

# City of Holyoke

## Proclamation

**WHEREAS**, *hunger and poverty are issues of vital concern in western Massachusetts where 47% of people struggle with hunger and one in every four children do not know where their next meal will come from; and*

**WHEREAS**, *the City of Holyoke Massachusetts is committed to taking steps to combat hunger in every part of our community and to provide additional resources that those in Holyoke need; and*

**WHEREAS**, *the City of Holyoke is committed to working with The Food Bank of Western Massachusetts, a member of the Feeding America® nationwide network of food banks, in educating people about the role and importance of food banks in addressing hunger and raising awareness of the need to devote more resources and attention to hunger issues; and*

**WHEREAS**, *more than 127,900 individuals in western Massachusetts rely on food provided by the members of the Food Bank of Western Massachusetts annually; and*

**WHEREAS**, *the coronavirus pandemic has had devastating health and economic impacts across the country, and it is projected that thousands more people could face hunger in western Massachusetts in the wake of the pandemic this year; and*

**WHEREAS**, *the members of the Food Bank of Western Massachusetts distributed more than ten million meals 2019 through its network of food pantries, soup kitchens, shelters and other community organizations; and*

**WHEREAS**, *the month of September has been designated "Hunger Action Month" in order to bring attention to food insecurity in our communities and to engage the public in action – including volunteer shifts, social media shares, and donations – to end hunger one helping at a time; and*

**WHEREAS**, *food banks across the country, including the members of the Food Bank of Western Massachusetts – will host numerous events throughout the month of September to bring awareness and help end hunger in their local community.*

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that I, Joshua A. Garcia, Mayor of Holyoke, do hereby officially designate September 2022 as:

### **"Hunger Action Month"**

*On behalf of the City of Holyoke, I encourage my fellow citizens to join The Food Bank of Western Massachusetts in its efforts to assist our neighbors in need and raise awareness of the problem of and solutions to hunger.*

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and cause the Official Seal of the City of Holyoke to be affixed.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Joshua A. Garcia, Mayor

