

## Resolution No. 1564-08

Council Member Cimperman

### AN EMERGENCY RESOLUTION

Establishing a food purchasing and contracting policy for the City of Cleveland that promotes regional economic growth, regional collaboration, environmental sustainability, and food security through the support of regional food growers and producers.

WHEREAS, the food system is a major component of the regional economy with residents spending an estimated \$9 billion dollars a year annually on food; and

WHEREAS, the "regional economy" includes a nine county region including Cuyahoga, Ashtabula, Geauga, Lake, Portage, Summit, Wayne, Medina, and Lorain; and

WHEREAS, Ohio Governor Strickland's Executive Order 2007-275 to create a Ohio Food Policy Advisory Council states that "increasing the percentage of food grown, processed, and consumed in Ohio will provide significant financial benefits to the entire State;" and

WHEREAS, the "locally grown" can be defined as food grown within 150 miles the City of Cleveland; and

WHEREAS, the Greater Cleveland region has a strong agricultural heritage and food growing capacity; and

WHEREAS, the City of Cleveland has an emerging urban agriculture small business sector; and

WHEREAS, urban agriculture is a small business development opportunity and strong component of urban neighborhood revitalization; and

WHEREAS, Cleveland Mayor Frank Jackson's Urban Agenda states a need to "support sustainable revitalization of urban neighborhoods and business districts;" and

WHEREAS, the City of Cleveland recently established the "Gardening for Greenbacks" program that assists small urban farm development through a forgivable grant program; and

WHEREAS, the City of Cleveland adopted the Fanny Lewis Resident Employment Law that established the City's commitment to enter contracts that support the employment of local residents; and

WHEREAS, purchasing locally grown foods supports regional businesses; and

WHEREAS, a strong regional economy benefits the residents of Cleveland; and

WHEREAS, Cleveland Mayor Frank Jackson's letter of support for the UN Global Compact states that "we challenged our local businesses to buy local to help support the local economy, protect the environment, and support local jobs;" and

WHEREAS, the City of Cleveland is a active member of the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives-Local Governments for Sustainability to promote citywide sustainable development practices; and

WHEREAS, purchasing locally grown food will reduce the City's carbon footprint by reducing the distance that food travels from farm to plate; and

WHEREAS, building a stronger local food supply is essential for regional self reliance and emergency preparedness; and

WHEREAS, the City of Cleveland ought to act as a model for local purchasing policies that support regional business development and economic growth; and

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WHEREAS, the City of Cleveland will work with the Cleveland - Cuyahoga County Food Policy Coalition to establish a local food purchasing policy that supports local growers and producers; and

WHEREAS, current food contracts will be reviewed by the City and its vendors to acknowledge any current local buying patterns and to explore voluntary local procurement options moving forward until contract terms are up for review; and

WHEREAS, future contracts that include the purchase of food signed by the City of Cleveland will mandate a local food purchasing component consistent with goals set by the City of Cleveland and the Cleveland-Cuyahoga Food Policy Coalition; 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 hereby establishes a food purchasing and contracting policy for the City of Cleveland that promotes regional economic growth, regional collaboration, environmental sustainability, and food security through the support of regional food growers and producers.

**Section 2.** That the Clerk is hereby directed to send certified copies of this resolution to representatives of the Cleveland-Cuyahoga County Food Policy Coalition.

**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  
10/13/08

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