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Approved as to Form and Legality:

Office of the City Attorney

## Oakland City Council

RESOLUTION No. 83763 C.M.S.

Introduced by Councilmember Nancy Nadel

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF AB 828 (SWANSON), WHICH WOULD END THE LIFETIME BAN ON BENEFITS AND SERVICES PROVIDED THROUGH THE CALFRESH PROGRAM, FORMERLY KNOWN AS FOOD STAMPS, FOR PEOPLE WHO HAVE A PRIOR DRUG-RELATED FELONY CONVICTION

WHEREAS, existing law provides for the Food Stamp Program, under which food stamps allocated to the state by the federal government are distributed to eligible individuals by each county, and existing law provides that a person convicted of a drug-related felony, with certain exemptions, is eligible for aid under the Food Stamp Program, if specified requirements are met; and

WHEREAS, this bill would provide that a person convicted of a drug felony shall be eligible for aid under the Food Stamp Program, and would eliminate the above-referenced eligibility requirements; and

WHEREAS, the California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state, and statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement; and

WHEREAS, this bill would provide that, if the Commission on State Mandates determines that the bill contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement for those costs shall be made pursuant to these statutory provisions; and

WHEREAS, this bill would provide that, if the Commission on State Mandates determines that the bill contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement for those costs shall be made pursuant to these statutory provisions; and

WHEREAS, CalFresh is a federally funded program that helps low-income people buy the food they need for good health; and

WHEREAS, current state law permanently bars all parents who have a past drug-related felony conviction from participating, preventing parents from receiving the help they need to provide food for themselves and their families, putting our state's poorest children in harm's way; and

WHEREAS, the singling out of these individuals also burdens local communities that are working to implement "Realignment" (AB 109) and need to identify strategies that ensure successful reentry for an increasing number of people, many more of whom have children than ever before; and

WHEREAS, the City of Oakland strongly supports AB 828, because it will provide help for parents who have a past drug-related felony conviction to feed their families and possibly help lower the recidivism rate, which is currently 70 percent, largely due to the lack of resources ex-offenders can access when they return to their communities; now, therefore be it

**RESOLVED:** that the Oakland City Council hereby provides that it supports Assembly Bill 828 and authorizes the City Administrator to communicate to the California State Legislature the City Council's support of the Bill.

IN COUNCIL, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA,

MAR 2 0 2012

PASSED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES -

BROOKS, BRUNNER, DE LA FUENTE, KAPLAN, KERNIGHAN, NADEL, SCHAAF, AND PRESIDENT REID  $\sim \not \sim$ 

ATTES1

NOES - A

ABSENT - A-

ABSTENTION -

LATONDA SIMMONS

City Clerk and Clerk of the Council of the City of Oakland, California