

Offered by Councilor Michelle Wu



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

ORDINANCE REGARDING GOOD FOOD PURCHASING STANDARDS IN THE CITY OF BOSTON

WHEREAS: Individual and collective choices regarding food purchasing and consumption affect the health, sustainability, working conditions and economic opportunity in our communities; *and*

WHEREAS: The City of Boston is focused on creating and building wealth in our neighborhoods, supporting small business owners and employees to address income inequality in our city; *and*

WHEREAS: The Good Food Purchasing Program was developed in 2012 as a national standard for local procurement to incentivize public institutions to procure Good Food produced through values-driven purchasing standards; *and*

WHEREAS: Connecting Boston food procurement to Massachusetts food producers through Good Food Purchasing Program standards by giving broad discretion to city institutions to purchase Massachusetts-produced food directly from farmers and other producers would support local farms and small businesses; create more jobs in food processing, manufacturing, and distribution; promote self-reliance and preservation of family farms; promote safe working conditions and fair compensation for all farm and food workers; *and*

WHEREAS: Massachusetts law (MGL c.7, §23B(a),(c)) requires all state agencies purchasing agricultural products (defined to include processed foods and seafood) to prefer those grown in the state or end products made using products grown in the state. When given the choice between Massachusetts-produced products and those from out of state, state agencies are required to buy the local products if they are not more than 10% more expensive than the out-of-state choices; *NOW*

THEREFORE BE IT ORDERED: That the City of Boston Code, Ordinances is hereby amended in Chapter IV by adding the following section after CBC 4-8:

4-9 REQUIRING CITY DEPARTMENTS AND VENDORS TO USE GOOD FOOD PURCHASING STANDARDS

4-9.1 Purpose. In order to leverage City of Boston purchasing and procurement to improve public health, sustainability, fair working conditions, and local opportunity across the City and Commonwealth of Massachusetts, the City of Boston embraces the Good Food Purchasing Program as a strategy to help improve our region's food system through the adoption and implementation of Good Food Purchasing Standards, which emphasize values that would:

1. Support small and mid-sized agricultural and food processing operations within the local area or region;
2. Support producers that employ sustainable production systems that reduce or eliminate synthetic pesticides and fertilizers; avoid the use of hormones, antibiotics, and genetic engineering; conserve soil and water; protect and enhance wildlife habitat and biodiversity; and reduce on-farm energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions;
3. Provide safe and healthy working conditions and fair compensation for all food chain workers and producers from production to consumption;
4. Provide healthy and humane care for farm animals; and
5. Promote health and well-being by offering generous portions of vegetables, fruit, and whole grains; reducing salt, added sugars, fats, and oils; and by eliminating artificial additives; *and*

4-9.2 *Requirements for Agencies.* City Departments and Agencies requiring procurement or service contracting of foods shall adopt Good Food Purchasing Standards as a framework for guiding values-driven purchasing. City Departments and Agencies undergoing purchasing or procurement of food or food services shall take the following steps in support of Good Food Purchasing:

1. Within 12 months of the passage of this ordinance, communicate Good Food Purchasing Standards to appropriate and selected suppliers, including distributors and foodservice companies, and request them to share data that will help the City complete a baseline Good Food Purchasing assessment of food procurement practices
2. Within 6 months after the baseline assessment has been completed, develop and adopt a multi-year action plan with benchmarks to measure success towards Good Food Purchasing Standards, including accountability systems with appropriate vendors or distributors to verify sourcing commitments and assess current food procurement practices;
3. To the extent permitted by law, within one year after the baseline assessment has been completed, incorporate Good Food Purchasing Standards into new procurement requests and contracts for City Departments and Agencies that have previously participated in the baselining process;
4. Commit to full and robust analysis and implementation of the Good Food Purchasing Standards.

4-9.3 *Reporting.* Participating City Departments and Agencies shall provide progress reports, including compliance data, to the City Council, acting through its Committee on Government Operations, upon the request of that Committee.

BE IT FURTHER ORDERED: That these provisions shall take effect immediately upon passage.