



**CITY OF SAN ANTONIO
OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL
COUNCIL CONSIDERATION REQUEST**

TO: Mayor and City Council
FROM: Jalen McKee-Rodriguez; Ana Sandoval
COPIES TO: Erik Walsh, City Manager; Debbie Racca-Sittre, City Clerk; Andy Segovia, City Attorney; John Peterek, Assistant to the City Manager; Emily McGinn, Assistant to City Council
SUBJECT: Food Access Master Plan
DATE: January 11, 2022

Issue Proposed for Consideration:

I ask for your support for the inclusion of the following item on the agenda of the earliest available meeting of the Governance Committee:

Concurrence in directing the City staff to establish a strategic master plan to address disparities in food access across San Antonio. Policies should include, but not be limited to:

- (1) Programs to expand or incentivize development of healthy food retail,
- (2) Development and incentivization of local food gardens,
- (3) A city-owned vacant lot program that encourages community gardening,
- (4) Expansion of the food forest pilot program to city-owned land, and
- (5) Collaboration with VIA to establish bus routes that connect neighborhoods without existing access to fresh, quality, affordable food to a network of grocery stores.

Brief Background:

On August 20, 2020, the City of San Antonio declared racism a public health crisis. This was not a feel-good resolution, but a declaration of intent to address disparities that perpetuate cycles of inequity and harm to people and communities of color.

Across the nation, including in San Antonio, neighborhoods of color have been denied access to quality, affordable food. As San Antonio has developed a reputation as the most economically segregated city in the country, largely owed to its history as a racially segregated city, food insecurity has continued to plague communities with limited access to jobs, healthcare, childcare, greenspace, and recreational activity.

The plan should be developed in coordination with Metro Health's Office of Health Equity, Healthy Corner Stores Program, and Healthy Neighborhoods Program, the Office of Innovation, Parks & Recreation Department, and the Food Policy Council of San Antonio.

Deserts occur naturally, while *food deserts* are the result of policy and economic decisions. The master plan should endeavor to increase access to affordable quality produce in strategic, innovative ways; to align with current environmental and sustainability goals, community development plans, and to address racism as a public health crisis.

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Submitted for Council consideration by:

J-M-R [Signature]
Jalen McKee-Rodriguez Ana Sandoval
Councilman, District 2 Councilwoman, District 7

Supporting Councilmembers' Signatures

District

1. [Signature]
2. [Signature]
3. [Signature]

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