



BOARD/COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION

Austin/Travis County Sustainable Food Policy Board

Recommendation Number : (20150608 – 5A1C: Support for strategies for increasing access to healthy food)

WHEREAS, the Austin / Travis County Community Health Assessment, published in 2013 reported that 8.7% of Travis County's low-income population does not live within a mile of a grocery store, and 2013 food insecurity data indicates that 18% of the Travis County population experiences limited or uncertain access to adequate food ; and

WHEREAS, many food insecure residents have limited access to highly nutritious foods, including fresh fruits and vegetables, and are thus at greater risk of chronic diseases such as diabetes, heart disease, and cancer; and

WHEREAS, A report published by Policy Link and The Food Trust entitled The Grocery Gap presents data that clearly indicates the link between better access to healthy food and healthier eating; and

WHEREAS, a study entitled "Increasing access to healthful foods: A qualitative study with residents of low-income communities" conducted in Austin indicates the primary barriers to accessing healthy food are price, geographical proximity to retail outlets, lack of quality of produce, and lack of quality of retail outlets ; and

WHEREAS, The Vision of Imagine Austin indicates that a key aspect of livability is that Austin's diverse population is active and healthy, with access to locally-grown, nourishing foods, and includes under the creation of a Healthy Austin Program to promote healthy foods, and to encourage successful formation and patronage of healthy food retail establishments (Imagine Austin, pp. 205-06) as recommended strategies to achieve in the short term; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Austin/Travis County Sustainable Food Policy Board recommends that the City of Austin invest \$425,000 to fund a spectrum of

strategies for increasing access to healthy food, including a Healthy Food Retail Initiative, Community and School based Farm Markets, Neighborhood Food Buying Co-ops, Healthy Restaurant Options, and continued support for the Sustainable Food Center's Double Dollars Incentive Program.

AND, FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the Austin/Travis County Sustainable Food Policy Board recommends that the City of Austin and Travis County partner with, and provide resources to community organizations to implement these strategies for increasing access to healthy food.

Date of Approval: 6/11/2015

Record of the vote: 7 in favor / 0 opposed / 2 abstain

Attest: 

(Staff or board member can sign)