

Memorandum



CITY OF DALLAS

DATE November 14, 2014

TO Honorable Members of the Economic Development Committee:
Tennell Atkins (Chair), Rick Callahan (Vice Chair), Scott Griggs, Adam Medrano, Jerry R. Allen, Lee Kleinman

SUBJECT **Economic Opportunities of Sustainable Food Systems**

On Monday, November 17, 2014, the Economic Development Council Committee will be briefed on Economic Opportunities of Sustainable Food Systems.

The following materials are attached for your review:

1. Economic Opportunities of Sustainable Food Systems Briefing

If you have any questions or require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jill A. Jordan'.

Jill A. Jordan, P.E.
Assistant City Manager

- c: The Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
A.C. Gonzalez, City Manager
Warren M.S. Ernst, City Attorney
Rosa A. Rios, City Secretary
Daniel F. Solis, Administrative Judge
Craig D. Kinton, City Auditor
Ryan S. Evans, First Assistant City Manager
Eric D. Campbell, Assistant City Manager
Joey Zapata, Assistant City Manager
Mark McDaniel, Assistant City Manager
Jeanne Chipperfield, Chief Financial Officer
Sana Syed, Public Information Officer
Karl Zavitkovsky, Director, Office of Economic Development
J. Hammond Perot, Assistant Director, Office of Economic Development
Elsa Cantu, Assistant to the City Manager – Mayor and Council

Economic Opportunities of Sustainable Food Systems

Presented by the Office of Environmental Quality
to the Economic Development Committee
of the Dallas City Council

November 17, 2014



Purpose

- To present the Economic Development Committee of the Dallas City Council with information on economic opportunities for Dallas residents associated with sustainable food system planning.

Existing Situation



- Food production
 - Typical American prepared meal contains, on average, ingredients from at least five countries outside the United States¹
 - American families throw out about 25% of food they buy costing the average family of four \$1,365 to \$2,275 annually; encouraging the growth of regional food systems can help alleviate some of the losses²
- Food processing & distribution
 - Food is processed, preserved, colored, and wrapped
 - Moved from farm to facility to distribution to store to home
- Food access
 - Food deserts
 - 170,000 fast-food restaurants and 3 million soft-drink machines in U.S.³
 - Few neighborhood markets
- Food waste management
 - 14.5 – 21.1% of municipal solid waste is food waste, only 2.0 – 4.8% recovered⁴
 - Composting is largely done at private level

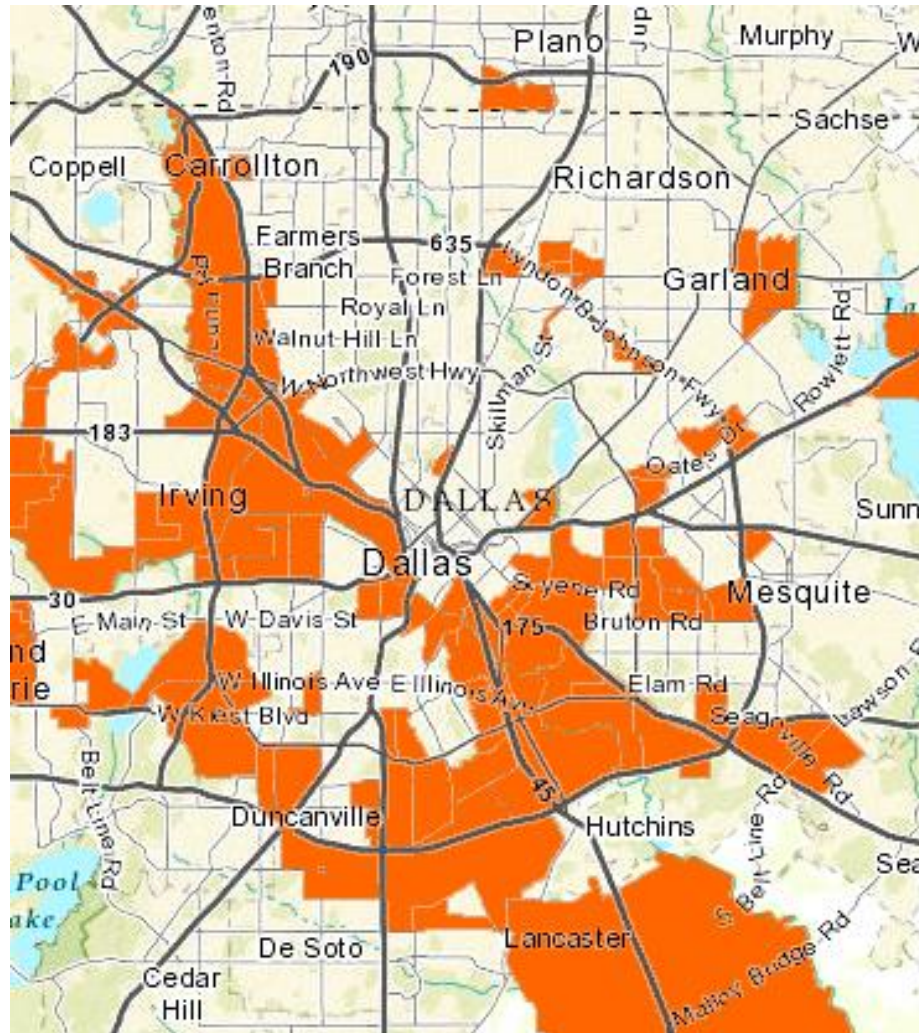
1 <https://food-hub.org/files/resources/Food%20Miles.pdf>

