

## Healthy and Local Food Service and Procurement Resolution

**WHEREAS** 2 out of 3 adults in Travis County are overweight or obese<sup>i</sup>, and 21% of youth are overweight<sup>ii</sup>; and

**WHEREAS** both obesity and overweight increase the risk of diabetes, heart disease, stroke, high blood pressure, high cholesterol, certain cancers, asthma and other serious diseases; and

**WHEREAS** obesity costs the United States \$147 billion dollars annually in direct health care costs<sup>iii</sup>; and

**WHEREAS** one way to lower health care costs is to improve residents' diets: healthier diets alone could prevent an estimated \$71 billion per year in medical expenses, lost productivity, and lost lives nationwide<sup>iv</sup>; and

**WHEREAS** *Why Local Linkages Matter*, a report commissioned by the organization Sustainable Seattle found that shifting 20% of the region's food dollars into locally-based food production would result in nearly one billion annual income increase in the Central Puget Sound region<sup>v</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, individual effort alone is insufficient to combat obesity's rising tide and significant societal and environmental changes are needed to support individual efforts to make healthier choices; and

**WHEREAS**, the Austin/Travis County Health and Human Services Department is the only City agency that has a policy relating to the nutritional content of food served from vending machines. 100% of all vending food and beverage items must adhere to the adopted standards; and

**WHEREAS**, the Austin/Travis County Health and Human Services Department is working with the Mayor's Health and Fitness Council and the Austin Green Business Leaders Program to assist local organizations interested in adopting a 100% healthy vending machine and healthy meeting policy; and

**WHEREAS** New York City has expanded healthy food guidelines for all food and beverage purchased, prepared and/or served by City agencies and/or agency contractors (including vending) to improve the dietary habits of its citizens<sup>vi</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, the Cleveland-Cuyahoga County Food Policy Coalition, through the work of their Local Food Purchasing Working Group, worked with the Mayor and City Council to pass an ordinance granting bid discounts to local producers and local food businesses<sup>vii</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, the Los Angeles Mayor and City Council adopted The Good Food Purchasing Pledge, one of the most comprehensive food purchasing policies in the nation. Using the City's purchasing power in such a manner incentivizes sustainable practices by businesses looking to secure contracts with the City. The Pledge is based on awarding points by compliance in the following areas: sustainable food production, nutrition, fair labor practices and animal welfare<sup>viii</sup>.

**NOW, THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED BY THE SUSTAINABLE FOOD POLICY BOARD**, that

The Sustainable Food Policy Board advises the Austin City Council and Travis County Commissioners, in working with the Austin/Travis County Health and Human Services

Department and Travis County Health and Human Services and Veterans Services, adopt 100% health standards for all food and beverage served on city and county property to employees and/or the public, including vending and food service.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that

The Sustainable Food Policy Board advises that the Austin City Council and Travis County Commissioners, in working with the Office of Sustainability implement incentives to encourage the City's purchase of food from local vendors and producers.

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<sup>i</sup> [http://austintexas.gov/sites/default/files/files/Health/News\\_-\\_Home\\_Page/2012\\_critical\\_health\\_indicators.pdf](http://austintexas.gov/sites/default/files/files/Health/News_-_Home_Page/2012_critical_health_indicators.pdf)

<sup>ii</sup> Kristi Metzger's presentation to AISD SHAC

<sup>iii</sup> Finklestein E, Trogon J, Cohen J, and Dietz W. "Annual Medical Spending Attributable to Obesity: Payer and Service-Specific Estimates." Health Affairs 28, no. 5: w822-w831, 2009.

<sup>iv</sup> Frazao E. High Costs of Poor Eating Patterns in the United States. Economic Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture. 1999, p. 5-32.

<sup>v</sup> [http://www.farmlandinfo.org/documents/37980/Why\\_Local\\_Matters\\_Seattle.pdf](http://www.farmlandinfo.org/documents/37980/Why_Local_Matters_Seattle.pdf)

<sup>vi</sup> <http://www.nyc.gov/html/doh/html/cardio/cardio-vend-nutrition-standard.shtml>

<sup>vii</sup> <http://cccfoodpolicy.org/sites/default/files/resources/Cleveland%20Ordinance%20No.%201660-A-09.pdf>

<sup>viii</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/notes/los-angeles-mayors-office/city-of-los-angeles-institutes-comprehensive-food-procurement-policy/166567283482953>