



Passed 9-0-0

Sponsor:
Justin Vasel

RESOLUTION 2026-01

TO APPLAUD THE CITY'S RESPONSE TO THE 2025 LAPSE IN FEDERAL FUNDING OF SNAP BENEFITS

WHEREAS, community resilience—the capacity to anticipate, withstand, and recover from disruptions—is a critical component of sustainability; and

WHEREAS, the federal government shutdown in late 2025 led to a lapse in appropriations for the USDA's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), threatening food access for more than 16,000 individuals within the Hoosier Hills Food Bank's six-county service area, including Monroe County; and

WHEREAS, on November 3, 2025, the City of Bloomington provided \$46,000 in emergency funding to Hoosier Hills Food Bank to help sustain food access for residents across south-central Indiana, enabling the food bank to purchase and distribute approximately 330,000 pounds of food—the equivalent of 275,000 meals—through its mobile pantries and 84 partner agencies; and

WHEREAS, materials included in the Bloomington Common Council's November 5, 2025 meeting packet shared critical resources for finding food and contributing to mutual aid efforts, and called upon residents, businesses, civic groups, and neighborhood associations to join in a "Bloomington Food Resilience Effort" by committing to regular food bank donations, organizing mutual aid networks, volunteering consistently, amplifying local needs through social, professional, and faith-based platforms, and staying informed and connected; and

WHEREAS, the meeting packet also included a letter to Mayor Thomson expressing support for additional emergency appropriations to meet rising community needs, including potential use of the Jack Hopkins Social Services Fund.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE BLOOMINGTON COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY, THAT:

SECTION 1. The Commission applauds Mayor Kerry Thomson and the Administration for acting swiftly to provide emergency funding to Hoosier Hills Food Bank in response to the federal government shutdown.

SECTION 2. The Commission applauds the Common Council for directing affected residents to critical food access resources and for encouraging those with means to support local food assistance organizations through donations, volunteering, and mutual aid.

SECTION 3. The Commission recognizes that local action in times of federal disruption exemplifies the community resilience essential to a sustainable Bloomington.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Bloomington Commission on Sustainability upon this 10th day of February, 2026.



JUSTIN VASEL, Chair

Bloomington Commission on Sustainability

The views expressed here are solely those of the Bloomington Commission on Sustainability, as approved in their public meetings, and do not necessarily reflect the views, policies, or positions of the City of Bloomington. Only the Office of the Mayor has the authority to issue policy statements on behalf of the Executive Branch of the City of Bloomington.