Citywide Administrative Services

PROPOSED INT. NO. 248-A
NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL
COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS

TESTIMONY BY RANDAL FONG
FIRST ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER, ASSET MANAGEMENT
DEPARTMENT OF CITYWIDE ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES
JUNE 16, 2011

Good morning Chair Brewer and members of the Governmental Operations Committee. I am Randal Fong, First Assistant Commissioner of Asset Management for the Department of Citywide Administrative Services (DCAS). On behalf of Commissioner Edna Wells Handy, I would like to thank you for this opportunity to discuss Proposed Int. No. 248-A, in relation to establishing reporting requirements for the Department of Citywide Administrative Services on the status of City-owned real property. While the Administration supports the spirit of the legislation as it relates to government transparency and information sharing, we do not support the bill as drafted.

Integrated Property Information System

DCAS maintains the Integrated Property Information System (IPIS), which is a collection of data points regarding 15,000 properties owned or used by the City. Some of the data is collected and maintained by DCAS. However, the majority of the data that describe property characteristics is imported from other City agencies that collect the information and are responsible for maintaining the integrity of the data field.

The data in IPIS is already publicly available as part of the NYC DataMine, the Gazetteer of City Property, and other sources. Over 30 IPIS fields are transmitted to the NYC DataMine as one of DCAS's data sets that are updated annually. Moreover, the Gazetteer of City Property is produced in conjunction with the Department of City Planning (DCP) every other year. The Gazetteer is an important data source that is specific to City property and uses. Last year, the Gazetteer was produced in an electronic format, which was also linked to DCAS's IPIS DataMine files to prevent duplication of the data.

City-Owned Real Property Portfolio

The City-owned real property portfolio is not increasing. In the early 1990s, the City ceased taking property through tax foreclosure. Instead, the City sells tax liens through the Department of Finance, so new properties are not entering the City's real estate portfolio. Properties in the portfolio have been primarily used by the Department of Housing Preservation and Development for new affordable housing; the Economic Development Corporation for new economic development projects; and City agencies for parkland expansion or siting other City facilities. The City's real estate portfolio has been mainly assigned to different City agencies to meet legal mandates and agency missions, such as improving parks, siting schools, and providing infrastructure needs. The remaining surplus City-owned properties are generally very small, have an irregular shape or configuration, and are not developable or useful for urban agriculture or economic development sites.

Proposed Int. No. 248-A

Proposed Int. No. 248-A would require DCAS to report on 74 data fields regarding "all City-owned and leased real property." Private properties leased by the City serve specific agency uses. The City leases private sites generally for office use, and in many cases, a number of floors are leased within a single office building. There are non-office sites that the City leases as well, such as parking lots and senior centers. Lease terms govern the City's use of private properties, which restrict the permitted use of the property to particular agency purposes. Any modification in relation to the City's use of private property requires landlord consent. As properties leased by the City for agency uses are privately controlled, such properties are not suitable for conversions for use as community recreational space or food production sites. Accordingly, leased properties should not be considered as potential sites for purposes outside of serving specific City agency needs.

Of the 74 data fields included in the legislation, DCAS is uniquely responsible for only 4. The remaining fields require information that is collected and maintained by other City agencies. Most of these data fields are collected by the Department of Finance, and are currently available on their website. These data fields are also available through DCP as part of the Primary Land Use Tax Lot Output (PLUTO™) data compilation. Some additional fields require data produced by DCP, the Office of Environmental Remediation, and the Economic Development Corporation.

As DCAS collects only a small subset of the 74 required data fields, DCAS would only be responsible for compiling the rest of the data fields maintained by other City agencies pursuant to the legislation, but cannot be accountable for ensuring the integrity of data produced by other City agencies. Each agency is responsible for their own data management depending on agency needs, staff resources, and technological capacity. DCAS has no authority over other agencies to certify that the data is produced and transmitted. Should an agency decide to revise the type or scope of data it collects, DCAS cannot be held liable if such a modification by an agency results in an inability to report on one or more of the required data fields in the bill.

