



**OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY OF CHICAGO**

BRANDON JOHNSON
MAYOR

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 2026-8

**EXECUTIVE ORDER ESTABLISHING THE CHICAGO MARKET CITY
IMPLEMENTATION STEERING COMMITTEE**

WHEREAS, every Chicago resident should have access to affordable, fresh, healthy, and culturally relevant food, and neighborhood food businesses should have the opportunity to grow and build community wealth; and

WHEREAS, farmers markets, indoor public markets, neighborhood retailers, urban farms, cooperatives, mobile markets, and food hubs are essential community assets that support food access, local entrepreneurship, and neighborhood vitality; and

WHEREAS, the Chicago Market City Action Plan, provided in the report titled Making Chicago a Market City Report (the "Report"), presents a community-informed framework for coordinating these assets across all 77 community areas, with priority attention to historically underserved communities on the South and West Sides; and

WHEREAS, the Report recommends establishing administrative infrastructure for sustained implementation, supporting food entrepreneurs across the market spectrum, strengthening existing farmers markets, and developing a connected network of year-round markets; and

WHEREAS, implementation requires coordinated action by City departments, sustained investment, and meaningful participation by the Chicago Food Equity Council, residents, growers, market operators, vendors, and other community partners; now, therefore,

I, BRANDON JOHNSON, Mayor of the City of Chicago, order as follows:

Section 1. Establishment and Purpose

There is hereby established the Chicago Market City Implementation Steering Committee (the "Steering Committee") to coordinate and oversee implementation of the recommendations of the Report. The Steering Committee shall serve as the cross-departmental steering committee contemplated by the Report and shall translate its recommendations into departmental work plans, implement actions within existing authority, and prepare proposed legislation, funding requests, and partnership agreements needed for further implementation.

Implementation shall expand equitable food access; support local and independent food businesses, growers, and emerging entrepreneurs; preserve and strengthen existing market assets; and build a connected network of seasonal and year-round markets. The Steering Committee shall prioritize communities experiencing the greatest food access barriers and disinvestment, particularly on the South and West Sides, while advancing a citywide strategy.

Section 2. Membership and Leadership

- (a) The Steering Committee shall be chaired by a senior official designated by the Mayor. The Mayor's Office Business and Neighborhood Development Team shall coordinate its work and provide administrative support.
- (b) City membership shall include the heads, or senior designees, of the Departments of Business Affairs and Consumer Protection (BACP), Cultural Affairs and Special Events (DCASE), Public Health (CDPH), and Planning and Development (DPD). The Mayor may designate additional City officials as needed to fulfill the purpose of this Order.
- (c) The Mayor shall appoint at least eight community members to serve in the Steering Committee, informed by recommendations of the Chicago Food Equity Council, established by Executive Order No. 2022-1. Membership shall include representatives of the Council and its food business and urban agriculture work groups, seasonal and indoor market operators, food vendors or independent retailers, urban growers, community-based food access organizations, and residents of priority neighborhoods. Community appointments shall reflect the geographic and cultural diversity of Chicago and include meaningful representation from the South and West Sides.
- (d) The Chair shall invite voluntary participation in the Steering Committee from the Chicago Park District, Chicago Public Schools, City Colleges of Chicago, Choose Chicago, and other relevant public bodies, as well as philanthropic, institutional, technical assistance, and financing partners.
- (e) Community members shall participate in setting priorities, developing proposals, and evaluating implementation. Final administrative, spending, procurement, and regulatory decisions shall remain with the officials or bodies authorized by law.

Section 3. Departmental Coordination and Community Participation

Within 15 days after the effective date of this Order, each participating City department shall designate an implementation lead. The Steering Committee shall hold its first meeting within 60 days after the effective date of this Order and meet at least monthly during its first year and at least quarterly thereafter. It may establish working groups aligned with the four areas of work described in Section 4.

The Steering Committee shall work through the Chicago Food Equity Council to establish a Chicago market network bringing together market operators, vendors, producers, independent retailers, community organizations, and institutional partners. The Network shall support peer learning, coordinated programming, referrals, resource sharing, and continuing feedback on City policies and investments.

The Steering Committee shall convene accessible community engagement opportunities, including engagement in priority South and West Side communities, and provide appropriate language access and disability accommodations. It shall document how community input informs priorities, site evaluation, governance proposals, and funding strategies.

Section 4. Required Implementation Responsibilities

(a) Administrative infrastructure and aligned investment. The Steering Committee shall integrate Market City priorities into relevant City planning, economic development, public health, and workforce programs; inventory existing investments, funding sources, and public assets; identify gaps in capital and operating support; and coordinate public, philanthropic, and private resources. BACP and DPD shall advance implementation of existing authorized grant programs and identify opportunities to connect eligible markets and food businesses to capital grants, financing, incentives, and workforce assistance.

