

WHEREAS, improving the nutritional quality of food sold or provided by the City on public property will support people in making healthy eating choices; and,

WHEREAS, 30.7% of Georgia residents are obese. Obesity costs Georgia billions of dollars each year in health care costs and contributes to debilitating yet preventable diseases such as heart disease, cancer, stroke, and diabetes; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Savannah employs approximately 2600 people and covers 2200 people on the City health plan. Reducing the impact of diet-related diseases will support a more productive and healthy workforce that will pay dividends to the city and state economy and cultivate national competitiveness for residents and employees; and,

WHEREAS, maintaining a healthy workforce can positively impact indirect costs by reducing absenteeism and increasing worker productivity. Improving the types of foods and beverages served and sold in workplaces positively affects employees' eating behaviors; and,

WHEREAS the Honorable Otis Samuel Johnson served as the Mayor of Savannah from 2004 until 2012; and,

WHEREAS, Mayor Johnson dedicated his tenure and legacy as Mayor to his personal commitment to healthy living and founded Healthy Savannah on May 17th, 2007 as a way to improve the health of our community; and,

WHEREAS, Healthy Savannah grew into a social movement focused on building a culture of health in Savannah and making the healthy choice the easy choice; and,

WHEREAS, Healthy Savannah, the American Heart Association, the Coastal Health District and others encourage local governments to adopt policies that support providing options for public employees and visitors to public buildings to make healthy food and beverage selections which support healthy lifestyles; and, NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED this 8th day of June, 2017, that the Mayor and the City Council of the City of Savannah approve and endorse the implementation of the City of Savannah Healthy Foods in Public Places Policy.