Furthermore, the data fields provided in Proposed Int. No. 248-A are already largely accessible to the public on the NYC DataMine. Each agency ensures the accuracy and transmission of the data sets on the NYC DataMine. NYC DataMine data sets are also updated on a regular basis.

For the data required in the legislation to be useful to the public in an effort to identify potential sites for uses such as community gardens or food production, the fields provided in the bill are not all relevant or helpful for such purposes. Data fields such as assessed value or condominium number will not support the evaluation of property for community or food production uses. City property characteristics, such as size or zoning, are relevant, but please note that such data is already available online.

Thank you again for this opportunity to testify about Proposed Int. No. 248-A. I am pleased to answer any questions you may have.

Testimony of Kim Kessler
Food Policy Coordinator
Office of the Deputy Mayor for Health and Human Services

Before the Committee on Governmental Operations

New York City Council

June 16, 2011

Good afternoon Chair Brewer and members of the Committee on Governmental Operations. Thank you for inviting me to testify today. I'm Kim Kessler, the Food Policy Coordinator for the City of New York. I will be offering testimony on the preconsidered bill in relation to establishing reporting requirements regarding the production, processing, distribution and consumption of food in and for the city.

I would like to begin by thanking Speaker Quinn, Chair Brewer, and the City Council for their leadership on food and nutrition in the City. As you know, much of the City's successful food policy is the result of collaboration between the Council and the Administration. Together, we responded to the need for better retail access in underserved communities by creating Green Carts and the FRESH program. Last week, the Speaker and the Administration together announced incentives for food manufacturing jobs in the City. The Speaker has helped to equip farmers markets with food stamp terminals so that HRA administered food stamps can be used to purchase healthy food. And, of course, the Council and the Administration worked together to create the position of Food Policy Coordinator that I now hold.

These are just a few of the successes that we have achieved through working together. We are certain that with the Speaker's leadership through FoodWorks, we will achieve much more in the next two and a half years.

All of these achievements have been possible due to rigorous analysis of City needs and of the programs we implement to meet those needs. We have worked hard to ensure that our programs do not just sound promising, but also achieve their desired ends. We monitor our programs and make appropriate changes and course corrections as necessary. This is consistent with the Administration's overall commitment to data driven policy and government accountability. We therefore agree with the underlying principle of this preconsidered bill: that

evaluation, information, and feedback are important in gauging the success of our programs and assessing where the greatest needs are.

While the Administration would like to work with the Council to develop workable reporting requirements, we also caution members of the Committee that some of the provisions of this bill are not at all feasible as currently drafted. Some of the proposed metrics involve working with complex information sets, or require information from third parties, including small businesses, who themselves don't track the information requested. Examples of these include the provision relating to the country and state of origin of DOE's food products, the provision relating to the amount of grocery store space per capita, and the data requested from Hunts Point wholesale markets vendors, who would likely view the requested information as proprietary and confidential. Though we recognize the importance of data, we are also mindful of significant costs that will be associated with collecting certain types of information (particularly information that must be requested of vendors and third parties), as well as the administrative burdens for already strained agencies.

In some cases the Administration's current data collection and monitoring already overlap with the data requested in the proposed metrics legislation. For instance, the Department of Health is conducting an evaluation of both the Green Carts program and Healthy Bodegas program to ensure that they are helping to address issues of healthy food access in underserved communities. The information that is sought with regard to these programs in the proposed legislation in large part corresponds to information that DOHMH already tracks, and can be reported to the Council.

In other cases, however, the proposed legislation requests information that is not currently captured by agencies and will be difficult or impossible to obtain. For example, the

draft legislation requests the "the number and value of city contracts awarded to food processors located in the city." However, the Financial Management System (FMS), which is the City's data base of record for contracts, does not categorize businesses by industry and therefore does not specify whether a processor *per se* sells food to the City. The City buys food products (both processed and unprocessed) from whoever bids for those contracts – the bidder could be a processor, but it could also be a distributor, broker or producer. Thus, city agencies are not capable of identifying those contracts awarded to "food processors."