(b) Food entrepreneurs and growers. BACP, CDPH, and DCASE shall coordinate with the Cut the Tape for Small Business initiative to simplify licensing, permitting, inspections, and guidance for market operators and vendors. The Steering Committee shall develop a clear point of entry for assistance; identify regulatory gaps affecting non-motorized food carts, shared kitchens, aggregation hubs, and other emerging business models; and prepare necessary administrative changes or proposed legislation. DPD, Water Management, and other relevant departments shall work with growers and the Food Equity Council to improve access to land, affordable water infrastructure, technical assistance, and sales opportunities, drawing on the Urban Agriculture Co-Governance Pilot.

(c) Existing farmers markets. DCASE, BACP, and CDPH shall develop clear definitions and pathways for complementary market models while preserving the role of producer-focused farmers markets. They shall streamline recurring market approvals where authorized; prepare a coordinated strategy for market-manager and operating support, including the 2027 market season; and identify resources for SNAP/Link acceptance, EBT equipment, program administration, and nutrition incentives. Fleet and Facility Management, DPD, and CDOT shall identify suitable public spaces and opportunities to reduce site and permit barriers, including lawful fee relief, and pursue voluntary coordination with the Park District and other public bodies.

(d) Year-round markets. DPD, in coordination with BACP, DCASE, Fleet and Facility Management, and Procurement Services, shall lead the preparation and issuance of a Request for Information (“RFI”), pursuant to its existing authority, for development of an initial year-round public market on the South or West Side and a pipeline of additional market opportunities. The RFI shall solicit potential sites, operators, development teams, ownership and governance models, partnership structures, and capital and operating requirements. Design and evaluation shall consider food access needs, community priorities, the Food Ecosystem Map, transit access, neighborhood plans, existing assets, vendor affordability, and infrastructure capacity.

The Steering Committee shall evaluate City-owned, nonprofit, cooperative, community-based, and public-private models for long-term stewardship and operation; assess capital

costs, operating expenses, revenue, and financing gaps; and develop an implementation sequence through market opening. It shall also support existing and emerging indoor markets, help seasonal markets identify indoor locations, and develop model agreements, permitting guidance, and operational tools.

(e) A connected market ecosystem. Across these areas of work, the Steering Committee shall facilitate the development of a shared market directory, calendar, and promotion strategy; connect entrepreneurs to training, technical assistance, capital, and opportunities to progress from market vending to larger retail, wholesale, and institutional sales; and identify shared kitchen, refrigeration, storage, aggregation, and distribution infrastructure. Proposals shall protect affordable vendor participation, support existing neighborhood businesses, and address displacement risks.

Section 5. Deliverables and Deadlines

Following the establishment and first meeting of the Steering Committee:

(a) Within 30 days DPD and the relevant departments shall issue the RFI described in Section 4(d), subject to applicable law and procurement requirements.

(b) Within 60 days the Steering Committee shall submit to the Mayor an initial implementation inventory identifying existing market assets, departmental activities, available funding, regulatory barriers, and near-term actions. It shall also establish the initial Chicago Market Network convening schedule.

(c) Within 90 days the Steering Committee shall submit to the Mayor and publish an implementation plan covering every action and tactic in the Report. For each recommendation, the plan shall identify a lead department, supporting partners, milestones, completion targets, funding needs, and any required legislative or external approvals. Any recommendation deferred or proposed for modification shall be identified with reasons and an alternative approach. The plan shall include immediate administrative actions, a strategy for 2027 market operating support, and proposed measures of progress.

(d) Within 180 days, BACP, CDPH and DCASE shall submit a coordinated package of proposed regulatory improvements, distinguishing changes available administratively from those requiring City Council or other approval.

(e) Within 210 days, the Steering Committee shall submit an initial public-market development roadmap informed by RFI responses received to date, including a preliminary site shortlist, feasibility findings, governance options, capital and operating funding strategies, and the steps and approvals needed to advance a project. The roadmap shall identify any analysis still required before site selection or commitment of public resources.

(f) Beginning 180 days after the effective date of this Order, and every six months thereafter, the Steering Committee shall submit to the Mayor and publish a progress report. Reports shall track completed and outstanding actions, expenditures and resources secured, operating and year-round markets supported, vendor participation, SNAP/Link availability, regulatory improvements, and geographic distribution of benefits. Reports shall identify delays and corrective actions. Proposed deadline extensions for this Progress report shall be submitted to the Mayor in writing before the deadline, with reasons and a revised date; approved extensions shall be disclosed in the next public report.

Section 6. Cooperation Funding and Legal Compliance

All City departments subject to the Mayor's supervisory authority shall cooperate with the Steering Committee, provide relevant information consistent with applicable law, and carry out assigned actions within their authority and available appropriations.

Section 7. Duration and Effective Date

The Steering Committee shall continue until dissolved or superseded by the Mayor. Within one year, it shall recommend a durable administrative structure for continued implementation, including departmental ownership, staffing, community participation, and reporting.

This Order shall take effect upon its execution and filing with the City Clerk.



Mayor

Received and filed on 10/26/26



City Clerk

Chicago City Clerk - Council Div.
2026 OCT 26 AM 11:17