



**City of Columbia
A Proclamation**

WHEREAS, every child deserves access to healthy, nutritious meals year-round, yet many families face increased food insecurity during the summer months when school is not in session; and

WHEREAS, summer meal programs supported by the U.S. Department of Agriculture help bridge this gap by providing free, nutritious meals to children who rely on school breakfast and lunch programs throughout the academic year; and

WHEREAS, expanded summer nutrition initiatives, including flexible grab-and-go meal options and Summer EBT (SUN Bucks), have helped increase access to healthy food for millions of children and families by reducing barriers such as transportation and distance; and

WHEREAS, summer meal programs, when paired with educational, recreational, and enrichment opportunities, help children remain healthy, active, and engaged while reducing summer learning loss and preparing students for a successful return to school; and

WHEREAS, the City of Columbia is committed to supporting the health and well-being of children and families by raising awareness of available summer nutrition resources and partnering with community organizations to help ensure that no child experiences hunger during the summer months.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Daniel J. Rickenmann, Mayor of the City of Columbia, South Carolina, along with my fellow members of Columbia City Council, do hereby proclaim July 23, 2026, as

“SUMMER MEALS DAY”

in the great City of Columbia and urge my fellow citizens to recognize and participate in its observance.

Daniel J. Rickenmann
Mayor

Edward H. McDowell, Jr.
District II, Council Member

William Brennan
District III, Council Member

Tina N. Herbert
District I, Council Member

Peter M. Brown
District IV, Council Member

Tyler D. Bailey
At-Large, Council Member

Sam Johnson
At-Large, Council Member