We also urge the Council to consider a more extended timetable in advance of the first reporting deadline. We are concerned that a deadline of December 1, 2011 does not allow sufficient time for preparation of a complete initial report. Some agencies may be able to report on metrics quite quickly, but other metrics will require additional analysis before we can determine whether or not the information is available and in what form it may be obtained. Allowing adequate time before implementation of any metrics legislation will ensure that the Administration can report accurate, meaningful data to inform policy discussion and analysis.

These are just a few examples of why we must work together to ensure that the metrics mandated by the bill achieve the goal of informing sound and responsible policy. By adhering to this objective, we feel that there is a great deal of room for the Administration and City Council to work together. And we look forward to doing so.

I would like to thank you for the opportunity to discuss the City's ongoing efforts to improve the health of New Yorkers. I am available to answer any questions you may have.

NEW YORK CITY COALITION AGAINST HUNGER
moving families beyond the soup kitchen

Testimony of Joel Berg, Executive Director
New York City Coalition Against Hunger

Before the Hearing of the New York City Council Committee on Governmental Operations Regarding the Bills to Establish an Annual Food Metrics Report and One That Would Require Comprehensive Database of City Owned Real Estate

June 16, 2011

I am Joel Berg, Executive Director of the New York City Coalition Against Hunger. I am testifying on behalf of the city's more than 1,200 soup kitchens and food pantries – and the more than 1.4 million New Yorkers who live in households that can't afford enough food. I want to first thank the Committee on Governmental Operations and Chairwoman Brewer for holding this hearing and for all her amazing leadership on hunger and nutrition issues. I also want thank Speaker Quinn for all her stellar leadership on food issues.

Mayor Bloomberg frequently says: "if you can't measure it, you can't manage it." Thus, I hope his administration can support these two common sense bills – both supported by the New York City Coalition Against Hunger – that would better collect and report on the data necessary to ensure effective food, nutrition, and hunger-related policies in New York City.

Proposed Intro. No. 248-A

This legislation would amend the New York City charter in relation to establishing reporting requirements for the department of citywide administrative services on the status of city-owned real property. I note that one of the requirements of the legislation is that the City report on whether each property it owns is suitable for urban agriculture, which would make it easier for groups that support urban agriculture and community gardens, such as ours, to obtain vital information to help us locate land which is becoming increasingly scarce, for such purposes.

While urban agriculture and community gardens, even if expanded greatly, would only meet a small part of the city's food needs, such projects still have the ability to create jobs, reclaim abandoned land for positive community purposes, and give at least some New Yorkers the opportunity to produce more nutritious food for themselves.

Furthermore, the data produced by such reporting could be used by housing advocates to potentially locate more sites for affordable housing. Given that high housing costs are one of the greatest contributors to hunger in New York City, we strongly support making such data available.

A LOCAL LAW *to amend the New York city charter..."*

We strongly support the effort to amend the New York City charter in relation to establishing reporting requirements regarding the production, processing, distribution and consumption of food in and for the city. We believe that all the metrics required by the bill are highly useful ones but would like to make a number of technical suggestions for improving the bill:

Section 1.Section 20 of Chapter 1: (proposed) subdivision j. We suggest that each annual report cover a City fiscal year, and that each report be due no later than September 1 of each year, two months after the close of each fiscal year.

iii. We suggest this be clarified to include urban farms, as well as gardens.

vi. We suggest that manufacturers receiving government subsides also be required to report on how many workers they employ, as well as the average, the highest, and the lowest wages for those employees, and whether they provide health care and other benefits to the employees.

xi. We suggest that food retailers receiving government subsides through the FRESH Program not only report on how many workers they employ, but also on the average, the highest, and the lowest wages for those employees, and whether they provide health care and other benefits to those employees.

xxi. The federal government has renamed the Food Stamp Program, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). However, since the State of New York has not yet adopted SNAP as the new name for the Food Stamp Program, we suggest that the legislation still call it the Food Stamp Program for legal clarity. Furthermore, we suggest replacing this language: *"the number of cases of fraud detected by finger imaging, and the number of applicants referred for criminal prosecution on account of information obtained by finger imaging"* with this language: ***"the number of cases of provable fraud detected by finger imaging, if any, and the number of applicants referred for criminal prosecution on account of information obtained by finger imaging, if any. If no actual fraud is detected and/or if no people accused of fraud are referred for criminal prosecution, then the City should affirmatively report as such."*** We are convinced that if the City were to accurately report all this data it would provide further proof for our well-supported contention that finger-imaging costs large sums of money and fails to detect fraud.

