

Chapter 2.123 - BRIDGEPORT FOOD POLICY COUNCIL

Sections:

2.123.010 - Created.

There is hereby created a Bridgeport Food Policy Council (council).

(Ord. dated 12/3/12)

2.123.020 - Purpose.

- A. There shall be a council to improve the availability of food to persons in need within the city, and to advise city agencies who relate to this work.
- B. The purpose of the council shall be to integrate all agencies of the city in a common effort to improve the availability of safe and nutritious food at reasonable prices for all residents, particularly those in need. The goals to be accomplished by the policy are:
 - 1. To improve the availability of healthy fresh food for all city residents;
 - 2. To improve food distribution channels into and within the city of Bridgeport; and
 - 3. To generate growth and employment in the food sector; and
 - 4. To support regional farmers, strengthen regional linkages and increase urban food production; and
 - 5. To seize opportunities to reduce and recapture waste in the food stream.
- C. The policy shall be implemented by the city as follows:
 - 1. Transportation. In planning, providing, coordinating and regulating transportation within the city, city agencies shall make the facilitation of transportation of food to distribution points and ready access to a reasonable food supply a principal part of any such action.
 - 2. Direct Service. City agencies and employees providing food or the financial means of obtaining food shall plan, execute and evaluate such programs and actions in order to achieve maximum efficiency in providing food and to assure that such programs are reaching the residents in need of them.
 - 3. Land Use. City agencies and employees in determining the use to be made of city parks, school yards, rights-of-way, surplus properties and redevelopment parcels shall give special consideration to the benefit of using such sites, at least in part, for food production, processing and distribution. The city, on a regional level, shall act to preserve farmland for truck farming which will serve as a nearby source of fresh fruit, vegetables, eggs and milk. All such city actions shall be undertaken in a manner consistent with the city's master plan and subject to the jurisdiction and authority of the city's land use agencies, boards and commissions.
 - 4. Lobbying and Advocacy. The city in its presentations before state and federal legislatures, state and regional agencies and anti-hunger organizations shall stress the need for programs and actions which will improve the opportunities of city residents to obtain adequate diets. Such programs and actions shall include maintenance of the state and regional agricultural infrastructure.
 - 5. Referrals to Social Services. City social service workers shall be especially diligent in referring persons in need of available sources of food best suited for their needs.

6. Education. The city in providing a wide range of educational opportunities for children and adults shall emphasize the importance of a sound diet for the family and provide courses in the production, selection, purchase, preparation and preservation of food, along with other city priorities such as creation of employment opportunities and increasing the local tax base.
7. Business Development. The city in its work of developing new businesses and expanding existing businesses shall consider the benefits of those food-related businesses improving access to affordable and nutritional food, along with other city priorities such as creation of employment opportunities and increasing the local tax base.
8. Direct and Indirect Purchase of Food. The city government, in its role as a major food purchaser from local outlets, and administrator of food assistance programs, shall consider that its purchasing decisions can affect the viability of producers and vendors, and shall consider such impact in making purchasing decisions. In so doing, the city government shall operate in accordance with all local public purchasing requirements and all federal and state competitive procurement requirements.
9. Support of Private Efforts. The city in providing funding as authorized by law for private efforts to assist people in obtaining food and in communicating with organizations engaged in such private efforts shall encourage and promote such efforts.
10. Monitoring and Communicating Data. The city shall continuously collect data on the extent and nature of public food programs and hunger in the city and shall annually issue a report with findings and recommendations to the food policy council.
11. Administration. The health director shall seek ways of improving the means of providing persons in need with wholesome food and diets and shall work with the food policy council to combat hunger in attaining its goals.
12. Intergovernmental Cooperation. All departments are encouraged to cooperate with the operation of the food policy council in the city in the performance of duties. The health department shall provide clerical support to the food policy council as needed.

(Ord. dated 12/3/12)

2.123.030 - Membership.

The food policy council shall consist of nine members. Three of the members shall be the city's chief administrative officer (CAO), the city's director of planning and economic development (OPED) and the city's health director, each of whom shall serve in an ex officio capacity as full voting members, and who may designate a member of their staff to serve as an alternate. The remaining six members shall serve for three-year terms without compensation and be appointed by the mayor, with the approval of the city council, with two of such members appointed for terms of one year, two for terms of two years and two for terms of three years. The six mayoral appointees shall have experience and/or interest in food production, distribution and/or quality, particularly in urban settings. The food policy council shall convene regular monthly meetings, and shall convene such other special meetings as the council's business warrants. A quorum shall consist of five members. The city council president shall appoint a council member to serve as city council liaison to the food policy council.

(Ord. dated 12/3/12)

2.123.040 - Goals of food policy council.

The goals of the food policy council shall be as follows:

1. To reduce hunger as an obstacle to a happy, healthy productive life in the city;

2. To assist in creation of city policies to encourage a wide variety of safe and nutritious food being available for all city residents and visitors;
3. To assist in creation of city policies to encourage that access to food for all, so that access is not limited by economic status, location or other factors beyond a resident's control;
4. To assist in creation of city policies encouraging and fostering the availability of food throughout the city at prices approximating the level for greater Bridgeport.

(Ord. dated 12/3/12)

2.123.050 - Powers and duties of the food policy council.

The powers and duties of the food policy council shall be as follows:

1. Explore new means for the city government to improve food economy and the availability, accessibility and quality of food and to assist the city government in the coordination of its efforts;
2. Collect and monitor data pertaining to the nutrition status of city residents;
3. Seek and obtain community input on food economy and the availability, accessibility and quality of food to persons in need within the city;
4. Obtain updated statistical information and other data from city agencies relating to hunger in the city and programs in existence and being planned to reduce hunger and improve the obtaining of nutritious food by residents in need;
5. Observe and analyze the existing administration of city food distribution programs; and
6. Recommend to the city administration adoption of new programs and improvement to (or elimination of) existing programs as appropriate.
7. Submit an annual report on or before October 1 to the city council with copies to the mayor summarizing the progress made in achieving each of the goals set forth in Section 2.123.040

(Ord. dated 12/3/12)