



## **Request for City Council Committee Action From the City Coordinators Office**

**Date:** February 10, 2014

**To:** Honorable Cam Gordon, Chair, Health, Environment and Community Engagement Committee

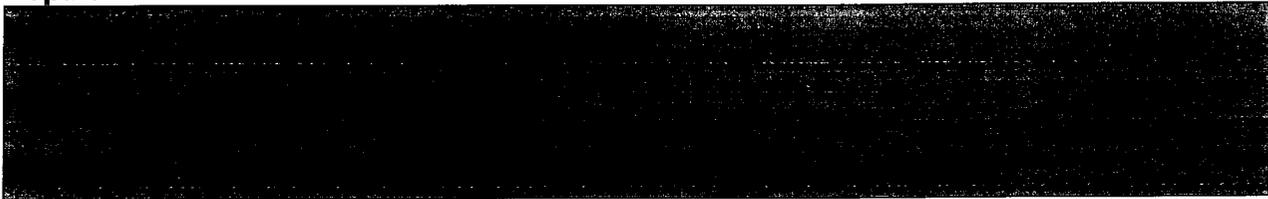
**Subject:** 2013 Homegrown Minneapolis Food Council Second Annual Report

**Recommendation:** Receive and File

**Previous Directives:**

September 2, 2011 Resolution 2011R-445 creating the Homegrown Minneapolis Food Council and directing an annual report.

**Department Information**



**Financial Impact:** No financial impact.

**Background:**

The Homegrown Minneapolis Food Council was established by 2011R-445 as a permanent body for the City of Minneapolis to serve as a nexus of citywide food related efforts. The purpose of the Food Council is to:

- Advise the Mayor, City Council, and Park Board on food system related opportunities and challenges;
- Develop innovative policies and strategies to improve the growing, processing, promotion, distribution, consumption and composting of healthy, sustainable, locally grown foods in Minneapolis;
- Provide technical expertise and recommendations in the ongoing development of the City's Local Food sustainability targets;
- Advance the food system in directions that are health promoting, environmentally sustainable, local, resilient, inclusive, equitable, fair and transparent;
- Assist in development, implementation, and evaluation of Homegrown Minneapolis recommendations; and, where necessary, convene additional expertise to innovate around challenges;

- Support, participate and provide leadership in development of regional food system work;
- Assist with opportunities to celebrate food and its role in strengthening the connections of Minneapolis' many communities and cultures.

2013 was the second year of the two year term for the Food Council. It is made up of 21 members and structured to include participation of 15 community members, 6 City staff and elected representatives - a co-ownership model proven to be effective for moving food system work forward in Minneapolis. City representation includes a representative from: Health; Community Planning and Economic Development; Environmental Services, Sustainability; Mayor's Office; and, a City Council Member or Council staff.

Resolution 2011R-445 directed the Homegrown Minneapolis Food Council to annually report on worked completed and the upcoming year's work plan.

### **Introduction:**

The Minneapolis Food Council works very closely with the Homegrown Minneapolis Coordinator and the Minneapolis Health Department on various activities. Outreach to the community is conducted through attending community meetings and events, responding to stated needs by members of the community and through the Homegrown monthly newsletter which is sent to over 1200 people. The Homegrown Coordinator works closely with the community in general and various city offices to assist entrepreneurs interested in starting a local food business and also active on several local advisory committees such as the Urban Agriculture Technical Advisory Committee for the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board.

Gardening Matters, a local non-profit assisting community gardens estimated that there are 212 community gardens. In 2013, the City licensed 27 farmers markets and mini-markets. With funding from the Minneapolis Health Department, local food resource hubs served approximately 700 gardeners by providing plants and technical assistance. The Minneapolis Food Council and Homegrown Minneapolis represent an engaged and enthusiastic local food community. The Homegrown Business Development Center provided technical assistance and two food-related loans. Homegrown Minneapolis also assisted the West Broadway Coalition in securing a grant for outreach to the Hmong community in North Minneapolis to increase EBT use at farmers' markets.

### **2013 Highlights:**

- The Food Council organized a land access and urban agriculture committee to focus on increasing access to growing opportunities in the city.
- The Food Council submitted letters or passed resolutions in support of: (1) approving mobile grocery stores; (2) allowing community ovens as an accessory structure; and (3) the final urban agriculture plan for the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board. (4) raising the healthy food requirements for corner stores.
- The Food Council's meetings were held in various neighborhoods in the city hosted by non-profit organizations and one local food business. These meetings in the community provided an opportunity for dialogue with the host organization and an opportunity to discuss future needs and collaboration between the Food Council and organization.
- The Food Council participated in a number of community events including the Minneapolis Public School Nutrition Center BBQ, Food Day at the University of Minnesota, The Walker Art Center Edible Estates exhibit and meetings of organizations and community groups.
- Assisted in the planning of an urban agriculture tour in Minneapolis sponsored by Hennepin County Extension with 80 people in attendance.

- Hosted a Food Council open house which included 13 community partners and was attended by 300 members of the community.
- Engaged 15 community volunteers to conduct a healthy food survey of approximately 100 corner stores to provide data for potential changes to the City's Staple Food Ordinance.
- Organized three Food Council recruitment meetings in low fresh food access areas and two recruitment meetings for youth gardening organizations which resulted in six out of eight 2014-2015 new Food Council members from communities of color.

**2014 Possible Activities:**

- Pass a staple food ordinance which would increase the amount of fresh fruits and vegetables sold in neighborhood corner stores.
- Pass a mobile healthy food store ordinance which allows mobile grocery stores to operate in the city.
- Advocate for Minnesota Department of Health to allow non-pressurized hand sinks at farmers markets.
- Advocate for revised Minnesota Pollution Control Agency rules on compost sites.
- Address various land access and equity issues in the community which includes how city-owned land is allocated for community gardens and urban agriculture.
- Continue to partner with the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board on the implementation of their urban agriculture plan.
- Advocate for local and state policies that enhance pollinator habitat and protect pollinators.

Cc: Homegrown Minneapolis Food Council members