



Mayor Dwight C. Jones

Food Policy Task Force for The City of Richmond, Virginia

WHEREAS, one in three children in the City of Richmond live below the federal poverty level;

WHEREAS, one in four citizens of the City of Richmond currently participate in the federal nutritional assistance program;

WHEREAS, there are a number of “food deserts” in the City of Richmond, particularly in lower income neighborhoods of color;

WHEREAS, access to affordable, fresh, nutritious food, including fresh fruits and vegetables, especially for children, is a serious problem facing many families and is a leading cause of the increase in childhood obesity; and

WHEREAS, there are significant health, economic, and environmental benefits to the city and its residents from establishing a local food system plan and expanding the availability of locally and organically grown foods.

THEREFORE, the Food Policy Task Force is hereby established to give the Administration advice on food policy and land use planning issues in the City of Richmond to include urban agriculture, development of markets for locally-grown food, food education, child nutrition, and the development of inner-city supermarkets;

The Food Policy Council is hereby charged with:

Conducting and/or reviewing existing assessment data from the Virginia Food Policy System Explorer, a project of Virginia Cooperative Extension, on the availability of quality, fresh and affordable food, particularly in lower income neighborhoods;

Producing and disseminating a City of Richmond Food System Report that assesses the state of the city’s food system, including activities in production, distribution, consumption, marketing, nutrition and food assistance program participation and innovative food system programs;

Drafting a Richmond City Food System Plan to include recommendations for the promotion of innovations in land use, economic development, and health policy to include: a) removing barriers that limit access to quality, healthy and fresh foods; b) increasing the use of farm to school and farm to consumer programs; c) expanding the development of local food-based businesses including farmers markets; d) expanding urban agricultural production of locally-grown and organically-grown foods to include school and community gardens; e) enhancing food security of city residents.

AND

Further, the Food Policy Council shall develop a strategy for implementation of Richmond food policies including measures and benchmarks for determining progress towards achievement of the objectives; and make recommendations consistent with making Richmond a Tier One City.