

RESOLUTION NO. 20130228-038

WHEREAS, on January 28, 2013, the Sustainable Food Policy Board of the City of Austin and Travis County unanimously approved a resolution advising the City Council to adopt health standards for food and beverages served on City properties as well as policies for the purchase of food from local vendors and producers; and

WHEREAS, 2 out of 3 adults in Travis County are overweight or obese, and 21% of youth are overweight; and

WHEREAS, both obesity and excess weight 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; 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; 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 dollar annual income increase in the Central Puget Sound region; 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, requiring that 100% of all vending food and beverage items 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 eating 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; 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; 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, incentivizing sustainable practices by businesses looking to secure contracts with the City; **NOW THEREFORE**,

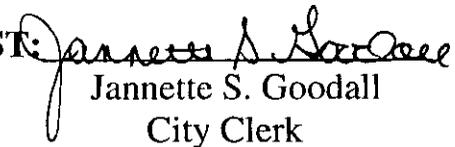
BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:

The City Manager is directed to develop recommendations for a local and healthy food purchasing policy for the City of Austin and a healthy vending machine policy for City facilities. Included in the recommendations should be one option that ensures 100% healthy standards for all food and beverages served on city property, including vending and food service; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The policy recommendations should be presented to the City Council Public Health and Human Services Committee before reporting to Council by May 30, 2013.

ADOPTED: February 28, 2013

ATTEST: 
Jannette S. Goodall
City Clerk