

RESOLUTION NO. 120046

Supporting improved healthy food access in Kansas City, Missouri, and the Greater Kansas City Food Policy Coalition; and directing the City Manager to assign staff to work with this coalition to achieve our shared goals.

WHEREAS, the food system involves how food is grown, processed, distributed, consumed and disposed; and

WHEREAS, a healthy food system impacts individual health, as well as the environmental and economic development and the overall prosperity of a community; and

WHEREAS, food access – defined by the World Health Organization as the availability, knowledge and sufficient resources to secure adequate quantities of safe and nutritious food to maintain a healthy diet – is the foundation of an equitable food system; and

WHEREAS, nutrition is essential for individual growth, development, health and well-being, and significant nutritional deficiencies exist in our national and local populations because of poor food access and environmental influences that discourage healthy eating; and

WHEREAS, obesity is associated with Type 2 diabetes, heart disease, strokes, hypertension, osteoarthritis, certain type of cancers and other chronic diseases; and

WHEREAS, the State of Missouri was ranked in 2010 by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) as the 10th most obese state; and

WHEREAS, urban, low-income areas are often recognized as having higher rates of obesity than outlying areas; and

WHEREAS, USDA research shows approximately 83,000 residents of Jackson County, Missouri, live in food deserts – a number that may be much higher based on recent grocery store closures, access to transportation, and the walkability of a neighborhood; and

WHEREAS, in 2010, Feeding America found that 126,620 residents in Jackson County, 29,580 in Clay County, and 11,150 in Platte County were food insecure and at risk for hunger; and

WHEREAS, research conducted by the Greater Kansas City Food Policy Coalition in 2011 demonstrated that a significant number of people living at or near poverty in Kansas City, Missouri, report that they or someone in their home did not have access to healthy food within the last six months, and that they could not buy fresh fruits and vegetables because of price; and

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WHEREAS, local food policy coalitions catalyze positive changes in the food system through collaboration between public and private organizations by removing barriers, increasing access to healthy foods, educating the community, and improving the local economy; and

WHEREAS, the Greater Kansas City Food Policy Coalition is an alliance of individuals, government representatives, businesses and other organizations advocating to support a strong local food system that provides healthy, sustainable, and accessible food for everyone; and

WHEREAS, the City of Kansas City, Missouri, is committed to creating a food system that improves food access, reduces food insecurity, stimulates economic development, and increases the health of its citizens; and

WHEREAS, the City and the Greater Kansas City Food Policy Coalition have shared goals for strengthening the local food system; and

WHEREAS, the Kansas City, Missouri, food system impacts health inequities, economic inequities, food deserts and food imbalance, school systems, and agricultural and community land use; and

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Agriculture and the United States Department of Health and Human Services are partnering with local communities to improve access to healthy food through policy change and program implementation; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF KANSAS CITY:

Section 1. That the Council supports improving access to healthy food, including fresh produce, through policy, systems, and environmental changes.

Section 2. That the Council supports the elimination of health inequities resulting from limited food access by advocating for policies that improve food access.

Section 3. That the Council supports the Greater Kansas City Food Policy Coalition and recognizes it as a key partner in building a healthy, sustainable, accessible and economically beneficial food system.

Section 4. That the Council directs the City Manager to establish a strong interdepartmental focus among City departments on programs and policies affecting healthy food access.

Section 5. That the Council directs the City Manager to assign staff from these departments to work as needed with the Greater Kansas City Food Policy Coalition to conduct research, develop strategies, and promote policy changes in order to:

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- a) Encourage the elimination of food imbalance in Kansas City, Missouri, and improve access to healthy food, including fresh produce and quality proteins, in under-served communities, by identifying and establishing incentives, zoning efforts, and other policies to establish and support farmers markets and to increase the number of full service grocery stores, healthy corner stores and other healthy food retailers, such as mobile markets.
 - b) Identify and establish policies and practices to incorporate more fresh produce and quality proteins into schools, food pantries, and community kitchens to improve the nutritional quality of food offered to families and children and those with limited financial resources.
 - c) Establish policies to increase the availability of healthy, local foods in City-operated facilities that serve both staff and the public at large.
 - d) Identify and adopt land use policies and zoning regulations that encourage citizens to produce as much food as possible at home, in community gardens and urban farms, as well as educate and empower citizens to responsibly grow and distribute food to Kansas City, Missouri, residents, institutions, and businesses.
 - e) Support diversified production and distribution within all communities by creating new economic opportunities and initiatives that encourage investment in food and farm production, processing, and distribution.
 - f) Support educational programs that inspire and empower the community to make healthy food purchasing decisions and encourage community and stakeholder collaboration.
 - g) Evaluate transportation projects that offer safe and convenient pedestrian, bicycle, and transit connections between residential neighborhoods and community gardens, food pantries and community kitchens, and farmers markets, grocery stores, and other healthy food retail sites.
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