



Roll Call Number

20.2138

Agenda Item Number

49

Date December 21, 2020

CREATING THE DES MOINES FOOD SECURITY TASK FORCE

WHEREAS, food is one of the most basic physical human needs and food insecurity is and remains an ongoing problem in addressing that physical need, not just in Des Moines but throughout the Nation; and

WHEREAS, climate change has significantly impacted—and will continue to impact—food security for many Des Moines residents, both directly and indirectly and the Des Moines City Council (“Council”) wishes to acknowledge this pressing need and take action to help address such an important issue; and

WHEREAS, the COVID pandemic has exacerbated and highlighted ongoing vulnerabilities that our food system experiences, including empty grocery store shelves, supply chain issues; racial disparities in mortality rates exacerbated by underlying diet-related chronic conditions; children going hungry, unable to receive daily calories from school meals; long lines waiting at food banks; and other issues within the community and across the Nation; and

WHEREAS, the formation of a Des Moines Food Security Task Force (“Task Force”) would help Des Moines residents interested in growing food for their own personal consumption and could gather data and information to assist the Council in helping its residents feed themselves as projections of scarcity increase and local food self-reliance becomes more important.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DES MOINES, IOWA, as follows:

The City Council hereby creates the Des Moines Food Security Task Force, composed of seven members, each appointed by a member of the Council, with backgrounds, skills, experience and abilities as follows:

- a. Three people with urban farm experience in the City of Des Moines;
- b. One restaurant or other business owner who sources and uses local foods;
- c. One person with experience caring for fruit and nut trees;
- d. One person who has raised poultry or other livestock within the City; and
- e. One farmer or other market professional involved with farm-to-market production.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Task Force is charged with three specific goals, including:

- a. Working with the City Manager to develop and promote urban agricultural practices through various activities as the Manager may determine, such as creating links on the City’s website regarding City codes affecting food growing in the City, an FAQ document concerning urban agricultural laws and measures, and other activities.



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- b. Research best practices related to urban agriculture from other cities/urban areas, comparing to City practices and make whatever recommendations for amendments to Des Moines ordinances based on those practices.
- c. Develop a resource guide for inclusion on the City's website and in other appropriate media, about where to find tools, soil, compost, seeds, seedlings, laying hens, honey bees, other urban agriculture equipment, supplies, and guidance.

Moved by Voss to adopt.

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

/S/

COUNCIL ACTION	YEAS	NAYS	PASS	ABSENT
COWNIE	✓			
BOESEN	✓			
VOSS	✓			
GATTO	✓			
GRAY	✓			
MANDELBAUM	✓			
WESTERGAARD	✓			
TOTAL	7			

CERTIFICATE

I, P. Kay Cmelik, City Clerk of said City hereby certify that at a meeting of the City Council of said City of Des Moines, held on the above date, among other proceedings the above was adopted.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal the day and year first above written.

MOTION CARRIED APPROVED

J. M. Franklin Cownie
Mayor

P. Kay Cmelik
City Clerk