

Resolution No. 1563-08

AN EMERGENCY RESOLUTION

Urging the Jackson Administration to adopt the 2008 Food Charter and to work with Cuyahoga County in order to promote regional economic development and food security for our neighborhoods, and to champion a local food system that secures the right of all residents to adequate amounts of safe, nutritious, culturally acceptable foods.

Council Member Cimperman

WHEREAS, according to a 2008 study by the Ohio State University Extension, the residents of Northeast Ohio spend an estimated \$9.2 billion annually on food; and

WHEREAS, current market demand for fruits and vegetables consumed in the household alone is estimated to be valued at \$563 million, while current regional demand for meat consumed in the household is valued at just over \$1 billion; and

WHEREAS, very few of these dollars support local farmers or local food businesses; and

WHEREAS, food access is a growing problem for many urban neighborhoods in Cleveland and Cuyahoga County; and

WHEREAS, according to a Cuyahoga County Planning Commission assessment in 2008, fast food is 4.5 times more accessible than larger-scale supermarkets in Cleveland and 3 times more accessible throughout the county; and

WHEREAS, because 14% of county households and 25 % of City households do not own a vehicle and 34 out of 36 Cleveland neighborhoods have 25% or more households receiving food stamps or other food assistance, it is essential that the City and the County work together to ensure that all residents have access to an adequate supply of nutritious, affordable, locally-grown and culturally appropriate foods; and

WHEREAS, locally produced healthy foods have the benefits of reducing climate impacts of distance-shipped or highly processed foods, increasing urban greenspace and community gathering spaces, fostering stronger connections between urban and rural communities and strengthening the local and regional economy; and

WHEREAS, this resolution constitutes an emergency measure for the immediate preservation of public peace, property, health, or safety, now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CLEVELAND:

Section 1. That this Council urges the Jackson Administration to adopt the 2008 Food Charter and to work with Cuyahoga County in order to promote regional economic development and food security for our neighborhoods, and to champion a local food system that secures the right of all residents to adequate amounts of safe, nutritious, culturally acceptable foods.

Section 2. That the Clerk of Council is hereby directed to transmit copies of this resolution to the Cuyahoga Board of County Commissioners.

Section 3. That this resolution is hereby declared to be an emergency measure and, provided it receives the affirmative vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to Council, it shall take effect and be in force immediately upon its adoption and approval by the Mayor; otherwise, it shall take effect and be in force from and after the earliest period allowed by law.

JC:rns
10/6/08

Director of Law;
Committees on Health and Human Services and
Finance.