

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Ana-Alicia Carr  
**Date Submitted:** 11/09/2021 11:55 AM  
**Council File No:** 18-1007-S2

**Comments for Public Posting:** Good afternoon Committee members, my name is Ana-Alicia Carr, Community Advocacy Director with the American Heart Association. We stand with United Parents and Students in urging the City of Los Angeles to allocate funding to increasing nutrition security by improving equitable access to high-quality grocery stores in communities of color. Inequitable access to nutritious foods is a chronic and persistent issue burdening Angelinos and has only been exacerbated by the pandemic. We at the American Heart Association believe that every person deserves the opportunity for a full, healthy life and removing barriers to health, like nutrition insecurity, is essential to achieving equitable health for all. The science is clear that nutrition security, the stable access to healthy foods like fruits and vegetables, is critical to the prevention and management of chronic conditions like heart disease and to improving health outcomes overall. Stark differences in access to healthy food are seen throughout the county impacting under-resourced, communities of color. Adding high-quality grocery stores is one of the most impactful way to infuse affordable, healthy food into communities. We urge you to identify funding resources to increase access to healthy and affordable food for all. Thank you.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Veronica Toledo

**Date Submitted:** 11/09/2021 01:49 PM

**Council File No:** 18-1007-S2

**Comments for Public Posting:** My name is Veronica Toledo and I serve as the Associate Director of United Parents and Students, a nonprofit organization committed to empowering families and communities to become powerful self-advocates for quality schools and communities. We serve 10,000 families in Los Angeles, primarily in South and East LA who have been encouraging the city and county to engage in healthy food financing for the last two years. Low-income communities of color are two to three times more likely than affluent or white neighborhoods to lack access to nearby grocery stores with affordable and nutritious food. The current scarcity of supermarkets enables many stores to sell rotting and expired food in unsanitary conditions without competition or consequence; it also exacerbates food insecurity by driving up the price of fresh food sold by local markets, rendering their products unaffordable to residents; and presents the barrier of burdensome travel costs if families attempt to find food outside their neighborhoods which also leads to retail leakage. Limited access to healthy, affordable food in low-income neighborhoods contributes to major disparities in health outcomes and life expectancy. A new grocery store can bring tremendous benefits, including up to 250 new jobs. Now is the time for healthy food financing.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Vickey Vaughn

**Date Submitted:** 11/09/2021 01:58 PM

**Council File No:** 18-1007-S2

**Comments for Public Posting:** My name is Vickey Vaughn and I am a United Parents and Students leader. We have been working to push for healthy food financing in the city and county for the last two years. I live in South LA and am glad to represent my community but I'm not happy with the supermarkets and quality of food that is available in my community. There are very few good quality stores and my shopping experience is one I do not look forward to. Although I would love to shop in my community, there are not fresh foods and healthy options and the high prices do not reflect the poor quality of products. It is important for me to be able to spend my money on products that are fresh, clean and healthy and conveniently located. We should not have to leave our community and shop in more affluent communities just to get healthy, affordable food. I urge you to pass this motion.