

# Proclamation

## Office of the Mayor

**WHEREAS** hunger and food insecurity are a reality for far too many of our neighbors; and

**WHEREAS** those who are food insecure are without reliable access to adequate amounts of affordable, nutritious food. Food insecurity can affect anyone, whether they are recently unemployed, underemployed, or supporting a large family; and

**WHEREAS** food insecurity is a symptom of broader challenges, such as unemployment, disability, retirement or unforeseen financial challenges; and

**WHEREAS**, those who do not have their basic needs met are further hampered in their path toward self-sufficiency; and

**WHEREAS** the ongoing health crisis has increased food insecurity amongst individuals and families throughout Bergen County and across the country; and

**WHEREAS** in 2020, it was estimated that the County of Bergen experienced a 71% increase in food insecurity, thus overwhelming many local food pantries in short supply; and

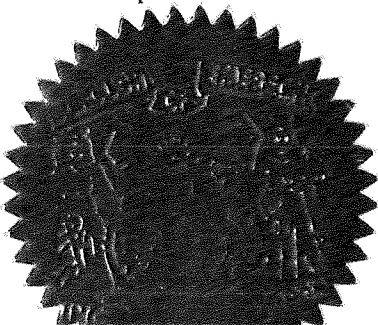
**WHEREAS** there are 54 residents in Emerson with active SNAP cases (formerly known as food stamps) and the schools who participate in the free and reduced lunch program average 1.2% of free lunch and 6.6% reduced lunch assistance; and

**WHEREAS** Emerson has a vibrant food pantry operated by Pastor Arturo Rivera of the Emerson Bible Church as well as many dedicated volunteers, where families are frequently provided with much needed food and supplies, illustrating that this is an issue impacting residents all across Bergen County and even in the Family Town; and

**WHEREAS** the economic coattails of the past year are long, and despite levels of “reopening”, tremendous need still exists within our communities; in fact, in the months of July and August, Emerson averaged 8 new unemployment claims per week; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that I, Mayor Danielle DiPaola, on behalf of the Emerson Governing Body, hereby recognizes the month of September 2022 as “Hunger Action Month” in the Borough of Emerson, and encourages all Emerson residents to support our local food pantry.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Emerson Governing Body is committed to ending hunger in Emerson, and will spread awareness and increase engagement in our community to solve this problem.



Mayor Danielle DiPaola  
September 6<sup>th</sup>, 2022