member District 10

Jeanette Martinez  
Council Member District 11