



CITY OF CLEVELAND  
**Office of the Council**

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**Kevin J. Kelley**  
PRESIDENT OF CITY COUNCIL

Sept. 22, 2015

Dear Governor Kasich,

It is my understanding that your administration in recent years has failed to extend a federal food stamp program for many adults in areas throughout the state, including Cleveland. As you know, the federal Supplemental Nutrition Aid Program (SNAP) grants waivers on time limits for food stamp recipients living in counties or cities that are struggling economically.

In the past two years, the state government, which requests those waivers, did so for more than a dozen counties, all rural, but ignored cities and other counties that also met the criteria. More than 70 percent of the Ohioans who lost food aid during that time were people living in or near urban areas, according to the non-profit research group Policy Matters Ohio.

Currently, a city or county is eligible for a time-limit waiver if its unemployment rate during 2013 and 2014 was at least 20 percent above the national average of 6.8 percent. Cleveland, with an unemployment rate of 8.5 percent during that time, is eligible, as are other Ohio cities and counties. The next round of waivers begins next month, October 2015.

Governor Kasich, I urge your administration to request and accept waivers for Cleveland and other Ohio cities and counties that are eligible.

Ohio ranks third in the nation, tied with Mississippi, for people in "severe food insecurity." Extending deadlines for receiving food stamps will surely lessen that insecurity while removing Ohio from an embarrassing rank and giving some relief to those who are struggling.

This week, I introduced a resolution in Cleveland City Council urging your administration to request and accept federal waivers of food stamp cutoffs for as many Ohio counties and cities as possible. The resolution, co-sponsored by the entire City Council, was adopted unanimously.

As urban legislators, poverty and unemployment issues are in the forefront of our daily work. Therefore, any efforts to relieve the struggles of needy Cleveland residents we strongly support and applaud. My hope is your administration takes the humanitarian action of accepting the federal government's waiver. You would certainly deserve our applause for doing so.

Thank you,

Kevin J. Kelley, President, Cleveland City Council

Cc: Cleveland Mayor Frank Jackson

Toledo Mayor Paula Hicks-Hudson, 640 Jackson St., Toledo, Ohio, 43601

Dayton Mayor Nan Whaley, 101 W. 3<sup>rd</sup> St., Dayton, Ohio, 45402

Lorain Mayor Chase Ritenauer, 200 W. Erie Ave., Lorain, Ohio, 44052

Mansfield Mayor Tim Theaker, 30 North Diamond St., Mansfield Ohio, 44902

Lima Mayor David Berger, 50 Town Square, Lima, Ohio, 45801

Zanesville Mayor Jeff Tilton, 401 Market St., Zanesville, Ohio, 43701

Maple Heights Mayor Jeffrey Lansky, 5353 Lee Rd., Maple Heights, OH, 44137

Middletown Mayor Lawrence Mulligan, Jr., One Donham Plaza, Middletown, Ohio, 45042-1932

Trotwood Mayor Joyce Sutton Cameron, 3035 Olive Rd., Trotwood, Ohio, 45426

Youngstown Mayor John McNalley, 26 South Phelps St., Youngstown, Ohio, 44503

Warren Mayor William Franklin, 391 Mahoning Ave., N.W., Warren, Ohio, 44483