

MOTION

Early in the pandemic, food security became an immediate issue of concern for communities across Los Angeles. Low-income communities of color have been the most affected by poor food access and diet-related health issues— many of whom have also experienced disparate COVID-19 related outcomes. The Good Food Zone policy, adopted on March 3, 2020 (CF 18-1007), is intended to expand access to healthy food in “food desert” neighborhoods with limited access, and offer economic opportunity and jobs for low-income residents. This policy would create strategies for including food-centered community economic development initiatives in the existing and emerging economic development incentive programs.


In 2010, the Healthy Food Financing Initiative was established to bring grocery stores and other healthy food retailers to underserved urban and rural communities across America. Residents living in food deserts often rely on fast-food restaurants and convenience stores that offer little or no fresh food. Programs in the U.S. Departments of Agriculture (USDA), Treasury, and Health and Human Services (HHS) expand access to nutritious food in these communities through efforts such as developing and supporting grocery stores, small retailers, corner stores, and farmers markets selling healthy food.


The City should look to incorporate a related healthy food financing strategy that can be assessed and implemented parallel to the Good Food Zone policy and investigate funding that is available and eligible for the City of Los Angeles to pursue a healthy food financing strategy.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Chief Legislative Analyst, with the assistance of the City Administrative Officer, be directed to report on county, state, and federal funding available for healthy food financing for the City of Los Angeles.

I FURTHER MOVE that the Economic and Workforce Development Department report back on administrative and oversight procedures should future programs for healthy food financing be funded.

PRESENTED BY:


MONICA RODRIGUEZ
Councilwoman, 7th District


KEVIN DE LEÓN
Councilmember, 14th District

SECONDED BY:



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