

**Resolution
of the
City Council
of the
City of Minneapolis**

Recognizing the Importance of Healthy, Sustainably Produced and Locally Grown Foods and Creating the Homegrown Minneapolis Implementation Task Force

By Gordon, Glidden, Hodges, Hofstede, Remington, Schiff

Whereas, cities across the US are increasingly focusing on providing healthy, sustainably and locally grown food supplies for their residents by developing local food policies that encourage community gardens and other forms of urban agriculture within city limits, as well as better relationships with small farmers in their region; and

Whereas, populations whose diets are high in fruits and vegetables experience better health, with lower rates of obesity and related chronic conditions; and

Whereas, access to affordable, healthy foods currently varies depending on race, class and geography; and

Whereas, the ability to grow, sell, and easily obtain a consistent, adequate supply of fresh, local foods can increase food security and empower families and communities to be more healthy and self-sufficient; and

Whereas, successful models for intensive, sustainable food production in urban spaces exist in other large cities in cold-weather climates; and

Whereas, the growing local food movement has increased demand among Minneapolis residents for healthy, sustainably produced, locally grown foods and strengthened interest in developing partnerships between urban consumers and regional growers; and

Whereas, a local food system can support regional small farms and local jobs, create business opportunities and encourage the re-circulation of capital within a region; and

Whereas, buying local food helps fight climate change and improves air quality by reducing the transport, packaging and fossil fuel-derived inputs required to bring food from farm to table; and

Whereas, the City of Minneapolis has already taken important steps to support local foods, including:

- identifying community gardens as a valuable part of the urban landscape in the Minneapolis Plan for Sustainable Growth
- making compost and water available to community gardens
- planning vegetable gardens at 16 fire stations
- funding farm stands through Steps to a Healthier Minneapolis
- easing the licensing burden on new farm stands
- piloting a youth garden in collaboration with Emerge
- making climate change grants available to community groups working on local foods, for example the Kingfield Neighborhood community garden effort, the rooftop garden at the Hennepin County Medical Center, inclusion of local foods in

Do It Green! activities, and the Gardening Matters landowner/gardener matchmaking website; and

Whereas, the Homegrown Minneapolis Initiative, begun in December, 2008, has engaged over one hundred stakeholders from multiple perspectives – farmers, community gardeners, farmers market managers, restaurateurs, food and farming nonprofits, academics, regulators and enthusiastic local-food consumers – in developing a set of specific recommendations for improving the production, distribution and consumption of fresh, local foods in Minneapolis,

Now, Therefore, Be it Resolved by the City Council of the City of Minneapolis that the City of Minneapolis finds that increasing the amount of healthy, sustainably produced, locally grown food being produced, distributed and consumed in Minneapolis is an important City goal.

Be it Further Resolved that the City of Minneapolis creates a Homegrown Minneapolis Implementation Task Force to implement the recommendations of the Homegrown Minneapolis report, as presented to the Health, Energy and Environment Committee on June 15, 2009. The Task Force is authorized to meet until July of 2011, is to be staffed by the Department of Health and Family Support, and will be made up of no more than 16 members, to include the following:

- A representative of the City Council, acting as Co-Chair
- A representative appointed by the Mayor, acting as Co-Chair
- Representatives of the Minneapolis Departments of:
 - o Health and Family Support
 - o Regulatory Services
 - o Community Planning and Economic Development
 - o Public Works
 - o City Coordinator - Sustainability
- The community co-chairs of the Homegrown Minneapolis subcommittees on:
 - o Community and Backyard Gardens
 - o Small Enterprise Urban Agriculture
 - o Commercial Use of Local Foods
- A representative to be selected by the Minneapolis farmers markets managers
- A representative appointed by the Mayor
- Two at-large representatives to be chosen by the Task Force

The Minneapolis Attorney's Office and Departments of Communications, Intergovernmental Relations, and Neighborhood and Community Relations will assist the Task Force as needed.

The Tri-Chairs of the Homegrown Minneapolis Initiative will continue to serve as strategic community leadership for this work, especially on the formation of a City advisory committee on food policy.

Be it Further Resolved that the Homegrown Minneapolis Implementation Task Force is directed to return to the Health Energy and Environment Committee no later than the first quarter of 2010 with proposals for implementing recommendations from the Homegrown Minneapolis report, including but not limited to the:

- Formation of a City advisory committee on food policy
- Draft policy of a community garden program that allows organizations to lease non-developable city-owned property for community gardens
- Suggestions relating to the City's State legislative agenda
- Development of a Sustainability Indicator for sustainably and locally-grown foods
- Creation of a citywide topical plan on community gardens and urban agriculture

- Inventory of community kitchens and processing and distribution of sustainably and locally-grown food
- Improved coordination of farmers markets
- Equity of access and food security, including the use of EBT at farmers markets.