2 <http://www.nrdc.org/food/files/wasted-food-ip.pdf>

3 <http://consumer.healthday.com/encyclopedia/weight-control-39/obesity-health-news-505/what-s-wrong-with-the-american-diet-644659.html>

4 http://epa.gov/epawaste/nonhaz/municipal/pubs/2012_msw_fs.pdf

Dallas Food Deserts



The USDA defines food deserts as: *parts of the country vapid of fresh fruit, vegetables, and other healthful whole foods, usually found in impoverished areas. This is largely due to a lack of grocery stores, farmers' markets, and healthy food providers.*

▼ Low Income (LI) & Low Access (LA) Layers ?

LI and LA at 1 and 10 miles

Low-income census tracts where a significant number or share of residents is more than 1 mile (urban) or 10 miles (rural) from the nearest supermarket

Source: <http://www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/food-access-research-atlas/go-to-the-atlas.aspx>

Opportunity

- Food System Planning
 - Increased access
 - Healthier choices
 - Resource conservation
 - Land use planning
 - Job creation
 - Revenue generation
 - Food independence



Community Garden Ordinance

- Ordinance 28125, passed in 2011, changed Chapter 51 and 51A
- Designed to allow for increased food growth in Dallas



Ordinance was a strong first step but more can be done to increase food access.

City Code – Post Ordinance

- Defines community gardens
 - Does not allow for animal grazing
 - Requires crops be eaten or donated; no sales
 - Did not extend exemption for storage spaces
 - No definitions or allowance for growing structures
- Defines farms
 - Must be over 3 acres
 - Allows for animal grazing but no animal production
 - Allows for crops to be eaten, donated or sold
 - Allows for structures

Opportunities to Grow

- Food production
 - Allow “aquaponics” (closed-system aquaculture)
 - Change size and zoning requirements
 - Encourage sustainable farming practices
 - e.g. – grant(s) to promote water conservation through *growSouth*
- Food processing & distribution
 - Address fees
 - Define structures and uses
 - Eliminate redundant oversight



Opportunities to Grow (continued)

- Food access
 - Allow off-site sales of food
 - Evaluate food delivery mechanisms
- Food waste management
 - Explore opportunities for small scale composting
 - Enable large scale collection

Request

- Economic Development Committee instruct staff to explore needed changes to existing codes to allow for the creation of local, sustainable food systems to help foster entrepreneurialism; keep Dallas dollars in Dallas; improve blighted areas; create jobs; and, increase access to fresh, affordable food for Dallas residents and visitors.

Timeline

- Meet with stakeholders – **November 2014 - January 2015**
- Represent suggested minor code changes to Economic Development Committee – **January 2015**
- Move to full Council for consideration – **February 2015**
- Adoption of minor code amendments – **February 2015**
- Changes effective for spring season – **March 2015**
- Adoption of further code amendments – **to be determined based on need/significance**

Questions