xxviii. We suggest replacing this language: *"the volume of food served annually through city-administered emergency food programs"* with this language: ***"the dollar amount or poundage of food distributed annually through the Human Resource Administration's Emergency Food Assistance Program (EFAP), based on data already in possession by the City, including food banks, food rescue organizations, food pantries, and soup kitchens, as well as an annual list of the number, name, and address of each site and organization receiving food and the dollar amount or poundage each organization received from EFAP."***

xxxii. We suggest clarifying that the legislation is only requiring this data from city-operated markets, including those run by Grow NYC.

We also suggest that the metrics in the bill also include the following:

- The total number of households and residents eligible for food stamp benefits but not receiving them.

- The total number of DOE students receiving school breakfast on a daily basis, as both a raw number and as a percentage of children receiving school lunch on a daily basis, broken down by school.

- The total number of schools and classrooms participating in the Breakfast in the Classroom or "Grab and Go" breakfast programs.

- The total number of after school snacks and after school meals served by DOE and the number of sites at which they are served.

- The total number of Summer Food Service Program meals served and provided by DOE at all sites and the total number of sites (both open and closed).

- The total number of people who call **"311"** with food-related inquiries and the HRA Food Hotline, along with a breakdown of top items of inquiry.

We believe that those changes would make a good bill even better. Virtually all the data suggested is already collected by the City so there would be very little additional burden placed on the City to comply.

Admitting the extent of a problem is the first step in solving it and knowing the size of a problem is the first step in admitting it. Therefore, we do believe collecting this data can provide the useful tools needed to meet our ultimate objective: ending hunger in New York City.

Thank you again Chairwoman Brewer, and members of this committee, for the opportunity to speak in support of this legislation.

Testimony of Kubi Ackerman
Project Manager, Urban Design Lab at the Earth Institute, Columbia University

Before the New York City Council
Committee on Governmental Operations
Regarding Proposed Int. No. 248-A
To amend the New York City charter, in relation to establishing reporting requirements for the Department of Citywide Administrative services on the status of city-owned real property.

June 16, 2011

On behalf of the Urban Design Lab at Columbia University (UDL), I would like to thank the Council for holding this hearing. The Urban Design Lab is a non-profit research and design organization that works to find innovative solutions to sustainable development issues facing New York and other cities. Our work encompasses issues related to climate change adaptation, green infrastructure, and food systems, and all of our research involves data on land use and property in the City. We are able to conduct our work thanks to the existence of resources such as the Dept. of City Planning's (DCP) MaPLUTO dataset, which allow us to assess such variables as the potential implications of an increase in severe weather events on the city's stormwater infrastructure or areas which may have suitable conditions for urban agriculture. While these existing resources are invaluable, there are several reasons why we believe this proposal is important.

(I). The existing DCP data can be inaccurate or out-of-date, and is not comprehensive. Many lots are misclassified, multiple uses of individual lots are not reflected in the data, and there is no centralized source of information on transportation or utility easements on city-owned property, for example. For our work, it would be immensely helpful if a more accurate and accessible source for this type of information were available and easily searchable.

(II). It is particularly important that detailed information on real property owned by city agencies be collected and regularly updated. Many of the critical social and environmental issues that the city is facing will require forward-thinking land-use policies. City agencies can have direct impact on the use of lands under their jurisdiction, which represent the greatest opportunity for implementing such policies.. Without a comprehensive database on the status of city-owned property, it will be increasingly difficult for policymakers and researchers to accurately assess existing resources and the potential future impacts of long-term land-use planning decisions. While I can't speak for any other entity, I imagine that the work of city agencies such as the Mayor's Office of Long-Term Planning and Sustainability would be greatly benefitted by such a resource.

