

RESOLUTION NO.

WHEREAS, the City of Austin values its local food system and recognizes its positive contribution to the community's health and economic well-being; and

WHEREAS, Resolution 20120802-072 directed the City Manager to conduct an economic impact analysis of urban agriculture and the local food system; and

WHEREAS, the study estimated that the food sector and the multiplier effects in the Austin MSA accounted for \$4.1 billion in annual output with over \$63 million in City tax revenues and 43,550 permanent jobs; and

WHEREAS, the study also found that there is strong consumer desire for local products, that further expanding the supply will yield greater overall economic activity and potentially lower prices of healthier food, and that for every dollar invested in locally-produced food the city sees an additional 86 cents in indirect and induced activity; and

WHEREAS, Resolution 20130411-038 directed the City Manager to work with the Sustainable Food Policy Board (SFPB) to prioritize the recommendations, to implement those that do not require budget amendments, and to report back on budget implications for the remaining recommendations; and

WHEREAS, the study and the SFPB recommendations include asking the City to identify and create infrastructure and facilities to help local farms and food manufacturers, to provide incentives and access to natural resources, and to

implement best practices to improve access to healthy and local foods to reduce hunger in our community; and

WHEREAS, a May 1, 2013 memo from city staff clarified the diverse food-related efforts already underway by multiple City departments and provided an estimate for supporting the new initiatives; and

WHEREAS, an informal review of other leading cities investing in local food systems shows investments ranging from \$200,000 to \$750,000 in programs related to urban agriculture and community gardens; **NOW, THEREFORE**,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:

The City Manager is directed to include funding in the FY2014 budget to create a citywide staff coordinator and implement the recommendations as prioritized by the Sustainable Food Policy Board and the city staff memo. The City Manager should consider FY2013 vacancy savings and reallocating unfilled part-time positions from other City food-related programs in order to limit the amount of new funding required for implementing these recommendations in FY2014.

ADOPTED: _____, 2013 **ATTEST:** _____

Shirley A. Gentry
City Clerk