



Grocery Store Incubator Program

Metro Health

Item 14

COUNCIL CONSIDERATION REQUEST



Background:

- Submitted February 6, 2025 by Council District 2
- Supported by Council Districts 1, 3, 6 and 9

Request:

- Establish a Grocery Store Incubator Program, designed to support small, locally owned grocery stores in food desert areas.
- Initiative will ensure that historically underserved communities have greater access to fresh food options while fostering local economic development and improving public health outcomes.
- Program would provide financial assistance, technical support, and site selection assistance to entrepreneurs and community-based organizations committed to opening and sustaining grocery stores in high-need areas.

CURRENT COSA EFFORTS TO SUPPORT FOOD SYSTEMS



Economic Development:

- Oversees the Incentive Fund which includes the ability to "support other City departments' goals that align with Chapter 380, the EDIF Program Guidelines, and the City's ability to disperse EDIF funds."
- Partners with Geekdom to operate LaunchSA, a one-stop-shop for small business owners and entrepreneurs agnostic of industry.

Metro Health:

- Conducted a city-wide Food Insecurity Assessment.
- Provides technical support to enroll selected grocery stores into the Double Up Food Bucks as part of the Healthy Corner Store initiative to make fruits and vegetables more affordable for SNAP participants.

Office of Resilience and World Heritage Office:

- Hosted 2025 Food Systems Summit and will utilize participant recommendations to issue a State of the Food System Report.
- Currently co-developing an inventory of food programs across city departments to conduct a Food Systems Vulnerability Assessment.

Office of Sustainability:

- Offers Community & Business Grants to help small business, local organizations, and nonprofits support community gardens, urban agricultural projects and climate ready initiatives.
- Works with the Climate Ready Neighborhood Network to support food access through food distribution, education, resource pods.

Staff Recommendation



Next Steps

Metro Health work with departments including, but not limited to: Economic Development, World Heritage Office, Office of Sustainability and Office of Resiliency.

Staff recommends this item be considered in the next budget goal setting session.