(III). Finally, the most important provision in this bill is section 3, stipulating that the information be made available and accessible to the public. City owned land is a public resource, and access to information on its use should not be limited to academics, governmental agencies, and private sector interests. At the UDL, we use Geographic Information Systems (GIS) software and other tools to evaluate property uses and characteristics, but this software is expensive and requires specialized skills to use. Our license agreements prohibit us from sharing some of the results of our work with members of the public, from whom we often field requests for information. I believe that solving the complex challenges we are facing as a City will require engaged and informed public participation. Effective decisions on the use of public land require not only the input of researchers and experts – civic organizations, community groups, and individual members of affected communities often have important insight on local conditions and needs. By ensuring that they have access to important information on where city-owned property is located and how it is currently used, this initiative could assist communities in developing creative strategies for underutilized land (which, as we all know, is an exceedingly precious resource in NYC) and encourage greater public participation in the critical decisions affecting land use and development in our city.

From Vacant Land to Urban Farms and Gardens

Just Food Testimony, June 16, 2011

Just Food supports the legislation Int. 248-A calling for the establishment of a free-of-charge, searchable database of city-owned property on the city's website, and particularly supports the call for the database to include information regarding "whether the property is suitable for urban agriculture." (section g74)

Since 1995, Just Food has worked with communities to make fresh, locally grown food accessible throughout New York City. Our City Farms Program in particular has worked to increase the amount of food grown, sold and distributed by New York City community gardeners and urban farmers to their neighborhoods.

Time and again we hear from urban farmers and gardeners—new and experienced, young and old—about the challenges of finding land to grow food in their communities.

A free, searchable database to help urban growers find and transform underutilized land into places where communities can grow food would:

- help more New Yorkers of every neighborhood secure an affordable, delicious and nutritious source of fresh produce for themselves, their families, and even their neighbors.

- (It would) provide more places where food is grown, marketed and distributed to the community through farmers markets, farm-stands and donation to food pantries and soup kitchens, and where cooking demonstrations and nutritional information can help transform food-related health epidemic many of our communities are facing.

- (It would also) help address the City's greening, climate and environmental challenges. Food grown in urban environments can bypass the greenhouse gas emissions too often generated by food production, transport and waste, and the green spaces that urban agriculture projects provide reflect radiation from the sun, significantly reducing the city's 'heat island effect.'

We applaud the City Council Speaker for including this proposal in the FoodWorks report, which calls for the creation of a new searchable database of all city-owned and leased properties that would "provide useful information to stakeholders seeking urban agriculture land" as well as those seeking new space for other food uses. We are also encouraged by the Mayor's recently updated PlaNYC 2030, which commits to "take a full inventory of municipal land and identify properties that could be suitable for urban agriculture." Adoption of this legislation would help provide urban growers with an invaluable tool in our collective efforts for a greener, healthier New York City.

Thank you.

NRDC
THE EARTH'S BEST DEFENSE

NATURAL RESOURCES DEFENSE COUNCIL

Statement of the Natural Resources Defense Council
Before the New York City Council Committee on Governmental Operations
Re: Preconsidered Intro on NYC Food Metrics
June 16, 2011

Good Morning, my name is Mark A. Izeman and I am a Senior Attorney and Director of the New York Urban Program for the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC). I am joined today by my NRDC colleagues Ellie Tarlow and Jennifer Klein.

As you many know, NRDC is a national environmental organization that has worked for four decades on environmental and public health issues in the New York region. We have worked closely with the City Council on many path-breaking environmental laws over the years -- including on recycling, energy efficiency and green procurement -- that have become model statutes for other cities around the nation.

The City Council now has the opportunity to enact a model food law -- or laws – that could also serve as model approach for other metropolitan regions.

We commend the Council, under the leadership of Speaker Quinn, for holding this hearing on two new bills that would help advance the superb "FoodWorks" plan for improving New York City's food system. These bills, coupled with the food bills that were considered at a Council hearing in February, represent an important first step in forging new model legislation.

