

RESOLUTION

R-07-203

CITY HALL: May 3, 2007

BY: COUNCILMEMBERS FIELKOW, WILLARD-LEWIS, HEDGE-MORRELL, AND THOMAS

WHEREAS, In the City of New Orleans prior to Hurricane Katrina, access to fresh healthy foods had been an ongoing challenge for residents; and

WHEREAS, food availability has worsened since Hurricane Katrina with only a limited number of supermarkets open; and

WHEREAS, this lack of access negatively impacts the health and quality of life of residents, especially children and the elderly; and

WHEREAS, research has shown that communities with the least access to affordable healthy foods also suffer the highest rates of death related to poor nutrition; and

WHEREAS, inadequate access to food imposes a significant toll on lower income neighborhoods, affecting their revitalization, the education of children, and the development of healthy youth and families; and

WHEREAS, there is a need to support the retention of current small business owners as well as attract new businesses to the city within the food industry; and

WHEREAS, communities across the country are finding creative ways to increase the availability of fresh produce in low-income, inner-city neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, there are no existing city policies that encourage or promote efforts to address this situation; and

WHEREAS, Tulane University's Prevention Research Center at the School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine will create and provide staffing for a Food Policy Advisory Panel comprised of advocates, retailers, bankers and planners to study the problem of a lack of

access to healthy food among New Orleans families and make recommendations to alleviate the problem; and

WHEREAS, the results of such a study would potentially benefit the citizens of the City of New Orleans if completed by January 31, 2008 so as to be included for consideration during the Louisiana Legislative Session; and

WHEREAS, this initiative is supported by the Health Department of the City of New Orleans, Steps to a Healthier New Orleans, the Louisiana Public Health Institute, Second Harvest of Greater New Orleans and Acadiana, the New Orleans Food and Farm Network, The Renaissance Project in the Ninth Ward, and Mary Queen of Viet Nam Church; and

WHEREAS, it is the belief of the Council of the City of New Orleans that everyone deserves equal access to healthy and nutritious foods and this could serve as an economic catalyst for recovering neighborhoods; **NOW, THEREFORE**

BE IT RESOLVED That the Council of the City of New Orleans strongly supports the creation of a Food Policy Advisory Panel and requests that regular updates be given to the Special Projects and Economic Development Committee and that a final report with recommendations for programs and policies to alleviate the problem be delivered to the Special Projects and Economic Development Committee by January 31, 2008.

THE FOREGOING RESOLUTION WAS READ IN FULL, THE ROLL WAS CALLED ON THE ADOPTION THEREOF AND RESULTED AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: 7

NAYS: 0

ABSENT: 0

AND THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED