

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF  
ALAMEDA, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**RESOLUTION NO. 2021- 48**A RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT THE GOOD FOOD PURCHASING POLICY VALUES,  
FRAMEWORK AND PROGRAM

WHEREAS, The County of Alameda strives to improve the health of all its residents through services and policies that promote health and well-being; and

WHEREAS, In 2015, ALL IN Alameda County conducted community listening sessions throughout the County that nearly 1,000 residents attended and provided testimonials on the need for increased access to affordable, quality, nutritious, and culturally appropriate food and fresh produce; and

WHEREAS, In 2016, ALL IN Alameda County convened stakeholders from government agencies, nonprofits, businesses, and community members at the *Social Innovation Fair*, which led to the formation of the Food as Medicine and Food Recovery Action Teams; and

WHEREAS, There is a direct correlation between ending poverty and the accessibility of affordable, nutritious food; and

WHEREAS, The Good Food Purchasing Policy (GFPP) was developed in 2012 to help public institutions procure food aligned with values-driven purchasing standards; and

WHEREAS, The Good Food Purchasing Policy provides robust standards to evaluate and celebrate an institutional commitment to values-based procurement through third party verification and use of metric-based tools that guide organizations to direct their purchasing power towards suppliers in alignment with the five overarching values: healthy, local, fair, sustainable and just; and

WHEREAS, The Center for Good Food Purchasing provides planning, implementation and evaluation support for institutions using the GFPP Values, Framework and Program; and

WHEREAS, The Good Food Purchasing **Values** include supporting local economies, health, valued workforce, animal welfare and environmental sustainability. The Good Food Purchasing **Framework** is the set of criteria used to measure alignment with the five values. The Good Food Purchasing **Program** is the process of an institution implementing food purchasing assessment based on the values and framework and working towards improvements; and

WHEREAS, Local economies-driven purchases support robust regional economies by sourcing from locally-owned small and mid-sized agricultural and food processing operations; and

WHEREAS, Nutrition-driven purchases promote health and well-being by offering generous portions of vegetables, fruit, whole grains and minimally processed foods, while reducing salt, added sugars, unhealthy fats, and red meat consumption, and eliminating artificial additives; and

WHEREAS, Valued workforce-driven purchases provide safe and healthy working conditions and fair compensation for all food-sector workers and producers from production to consumption; and

WHEREAS, Animal welfare-driven purchases provide healthy living conditions and humane care for farm animals; and

WHEREAS, The Good Food Communities Initiative provides an additional lens to prioritize values such as transparency, accountability, racial and gender equity, and worker justice; and

WHEREAS, the County of Alameda works to realize the County's Vision 2026 by prioritizing the following actions: hiring from and investing in priority communities including Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) communities, formerly incarcerated, CalWORKs recipients, former foster youth, persons experiencing homelessness, and victims of domestic violence; assisting prospective vendors in navigating tax incentives and other financial programs designed to increase investment in disadvantaged communities; tracking and increasing private and public investments in areas of the county considered a "food desert" per the USDA's definition; transitioning publicly-owned vacant properties to local, BIPOC-owned social enterprises and/or community land trusts for urban agriculture and other food-related enterprises; and engaging local universities and local community-based experts to provide technical assistance to emerging and/or disadvantaged businesses; and

WHEREAS, Systems-level strategies for Alameda County food production, distribution, and recycling has led to the development of a 'circular food economy' model that articulates a vision for how to help people access affordable, healthy food; and

WHEREAS, The circular food economy focuses on sourcing food grown regeneratively and locally, making the most of food by preventing waste, preventing and donating surplus food and using by-products more efficiently, and by designing markets for healthier foods; and

WHEREAS, The County of Alameda adopted the Small Local Emerging Business (SLEB) Preference to create opportunities for businesses by giving them an opportunity to contract with the County of Alameda and promote the economic growth of the community; and

WHEREAS, The Analysis of Sustainability Impacts of Alameda County Supply Chain Expenditures prepared by the General Services Agency in 2019 recommends that Food Services and Community-Directed Services which provide food as part of their service reduce edible surplus food that goes to waste (particularly meat and dairy products); substitute lower-impact, plant-based, nutritionally equivalent foods for meat and dairy, and explore opportunities to specify the sourcing of meat products from facilities that operate using best manure management practices; and

WHEREAS, Purchasing healthy food, reducing waste, and promoting local green jobs is consistent with the County of Alameda's many policy commitments to climate action and sustainability including the Waste Diversion Resolution (R-2008-213), Climate Action Plan for Government Services and Operations (R-2010-170), Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Policy (R-2011-108), and Climate Emergency Declaration (R-2019-375); and

WHEREAS, The County's Worksite Wellness Policy (2019) and its antecedent Nutrition and Physical Activity Policy (2009), developed through a collaboration among the County Administrator's Office, Health Care Services Agency, Public Health Department, Human Resource Services, and General Services Agency, recommend the use of local and regional foods at County meetings or events

whenever possible and require that whenever County funds are used to purchase food for County meetings and events that those foods provide nutritional benefit and choice; and

WHEREAS, California Senate Bill 1383 requires a reduction of the statewide disposal of organic waste through edible food generators participating in food recovery and providing organic waste collection/recycling containers and services for organic waste; and

