



Utility Services/ Land Use/Energy Development Committee

City of Arts & Innovation

TO: UTILITY SERVICES/LAND USE/ENERGY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE **DATE: FEBRUARY 11, 2016**

FROM: COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT **WARDS: ALL**

SUBJECT: PROVIDE FEEDBACK ON THE DRAFT LOCAL FOOD PROCUREMENT PLAN TO CITY COUNCIL

ISSUE

The issues for the Utility Services/Land Use/Energy Development Committee is to provide feedback on the draft Local Food Procurement Plan.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Utility Services/Land Use/Energy Development Committee recommend that the City Council adopt the draft Local Food Procurement Plan.

BACKGROUND

On May 19, 2015, City Council adopted a resolution approving the Food Policy Action Plan (FPAP) (Attachment 1). The Action Plan set into place both the policy that would guide the encouragement of local food as well as the organization that would work to carry out that policy, the Riverside Food Systems Alliance (RFSA). RFSA is a local, community based non-profit providing leadership in realizing the FPAP. An FPAP priority is to "Encourage local healthy food procurement," and outlines several actions including "Encourage public venues to meet nutrition standards for food provided. Network with vendors to source healthier and local food and agricultural products."

On November 10, 2015, City Council unanimously adopted a Citywide Healthier Food Vending Guidelines (Attachment 2). The policy called for 75% healthier options citywide in vending machines and will begin implementation by the end of February 2016.

At the November 10, 2015 meeting, City Council requested staff develop a related policy to address local food procurement.

Numerous studies show that foods produced locally and consumed locally generate increased local economic activity including, but not limited to: (1) Farmers generating income directly from farm sales to consumers and increased indirect income through local distribution channels; (2) Increases to local economic activities via the multiplier effect, meaning money invested in the local food economy is more often re-spent locally; and (3) Local employment opportunities increase because of enhanced demand for locally sourced food.

The Draft Local Food Procurement Plan (Attachment 3) used research related to the University of California (UCR) existing 20% local food procurement practices and was modeled from a similar policy used in the State of Washington (Attachment 4) by Puget Sound. The purpose is to encourage the purchase of locally grown food to support local agriculture, provide healthier options at City meetings and events, increase “buy local” effects, and be a positive role model.

Included in the Draft Local Food Procurement Plan are recommendations for a phased approach to meeting the objectives of the program:

Phase 1 - Evaluation: Baseline Determination and Interest Group outreach.

Phase 2 - Implementation: Commitment to achieving 20% of food purchased locally within 5 years from City Council Action.

Phase 3 - Citywide Influence: Commitment of large agencies like the City and UCR provides support for Riverside Food System Alliance's effort to encourage implementation of a local food purchasing policy with other large agencies and throughout the City limits.

The benefits of supporting local food has beneficial economic impacts and also plays a positive role in the betterment of our City's overall health. Not only will the City set an example to the public by promoting the consumption of more fruits and vegetables and offering healthy options at meetings and events; but it will also stimulate the demand for locally grown and produced food. This demand results in economic development. During Phase 3, UCR and the City's 20% commitment of local food purchase will have a multiplier effect by influencing agencies and community groups to purchase foods locally.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact associated with this project.

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Attachments:

1. Food Policy Action Plan
2. Citywide Healthier Food Vending Guidelines
3. Local Food Procurement Policy
4. Food Policy Blueprint: Local Food Procurement Policies – Washington State