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My brief statement today will focus on Councilmember Dickens's Preconsidered Intro on NYC food metrics. In short, this bill would mandate that the Director of Office of Long-Term Planning and Sustainability prepare an annual, detailed report on the "production, processing, distribution and consumption of food in and for the city." The bill lays out a long list of reporting requirements, including (a) how much each city agency spends each year on food products each year, broken down by country and state of origin; (b) the number of food businesses located in the city; and (c) the volume of food distributed through the Hunts Point Produce Market, also disaggregated by origin.

NRDC is broadly supportive of the goals of this bill because we believe that improved reporting can help us to better understand the current state of New York City's food system and provide a way to measure progress towards the 12 goals set forth in FoodWorks.

At the same time, as we testified at the February food hearing, we believe that any final package of food bills advanced by the Council should incorporate **concrete government purchasing targets to measurably increase the amount of sustainable, local food available in the city.**

There are pressing environmental, health and economic reasons for using the city's considerable purchasing power to boost the supply of local, sustainable food in New York – and there is no reason why the Council should wait to take action on this

front while at the same time putting in place mechanisms to better track important food metrics. Further, by following this approach, any reporting requirements that are ultimately adopted would help to reinforce and implement the underlying substantive food buying targets that the Council decides to establish – and not be viewed as just another tracking requirement for agencies that is not tied to clear benchmarks.

So what are the compelling reasons for establishing food-purchasing targets now?

Well, for one thing, increasing food purchasing from regional farms could have immediate environmental benefits. New York State is losing an astounding 70 acres of farmland every day! By supporting local farms and increasing our purchasing of regional food, we can act now to preserve important undeveloped farmland surrounding the City that protects the landscape, natural resources, and wildlife habitat. This is particularly critical in the unfiltered New York watershed of the Catskills region where ill-considered sprawl development and even gas drilling continue to threaten our irreplaceable water supply. And at the risk of sounding overly dramatic, promoting local, sustainable food can help address many of the largest environmental problems facing our city and country – including climate change, water pollution, and reliance on fossil fuels.

Increasing the City's purchasing of local, sustainable food can also have significant public health benefits. A 2005 report showed that fruit and vegetables lose

nutrients each day after they have been harvested -- and after only three days, they have lost 40 percent of their nutritional value. And even though New York has the potential to supply this local, healthy food -- and it is ranked in the top five in the country in growing more than a dozen different fruits and vegetables – every day 3.3 million New York City residents have difficulty obtaining fresh food. This problem is strikingly apparent in the roughly 1,700 NYC schools where, according to the most recent data, nearly half of children in kindergarten through eighth grade were found to be overweight or obese. Since school meals provide some of the 1.1 million children with their only consistent access to nutritional food, ensuring a higher level of healthy, local food in the school system could have immediate health advantages.

And there are also economic benefits to be reaped if the City were to better take advantage of its purchasing power to create a steady demand for health, local food. Here are a few facts. Currently, less than 20 percent of New York State's farms make more than $100,000 annually, and farmers in New York earn roughly half as much per acre as farmers do nationally. Increasing demand of local food would not only promote growth in our agricultural industry, but also would have a multiplier effect on job opportunities in New York at large: for every job created in the food manufacturing industry, two additional jobs are created in the economy, and for every job on New York's dairy farms an additional 1.24 jobs are created.

I will now elaborate in more detail on our specific recommendation for enhancing the Council's package of food bills.

The first component of our recommendation is to incorporate concrete targets for the purchasing of local food by city agencies. Of course, any such requirement could focus on one or several large agencies -- including the NYC schools -- as a first step before broadening its scope in future years. One of the most significant environmental laws ever passed by the Council was its landmark recycling law of 1989 (Local Law 19). The inclusion of specific numerical recycling levels helped ensured that the Department of Sanitation devoted the necessary resources and commitment to advance what is now the nation's largest municipal recycling program. While we have not yet fully met the recycling levels set forth in that original bill – and which the Council amended last year with new 10-year goals – there is little question that we would not have made the progress we did without some benchmarks to measure success. We respectfully suggest this Committee, and the Council as whole, consider following this approach with respect to food purchasing.

