



Mayor's Office of Sustainability  
One Parkway Building  
1515 Arch St., 13<sup>th</sup> Floor  
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www.phillyfpac.org

To: Jim Engler  
From: Amy Laura Cahn, Philadelphia Food Policy Advisory Council Co-Chair  
Sarah Wu, Philadelphia Food Policy Advisory Council Co-Chair  
Date: December 11, 2015  
Re: Food Policy Recommendations

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The Philadelphia Food Policy Advisory Council (FPAC) facilitates the development of responsible policies that improve access for Philadelphia residents to culturally appropriate, nutritionally sound, and affordable food that is grown locally through environmentally sustainable practices.

Through *Greenworks Philadelphia* and the *Philadelphia Food Charter*, the City of Philadelphia set targets to create more equitable access to healthy food in neighborhoods, improve the environment and public health, and stimulate the economy by increasing access to local, fresh, and healthy food. To help guide the City's work on food system planning, Mayor Michael Nutter asked the Mayor's Office of Sustainability (MOS) to convene the Food Policy Advisory Council. The Mayor appointed the inaugural members of the council in January 2011.

FPAC's membership includes 27 to 35 appointed members, and several ex-officio members. The Council is chaired by one ex-officio and one appointed member. FPAC also has two staff members. OS administratively houses FPAC by managing staff, fundraising, and securing resources.

The following policy recommendations are based on *A Philadelphia Food Policy Road Map*<sup>1</sup>, developed by FPAC in early 2015. The recommendations are also guided by the ongoing work of FPAC's Anti-Hunger, Good Food Procurement, Urban Agriculture, Zero Waste, Communications and Outreach, and Membership and Governance Subcommittees.

### **Applicable to all Transition Teams**

- Appoint a Food Policy Director within the Mayor's Office who is empowered to work with FPAC and staff across agencies to allow for interagency access and collaboration, as other large U.S. cities have done.
- Prioritize the role of FPAC as a convener of food systems leaders brought together to shape food systems policy and affirm the values set by FPAC, including transparency, inclusion, and diversity in the Council.
- Actively engage with FPAC by attending twice yearly meetings, directing FPAC to address relevant policy questions, and publicly supporting FPAC's food policy recommendations.

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<sup>1</sup> Philadelphia Food Policy Council, *A Philadelphia Food Policy Road Map* (2015) available at <https://phillyfpac.files.wordpress.com/2015/04/fpac-a-philadelphia-food-policy-road-map.pdf>.



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## **Environment and Sustainability**

- Dedicate funding and staff for FPAC within the Mayor's Office of Sustainability.
- Establish a Zero Waste Policy for the City of Philadelphia that incorporates waste reduction, recycling, and food waste composting with the objective of diverting 90% of materials from landfills and waste-to-energy facilities.
- Continue the Philadelphia Water Department's Green City, Clean Waters initiative, which partners with community-based groups to install green stormwater infrastructure on urban agriculture sites and other community-managed open spaces.
- Increase environmental health and opportunities for food production by implementing FPAC's soil safety recommendations<sup>2</sup> and continuing existing cross-agency Brownfields initiatives, currently funded through grants from U.S. EPA and Center for Disease Control Agency for Toxic Substance and Disease Registry.

## **Education**

- Create incentives to substantially increase the number of local food suppliers to the Philadelphia School District and Philadelphia Parks and Recreation food programs through contract requirements, business development programs, and administrative support for alternative purchasing/contracting structures (e.g. geographic or smaller contracts, kitchen and infrastructure analysis, etc.).
- Expand the adoption of nutrition standards to early childcare settings.
- Require sites with city funded pre-K slots to establish working relationships with WIC offices, both providing families information about WIC and establishing communication with WIC staff to assist enrollment of young children.
- Support increases in farm-to-school food purchases in conjunction with increased support for associated nutrition education for K-12 schools.
- Direct L&I to encourage all childcare providers seeking licensure to enroll in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP), in anticipation of a greater number of license applications following federal changes to the Child Care and Development Block Grant.

## **Housing, Planning, and Development**

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<sup>2</sup> Philadelphia Food Policy Advisory Council, Soil Safety and Urban Gardening in Philadelphia: Process Report and Recommendations to the City of Philadelphia (2015) available at <https://phillyfpac.files.wordpress.com/2015/10/soil-safety-process-and-recommendations-report.pdf>.



