
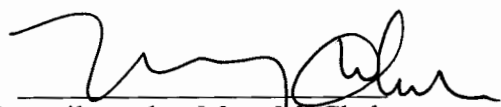


1 
2 Councilmember David Grosso


Councilmember Mary M. Cheh

3
4 A BILL

5 _____
6 IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
7 _____

8 Councilmembers Mary M. Cheh and David Grosso introduced the following bill, which was
9 referred to the Committee on _____.

10
11 To establish a Food Policy Director in the District Department of the Environment to promote
12 food policy in the District, attract new participants to the local food economy, assist
13 individuals already participating in the local food economy, and achieve the food goals
14 identified in the Sustainable DC plan, and to establish a Food Policy Council to identify
15 regulatory burdens on the local food economy, collect and analyze data on the food
16 economy and food equity, promote positive food policies, and guide organizations and
17 individuals involved in the food economy.
18

19 BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this
20 act may be cited as the "Food Policy Council and Director Establishment Act of 2014".

21 Sec. 2. Definitions

22 (a) "Food access" means the ability of an individual or a family to obtain nutritious food
23 within one-half mile of their residence.

24 (b) "Food desert" means an area where an individual cannot obtain a wide selection of
25 fresh produce and other nutritious foods within a one-half mile of the individual's residence.

26 (c) "Local food economy" means an individual, organization, or business involved in the
27 growth, production, distribution, or disposal of food within the District of Columbia. To be a
28 local food economy, an individual, organization, or business must maintain a presence in the
29 District but does not need to operate exclusively within the District.

1 Sec. 3. Establishment of the Food Policy Council.

2 (a) The Mayor shall establish a Food Policy Council, whose purpose shall be to:

3 (1) Identify for the Council of the District of Columbia and relevant agencies
4 regulatory barriers to the development of a local food economy, including barriers to the
5 operations of farmers markets;

6 (2) Collect and analyze data on the local food economy and food access in the
7 District of Columbia, including an assessment of food deserts; and

8 (3) Identify national best practices in food policy and determine how they could
9 be implemented in the District.

10 (b) The Food Policy Council shall provide an annual report to the Council of the District
11 of Columbia on the state of the local food economy and food access across the District. The first
12 report shall be due within 240 days of the effective date of this act. Thereafter, the Food Policy
13 Council shall submit a report on December 31 of each year. The report shall identify national
14 best practices in food policy, assess District food deserts, and recommend revisions to
15 regulations that affect the local food economy and food access.

16 (c) The Food Policy Council may apply for any federal, public, or private grant or
17 funding that would enhance its ability to improve food policy and equity in the District.

18 Sec. 4. Composition; term; qualifications; removal.

19 (a) The Food Policy Council shall consist of 13 voting members appointed by the Mayor
20 with the advice and consent of the Council of the District of Columbia, one of whom shall be the
21 Food Policy Director appointed pursuant to section 5(a). The members shall be equally
22 representative of established public, non-profit, and for-profit entities and organizations involved
23 in the local food economy or food access in the District.

1 (b) Voting members shall serve terms of 3 years; provided, that of the initial members
2 appointed, 4 shall serve for a term of 3 years, 4 shall serve for a term of 2 years, and 4 shall serve
3 for a term of one year. The Food Policy Director shall serve as long as he or she remains in the
4 position. Members may be reappointed but may serve no more than 2 consecutive full terms.

5 (c) When a vacancy develops on the Food Policy Council, the Mayor shall appoint, with
6 the advice and consent of the Council of the District of Columbia, a successor to fill the
7 unexpired portion of the term.

8 (d) Excluding the Food Policy Director, voting members shall be evenly divided into 4
9 working groups to address prominent food policy issues. Each working group shall include a
10 balance among members of public, non-profit, and for-profit entities and organizations involved
11 in the local food economy or food access. The working groups shall make recommendations for
12 food policy to the Food Policy Council to be included in the annual report. The working groups
13 shall focus on the following policy groups:

- 14 (1) Local food business development;
- 15 (2) Food equity, access, and hunger;
- 16 (3) Local and sustainable food procurement; and
- 17 (4) Urban agriculture and health and nutrition.

18 (e) There shall be 8 ex-officio nonvoting members, including Directors of the following
19 departments or their designees:

- 20 (1) Department of Human Services;
- 21 (2) Department of Health;
- 22 (3) Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs;
- 23 (4) Department of Parks and Recreation;

1 (5) Office of the State Superintendent of Education;

2 (6) Office of Planning; and

3 (7) District Department of Transportation.

4 (f) Ex-officio members shall develop and implement policies and programs in their
5 agencies to uphold the Food Policy Council's purposes. They shall meet with the Food Policy
6 Director and the Food Policy Council at least quarterly each year to assist the Food Policy
7 Director and Food Policy Council in coordinating plans and policies that are beneficial to the
8 local food economy and improving food access in the District. They shall work with the Food
9 Policy Director and Council to examine existing regulations and policies that may be overly
10 burdensome as applied to the local food economy.

11 (g) The voting members shall elect a chairperson of the Food Policy Council. The
12 chairperson shall name voting members to working groups. All members shall serve without
13 compensation.

14 (h) The Food Policy Council shall develop its own rules of procedure.

15 (i) The Food Policy Council shall meet at least every other month. The meetings shall be
16 held in the District and be open to the public. Members of the public shall be allowed to bring
17 questions or concerns about food policy to the Food Policy Council. A quorum to transact
18 business shall consist of a majority of the voting members.

19 Sec. 5. Appointment of Director; compensation; staff

20 (a) The Mayor shall appoint a Food Policy Director within the District Department of the
21 Environment.

22 (b) The Director shall:

1 (1) Collaborate with other jurisdictions and seek outside grants, recognition, and
2 partnerships;

3 (2) Provide assistance to participants in the local food economy in securing
4 necessary permits and approvals and in navigating the regulatory process;

5 (3) Advocate for new local food economy ventures to locate in the District;

6 (4) Plan ways for the District to meet the food goals identified in the Sustainable
7 DC Plan issued by the Mayor in 2013; and

8 (5) Work with relevant agencies to reduce regulatory burdens on the local food
9 economy.

10 Sec. 6. Fiscal impact statement.

11 The Council adopts the fiscal impact statement in the committee report as the fiscal
12 impact statement required by section 602(c)(3) of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act,
13 approved December 24, 1973 (87 Stat. 813; D.C. Official Code § 1-206.02(c)(3)).

14 Sec. 7. Effective date.

15 This act shall take effect following approval by the Mayor (or in the event of veto by the
16 Mayor, action by the Council to override the veto), a 30-day period of Congressional review as
17 provided in section 602(c)(1) of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act, approved December
18 24, 1973 (87 Stat. 813; D.C. Official Code § 1-206.02(c)(1)), and publication in the District of
19 Columbia Register.