WHEREAS, The Alameda County Public Health Department's Nutrition Services Program promotes healthy eating through committed partnership with communities to reduce chronic disease and improve long-term health, and Nutrition Services has deep ties with community members and resident Champions who co-teach and co-advocate for cultural norm changes and policies, systems, and environmental changes; and

WHEREAS, ALL IN Alameda County's Food as Medicine program calls for the use of Medically Supportive Foods – defined as any nutrient rich whole food, including any fruit, vegetable, legume, nut, seed, whole grain, low mercury/high omega 3 fatty acid fish, animal protein certified to be humanely raised - to prevent, reverse, or manage certain chronic health conditions; and

WHEREAS, The Alameda County Community Development Agency and Public Health Department's Ashland and Cherryland Community Health and Wellness Element of the Alameda County General Plan sets Goal B: Improve the Safety of Neighborhoods and Public Spheres by, in part, improving neighborhood involvement in crime prevention and beautification and promoting the availability of fresh fruits and vegetables and quality food; and

WHEREAS, The Alameda County Community Development Agency's Economic & Civic Development Department has a primary focus on nurturing and sustaining a robust local food economy through its initiatives and programs, including the award-winning Food Entrepreneurial Training Academy offering free business training to start-up and grow food businesses, assisting food businesses with site selection, permitting, and tailored referrals, and partnering with local developers and community-based organizations to launch new commercial opportunities, including the Ashland Market & Café, the Castro Valley Marketplace, the Ashland Commons Park, and Cherryland Place; which aligns well with the Good Food Purchasing Policy local economies value; and

WHEREAS, There is a long history of inequitable land ownership and control within the food industry and of disinvestment of land in many low income communities as detailed in the 2019 California Young Farmers Report and the California Department of Food & Agriculture 2020 Report to the California Legislature on the Farm Equity Act; and

WHEREAS, There are a number of tax credits available at the federal, state, county and city levels to incentivize investment in distressed communities and to hire very low-income employees, employees with past criminal records, etc.; and

WHEREAS, Investing in a local food economy can strengthen the county's resilience to climate emergencies or disruptions that affect supply chains or transportation routes; and

WHEREAS, In adopting the Good Food Purchasing Policy, the County of Alameda will join eleven other jurisdictions across the United States - including Oakland Unified School District, City and County of San Francisco, San Francisco Unified School District, Los Angeles Unified School District and the City of Chicago - in supporting this nationwide movement; and

WHEREAS, In adopting the Good Food Purchasing Policy, the County of Alameda will help support a regional food system that is ecologically sound, economically viable and socially responsible, and will have an impact on the availability of local, sustainable food; and

WHEREAS, It is recognized that the significant program investments and buying power of public institutions across the country can reform the food system, create opportunities for smaller farmers and low-income entrepreneurs of color to thrive, provide just compensation and fair treatment for food chain workers, support sustainable farming practices, reward good environmental stewardship including reducing waste food through prevention, donation, food to animals and increasing composting, and increase access to fresh and healthy foods; and

WHEREAS, Two County departments have significant buying power within the local food economy: the Sheriff's Office spends approximately \$20 million annually on food and the Probation Department spends approximately \$1-2 million annually on food; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the County of Alameda embraces the Good Food Purchasing Policy Values, Framework and Program; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the largest food purchasers in the County of Alameda, the Alameda County Sheriff's Office and the Alameda County Probation Department, shall complete a baseline assessment of the food purchases made in the prior year, within six months of the passage of this resolution, based on the GFPP Values, Framework and Program as a strategy to achieve the county's Vision 2026 goals and then report the results to the ALL IN Committee; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That upon completion of the baseline assessments, the Sheriff's Office and Probation Department shall develop prioritized action plans for meeting and/or exceeding baseline targets within each of the five value categories of the Good Food Purchasing Program, within six months of the completion of the baseline assessments and on an annual basis thereafter, and then report the results to the ALL IN Committee; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, County of Alameda agencies not required to complete baseline assessments as well as other entities within the County's jurisdiction will be encouraged to participate in the Good Food Purchasing Pledge for their direct food purchases and/or allocations of funds for third-party food purchases. Through the Pledge, these agencies will commit to meeting at least one best practice in each value category with a goal of adding an additional best practice from any category per year with external verification of compliance and annual reports to the ALL IN Committee; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the County of Alameda will develop food waste recovery and composting goals in partnership with the Alameda County Waste Management Authority/StopWaste to ensure the recirculation of edible and compostable food within the circular food economy to support the food insecure, sustainable farming, and achieve compliance with state law; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the County will encourage municipalities, schools, hospitals, and other entities within the County of Alameda to implement the Good Food Purchasing Policy Values across its food programming and purchasing.

The foregoing Resolution was passed and adopted by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Alameda on January 26 2021, by the following vote:

Ayes: Supervisors Chan, Haubert, Valle & President Carson - 4

Noes: None

Excused: Supervisor Miley - 1

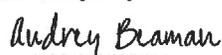


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KEITH CARSON  
PRESIDENT, BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

ATTEST:  
ANIKA CAMPBELL-BELTON  
CLERK OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

By:   
Deputy

APPROVED AS TO FORM:  
DONNA R. ZIEGLER, COUNTY COUNSEL

By:   
Designated by  
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Audrey Beaman, Deputy County Counsel