

TO: General Government Committee
FROM: Dana Bowers, Associate Planner
DATE: March 18, 2025
SUBJECT: Food System Plan – Development Update

1) Recommended Action:

No action is requested. This is an update with the consultant about the initial steps in the process of developing a Food System Plan for the City. The consultant will present results from subject matter interviews including key themes. She will share the next steps of the process and will answer questions from the committee.

2) Background:

The City Council included the preparation of a City Food System Plan to address community concerns with food insecurity on the local level on the 2025 Long Range Planning Work Program.

City staff have been working with our consultant Rebeca Potasnik to prepare a Plan that focuses on supporting ways to access food more effectively and consider the role of local and community-based agriculture activities, such as community gardens and local producers and processors to build a more resilient food system.

The Plan will focus on how to provide healthy food to the community, reduce food waste, support local food processing, eliminate barriers, address gaps in the current system, produce solutions to implement at appropriate scale, and identify how to maintain and update resource materials through jurisdictional and community partners.

The General Government Committee was originally briefed on the project on November 13, 2024. This following up work session with the General Government Committee will provide a summary of the themes and key messages from subject matter experts. The Community Food Assessment includes the work to gather community input and review existing plans and literature from other jurisdictions. The consultant will return to the General Government Committee April 15, 2025, to present the findings.

3) Policy Support:

Strategic Priority: Build a Community Recognized for Quality, Compassion and Humanity.

4) Alternatives:

None

5) Fiscal Notes:

Preparation of the Plan is internally funded.

6) Attachments:

- A. Staff Memorandum
- B. Consultant Memorandum