



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY OF CHICAGO

LORI E. LIGHTFOOT
MAYOR

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 2022-1

WHEREAS, all Chicagoans should be able to access nutritious, affordable, culturally appropriate food that is locally, sustainably, ethically, and fairly produced; and

WHEREAS, food access is a key strategy of Healthy Chicago 2025, the City of Chicago's five-year community health improvement plan to address the racial life expectancy gap in the City; and

WHEREAS, lack of adequate nutrition contributes to preventable diet-related chronic diseases; and

WHEREAS, chronic diseases are the largest contributor to the nearly nine-year life expectancy gap between the City's Black and white residents; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated existing inequities in the food system, disproportionately affecting populations with the highest rates of food insecurity; and

WHEREAS, seventy-eight percent of residents in neighborhoods with persistently low healthy food access are Black; and

WHEREAS, food-insecure adults with disabilities are more likely to experience the most severe negative effects of low food security, including disrupted eating patterns and reduced food intake; and

WHEREAS, the City of Chicago recognizes that persistent structural food insecurity is a result of systemic inequities and racial biases within the food system; and

WHEREAS, the City of Chicago likewise recognizes the need to move toward a vision of “food sovereignty” that requires addressing root causes within the food system and the intersections of the food system with poverty, structural racism, access to healthcare, and employment; and

WHEREAS, management of Chicago’s food system is currently highly siloed and involves multiple City departments and sister agencies; and

WHEREAS, the City of Chicago aspires to have City departments and sister agencies work in service of the unique needs, assets, and objectives of communities experiencing food insecurity, and advocate for food sovereignty; and

WHEREAS, community members and City partner organizations have committed years of effort and resources to food sovereignty and have prioritized the need for a better coordinated, more equitable distribution of resources and opportunities for food businesses to create fair employment and community wealth-building through the food system; and

WHEREAS, a coordinated system of food governance to support local food producers, food businesses, and consumers aligns with the goals of existing City plans, including We Will Chicago, INVEST South/West, Healthy Chicago 2025, and the Mayor’s Solutions Toward Ending Poverty Agenda; and

WHEREAS, the position of Food Equity Policy Lead, jointly representing the Office of the Mayor and the Greater Chicago Food Depository, was recently established to direct cross-sector collaboration on programmatic and policy innovations to create a more equitable, resilient, and just food system; and

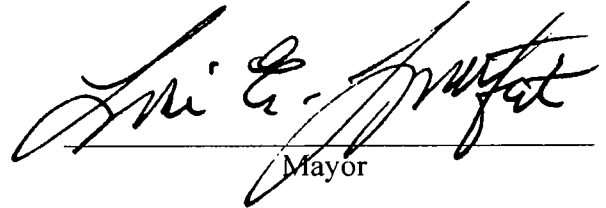
WHEREAS, on June 21, 2021, Mayor Lightfoot announced the launch of the Chicago Food Equity Agenda, a multi-year effort crafted in partnership with a cross-section of community and City representatives to transform the food system by removing barriers to urban farming, supporting Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) food entrepreneurs, and better connecting residents with nutrition programs and healthy, affordable food; now, therefore,

I, LORI E. LIGHTFOOT, Mayor of the City of Chicago, do hereby order as follows:

1. The establishment of a Food Equity Council, coordinated by the Office of the Mayor, the purpose of which shall be to:
 - a. Convene City departments, sister agencies, and community partners around a shared goal of building an equitable and just food system in Chicago;
 - b. Advance the five high-impact priorities of the Chicago Food Equity Agenda, which are of equal importance:
 - i. Eliminate barriers to food pantry expansion
 - ii. Market and maximize nutrition programs and benefits, such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)
 - iii. Leverage city and institutional procurement to support local BIPOC growers, producers, and food businesses
 - iv. Eliminate barriers to urban farming
 - v. Support BIPOC food businesses and entrepreneurs, especially with access to capital
 - c. Collect and analyze data on Chicago's local food systems, nutrition, and health, and use data to identify communities disproportionately impacted by food and nutrition insecurity, set shared goals, and track progress and outcomes;
 - d. Engage government, non-profit, business, and philanthropic partners to build a coalition committed to a strong, more just and resilient food system;
 - e. Identify policy barriers and regulatory burdens that contribute to disparities in Chicago's food systems;
 - f. Review and make recommendations on best practices and new, innovative policies, programs, and funding opportunities that could advance equity in Chicago's food systems;
 - g. Serve as a focal point for community feedback and solicit support from external organizations and subject matter experts;
 - h. Serve as the new coordinating body for implementing and monitoring the progress of the Good Food Purchasing Program; and
 - i. Identify funding streams and sources to support the above work.

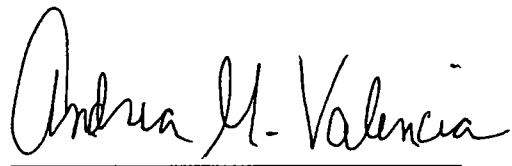
2. The Office of the Mayor shall invite participation in the Food Equity Council by relevant City departments and sister agencies, including: Chicago Department of Public Health; Department of Family and Support Services; Department of Planning and Development; Office of Emergency Management and Communications; Department of Assets, Information and Services; Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events; Department of Business Affairs and Consumer Protection; Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities; Chicago Park District; Chicago Public Libraries; City Colleges of Chicago; Chicago Housing Authority; and Chicago Public Schools.
3. The Office of the Mayor may also invite participation as that Office deems appropriate by non-City organizations and individuals representing the City's vast and diverse food environment, including but not limited to representatives from the food bank of Cook County; organizations with expertise in food access, food policy, or food sovereignty; urban agriculture; food business entrepreneurs; food business accelerators and incubators; academia and research; nutrition programs; banks, community development finance institutions, and other institutions that promote access to capital; state and federal agencies; organizations with expertise in food-related chronic disease prevention and management; and other community and technical experts in food systems.
4. The City departments named in paragraph (2) may utilize existing authority as appropriate to enter into intergovernmental agreements or memoranda of understanding with the other invited participants as needed to achieve the purposes stated in subsections (a) through (i) of paragraph (1).
5. The Food Equity Council may form working groups to help inform and advance the purposes stated in subsections (a) through (i) of paragraph (1).
6. As necessary or appropriate to achieve the purposes stated in subsections (a) through (i) of paragraph (1), the Food Equity Council may work with the Department of Law to identify available pathways to entering into intergovernmental agreements or memoranda of understanding with the relevant governmental entities.
7. The Food Equity Council shall convene no later than April 30, 2022, and shall meet at least three times annually.
8. The Food Equity Council shall publish a report by January 31 each year, beginning in 2023.

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



Mayor

Received and filed February 2, 2022



City Clerk

Chicago City Clerk - Council Div.
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