

# RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

No. 147

Approved May 13, 2020

WHEREAS, In January 2017, the United States Department of Agriculture's Food and Nutrition Service Agency, launched phase one of their EBT Online Purchasing Program with select retailers and states; and

WHEREAS, The only states currently participating in the EBT Online Purchasing Program are New York, Nebraska, Oregon, Iowa, Alabama, and Washington; and

WHEREAS, As Rhode Island is not currently included in the EBT Online Purchasing Program, Rhode Islanders who rely on SNAP benefits to purchase food for themselves and their families are forced to physically travel to grocery stores, increasing their risk of exposure to Covid-19; and

WHEREAS, In addition to facing health risks, many face other barriers such as not having the means to travel to grocery stores and facing limited food options at the stores due to increased demands for goods; and

WHEREAS, Rhode Islanders who rely on SNAP benefits are being forced to leave the safety of their homes in order to feed their families which may also be a large contributing factor to the disproportionate level of Covid-19 cases we are seeing in Rhode Island's communities of color; and

WHEREAS, Due to the social distancing and stay-at-home orders implemented in response to Covid-19, it is imperative that the federal government allow more states to implement the EBT Online Purchasing Program so that individuals reliant on SNAP are able to access food without increasing their risks of exposure to Covid-19.

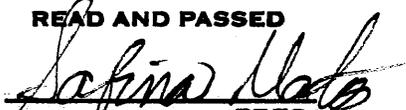
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Providence City Council urges our federal partners to work with our state agencies to implement the EBT Online Purchasing Program in Rhode Island so that families who rely on SNAP can use their EBT cards to make online purchases and use delivery at accepted SNAP locations throughout the Covid-19 pandemic and beyond.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That, upon passage, copies of this resolution be sent to the Honorable Governor of the State of Rhode Island and to each member of Rhode Island's congressional delegation.

**IN CITY COUNCIL**

**MAY 07 2020**

**READ AND PASSED**

  
**PRES.**

  
**CLERK**

**HEREBY APPROVE**

  
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Mayor  
Date: 5/13/20