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- Provide ample resources for the implementation of the Philadelphia Land Bank to enhance opportunities for productive reuse of land that promote food access, such as urban agriculture and food-related businesses.
- Strengthen food security by establishing the creation and long term preservation of urban agriculture, community gardening, and green spaces as stated priorities for all City of Philadelphia land-holding agencies and mandate interagency coordination and planning to support these initiatives through an urban agriculture ordinance Executive Order.
- Provide resources to FPAC to convene and collaborate with the Philadelphia City Planning Commission, Land Bank, PPR, PWD, and non-governmental stakeholders to create an urban agriculture strategic plan to inform land redevelopment decisions and resource dissemination.
- Create standard application and lease forms across city agencies to be used for community residents and organizations seeking to obtain legal access to public land for urban agriculture, community gardening, and green spaces, and implement existing policies allowing for renewable leases of up to five years for those land uses.
- Commit to at least 10 acres of land cultivated for food production on public property throughout Philadelphia within three years, with resources to support onsite capital improvements, such as water lines, raised beds, and storage sheds.
- Increase environmental health and opportunities for food production by implementing FPAC's soil safety recommendations and continuing existing cross-agency Brownfields initiatives, currently funded through grants from U.S. EPA and Center for Disease Control Agency for Toxic Substance and Disease Registry.
- Commission a public report detailing the impacts of the 1997 and 2015 tax lien sales on putting vacant land back into productive reuse, including for urban agriculture, to be completed prior to the initiation of any further tax lien sales.

### **Commerce and Economic Development**

- Continue the Executive Order requiring a minimum wage of \$15 per hour for Philadelphia International Airport employees, and expand the Executive Order wherever applicable throughout Philadelphia.
- Streamline the permitting processes for small business owners (including food businesses) by moving the application and permitting processes online, working with existing small business to offer guidance and user test the process.
- Reduce barriers to food market entry for local growers and small business owners through scholarship programs or waivers.



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### **City Administrative Services**

- Support FPAC's creation of a Good Food Task Force to assist the City in creating procurement standards that prioritize food purchases of "good food": locally produced, healthy for consumers, fair to all along the food system, and sustainable for our environment.
- Pledge that 10 to 20% of all food purchases by the City will meet FPAC's definition of "good food" and identify opportunities to provide technical assistance, tracking and monitoring support to departments and potential contracting entities.
- Commit to continuing to implement the citywide nutrition standards for City departments per June 2014 Executive Order.
- Direct L&I to encourage all childcare providers seeking licensure to enroll in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP), in anticipation of a greater number of license applications following federal changes to the Child Care and Development Block Grant.

### **Community, Culture, and Recreation**

- Provide sufficient resources to firmly establish the FarmPhilly gardening and farming program within Philadelphia Parks and Recreation.
- Continue to support and expand Philadelphia's robust summer feeding program for children, including expanding the early and late summer meal service at recreation centers, expanding sites to include libraries, increasing Play Streets site recruitment efforts in immigrant communities, and prioritizing healthy meals that meet citywide nutrition standards.
- Explore the co-location of summer meals sites and senior congregate meals so that seniors caring for grandchildren during summer months can easily access nutrition supports for themselves and their grandchildren.
- Create incentives to substantially increase the number of local food suppliers to the Philadelphia School District and Philadelphia Parks and Recreation food programs through contract requirements, business development programs, and administrative support for alternative purchasing/contracting structures (e.g. geographic or smaller contracts, kitchen and infrastructure analysis, etc.).



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- Identify and remove barriers to PPR's tot recreation programs participating in CACFP or federal food programs.

### **Human Services**

- Become a national leader and a local proponent of food policy by advocating for programs that increase access to SNAP and WIC benefits.
- Establish programs to support households constrained by distance, cost, time, language barriers and other practical and economic barriers to food access.
- Commit to supporting and funding the work of the Get Healthy Philly Program at the Philadelphia Department of Public Health (PDPH), and continue to support and implement nutritional strategies outlined in PDPH's strategic plan and community health improvement plan.
- Maintain existing PDPH programs for pregnant women, mothers, and infants.
- Support successful reentry by ensuring that returning citizens have SNAP benefits upon release from incarceration.
- Further identify community and clinical linkages that bridge food as medicine (e.g., food insecurity screenings at primary care settings, referrals to SNAP, WIC, and food assistance programs, and use of community health benefit investments for food access).

### **Public Safety**

- Support successful reentry by ensuring that returning citizens have SNAP benefits upon release from incarceration.

### **Immigration and Multi-cultural Affairs**

- Establish programs and outreach to support households constrained by language and citizenship barriers to food access (such as recruiting immigrant community members to host Play Streets and summer meals sites in their communities).
- Become a national leader in language access to nutritional supports and urban agriculture by ensuring city departments (Health Centers, Parks and Recreation, L&I, Mayor's Office of Sustainability, and others) provide information in multiple languages and provide resources to support compliance.