

## RESOLUTION CITY OF SAINT PAUL, MINNESOTA

Presented by \_\_\_\_\_

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1 WHEREAS, the interest in local food has spiked in Saint Paul and nationally as a result of environmental and  
2 economic factors; and

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4 WHEREAS, the City of Saint Paul formed a collaborative environmental planning process in 2005 called the  
5 Environmental Roundtable which included a section of recommendations for Healthy Local Food Systems; and

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7 WHEREAS, establishing a strong local food system is a smart move for the local economy as dollars spent by  
8 consumers on food are only surpassed by dollars spent on housing and transportation (according to the Bureau  
9 of Labor Statistics Consumer Spending Patterns 2006-2007: <http://www.bls.gov/ro5/cexmpls.htm>); and

10  
11 WHEREAS, there is increasing opportunity to reduce “food deserts” in low-income neighborhoods as the  
12 Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Nutrition Program requirements changed August 1, 2009, allowing  
13 vouchers to be used on fresh fruits and vegetables, as well as requiring WIC-authorized vendors to have  
14 varieties of fresh fruits and vegetables available; and

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16 WHEREAS, City & County staff and local stakeholders have been meeting informally to plan for a vision of  
17 creating an environment in Saint Paul that is supportive and encouraging of increased consumption, production  
18 and distribution of healthy, sustainable and locally grown food; and

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20 WHEREAS, the combined overweight and obesity rate for Ramsey County is 77% (2006  
21 <http://www.cdc.gov/brfss/>) and only 30% of Saint Paul residents eat the recommended number of fruits and  
22 vegetables (2007 <http://www.cdc.gov/brfss/>); and

23  
24 WHEREAS, one of the stakeholders, Ramsey County Saint Paul Public Health, has received \$50,000 as part of  
25 their SHIP grant to conduct food surveys and data analysis, as well as re-establish the Food Commission; and

26  
27 WHEREAS, current members of the City working group, Afro-Eco and Community Design Center, (in  
28 partnership with the Minnesota Project and Minnesota Food Association) – received a \$25,000 grant USDA  
29 Food Project Planning Grant for work in Districts 4 & 5 (Dayton’s Bluff and Payne-Phalen neighborhoods) and  
30 Districts 7 & 8 (Thomas-Dale/“Frogtown” and Summit-University neighborhoods). The first project goal is to  
31 understand the food assets and barriers in these two communities, and the particular food needs and perceptions  
32 of the population (differentiated by age and ethnicity); the second project goal is to design a nuanced plan,  
33 based on community research and participation, for improving the long-term food security in the two  
34 communities; and

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36 WHEREAS, both grant-funded initiatives are relevant to each other and want to continue working closely with  
37 the City to coordinate efforts; and

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39 WHEREAS, approximately 15% of the greenhouse gasses related to food production and consumption are  
40 created by transporting the goods (<http://pubs.acs.org/doi/pdfplus/10.1021/es702969f?cookieSet=1>); and

41  
42 WHEREAS, quality of life is improved by a local food system as reduced transportation emissions for moving  
43 food reduce air pollution and carbon production; and

44

45 WHEREAS, a strong local food system benefits the health, environment, economy, and overall livability of the  
46 City; and

47  
48 WHEREAS, in order to achieve a strong local food system, Saint Paul must:

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- 50 1. Modify city policy to support access for healthy and locally grown food and for urban food  
51 production and distribution;
  - 52
  - 53 2. Facilitate a network of resources to support people’s access to healthy and locally grown food and  
54 urban food production and distribution
  - 55

56 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Saint Paul City Council directs staff in Planning and  
57 Economic Development and Parks & Recreation, in coordination with Public Works, the Real Estate division of  
58 the Office of Financial Services, and the Department of Safety and Inspections, to work together with Ramsey  
59 County Saint Paul Public Health and related community organizations to explore necessary changes to City  
60 policy (including possible zoning, licensing/permitting, HRA/easement policies) and facilitate a network of  
61 resources to support the production, distribution, and consumption of healthy and locally grown food.

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	Yeas	Nays	Absent
Bostrom			
Carter			
Harris			
Helgen			
Lantry			
Stark			
Thune			

Requested by Department of:  
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By:  
Approved by the Office of Financial Services

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Approved by City Attorney

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Approved by Mayor for Submission to Council

Adopted by Council: Date \_\_\_\_\_

Adoption Certified by Council Secretary  
By: \_\_\_\_\_

Approved by Mayor: Date \_\_\_\_\_

By: \_\_\_\_\_