A RESOLUTION OF THE KITSAP COUNTY COUNCIL FOR HUMAN RIGHTS DECLARING ACCESS TO FOOD AS A FUNDAMENTAL HUMAN RIGHT

WHEREAS, the Kitsap County Council for Human Rights is committed to promoting and protecting the inherent dignity, equity, and human rights of all people who live, work, and thrive in Kitsap County; and

WHEREAS, access to adequate, nutritious, safe, and culturally appropriate food is essential to human survival, health, dignity, and full participation in community life; and

WHEREAS, Article 25 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights affirms that “everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of themselves and of their family, including food”; and

WHEREAS, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights recognizes “the fundamental right of everyone to be free from hunger”; and

WHEREAS, food insecurity remains a significant and growing issue in Kitsap County, disproportionately affecting children, seniors, working families, people with disabilities, communities of color, unhoused individuals, and other marginalized groups; and

WHEREAS, the right to food includes not only freedom from hunger but equitable access to food that is affordable, nutritious, culturally relevant, and produced in ways that are environmentally sustainable and socially just; and

WHEREAS, access to food is interconnected with broader determinants of well-being, including housing, healthcare, transportation, environmental health, and economic opportunity; and

WHEREAS, Kitsap County benefits from the work of many community organizations, local farms, Tribal partners, food banks, community gardens, and food justice advocates who strive to ensure that no individual goes without adequate food, yet structural and systemic barriers to food security persist; and

WHEREAS, local governments, advisory bodies, and community partners share both the responsibility and the opportunity to support policies, programs, and initiatives that advance food security, food sovereignty, and equitable food systems for all residents;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Kitsap County Council for Human Rights affirms that access to food is a fundamental human right and commits to supporting, uplifting, and partnering with community members, organizations, Tribal partners, and local governments to advance food justice throughout Kitsap County; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council urges Kitsap County and its partners to consider and support policies, resource investments, and initiatives that:

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- Expand equitable access to affordable, nutritious food;
- Support and strengthen local food producers and sustainable agricultural practices;
- Address systemic inequities that contribute to food insecurity;
- Ensure culturally appropriate and equitable food access for all communities;
- Build a resilient, community-driven food system that promotes human dignity and environmental stewardship; and
- Encourage and enable restaurants, bakeries, and other food-service establishments to donate prepared foods to community partners within timelines that comply with Washington State Department of Health food safety regulations.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Kitsap County Council for Human Rights will continue to use its platform to educate, advocate, and collaborate in support of a Kitsap County where all residents can realize their fundamental human right to food.

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