The second element of our recommendation is to ensure that the City not just boost its purchasing of local food, but local food that is *sustainably produced.* Thus, any final legislation should incorporate standards that reflect careful consideration of the environmental and health implications of an unsustainable food system. For example, antibiotic and pesticide use should be discouraged or avoided completely.

The Council could also consider taking into account the treatment of animals in food production. And perhaps some or all of the purchasing requirements could link to the well-established organic certification system run the US Department of Agriculture.

We recognize that incorporating concrete purchasing targets with sustainability standards requires more than just tweaking the set of food bills now before the Council. But, like this body has done many times in the past, you have a golden opportunity to lead the nation on a cutting-edge environmental issue. No city or state has yet adopted a local food bill along the lines we have outlined. New York City should be the first to act.

In closing, we applaud the City Council for addressing the subject of local food purchasing and consumption in New York. And NRDC stands ready to work with you to strengthen the proposals to integrate new concrete purchasing targets and sustainability standards

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify today.

Food Systems Network NYC Testimony at June 16 City Council Hearing

My name is Shanti Prasad and I'm the Food Policy Committee Co-chair at Food Systems Network NYC. The Food Systems Network is a not-for-profit, membership organization dedicated to helping ensure the health and well being of New York City residents through universal access to wholesome, nutritious, safe food and to supporting the viability of our regional farm and food economy. I have a master's degree in Food Systems and have done community organizing and advocacy work with The Brooklyn Food Coalition and Slow Food to improve access to nutritious food and strengthen our regional food systems.

I want to express my and Food Systems Network NYC's support for the food metrics reporting bill and the city land inventory reporting bill. I commend the entire Council and specifically, Council Member Dickens for continuing the conversation that was started with FoodWorks, *the Speaker's vision for New York City's food system*, and now focusing on taking that important step of assessing the impact of city agencies' purchasing power and the New York regional foodshed and food economy as a whole. The food systems metrics bill sets measures that will give the City and its food advocates a snapshot of the current state of our food system to provide a foundation for all future initiatives and monitor the city's progress and effectiveness. It is also a key implementation step consistent with the food and other sustainability goals in the Office of Long Range Planning and Sustainability's PlaNYC by taking a holistic approach to the City's food system, from production through disposal. The bill does this by setting metrics for each important phase of the food system, including where food purchased by and in New York City comes from, whether city food programs are effectively encouraging local production and processing, and the economic and environmental

impact of distribution.

New York's regional capacity as a significant agricultural and food producer may be obvious, but to date, little formal study exists regarding the actual and potential capacity of our regional and local production. By passing this legislation, the City will be better able to measure the effectiveness of its current efforts to support a regional foodshed and to identify the potential strengths that enhance our local and regional food systems as well as the gaps that weaken them. This will then make it possible for the City to target future initiatives and opportunities that can improve and increase local and regional food production and processing, and better connect New York City eaters and food entrepreneurs with more local and regional producers. In short, we need to know where we are now in order to know where we want to go in the future and what route to take.

The mapping bill is similarly vital to create a baseline measure of city-owned land available and suitable for urban agriculture and I also thank the coalition of council members introducing this bill. New York City neighborhoods have enjoyed an increase in urban agriculture in recent years by virtue of the good work of organizations that seek to increase and promote local food sources and help connect consumers to the producers of their food. East New York Farms, Added Value Farms, and the Eagle Street Rooftop Farm, all located in Brooklyn, and the Urban Farm at the Battery and Nourishing NYC in Manhattan are examples of successful urban initiatives that engage the community and provide education about farming and food production. But like all urban areas in this country, we need more community-based as well as small commercial farming enterprises and more opportunities generally for growing of food in the city. And like all farming, rural or urban, land is essential for urban food production. The mapping bill

supports the development of additional innovative urban agriculture initiatives, food-producing community gardens and rooftop farms by pinpointing where there is vacant and appropriate city-owned and leased land suitable for food production.

Every piece of land is unique and it is essential to know the specifics of a site in order to then determine whether it is suitable for urban agriculture and to what extent. For instance, how big is it, what is the surface treatment, will there be water access or the ability to gain it, is there public transit nearby, does the site's building have a rooftop that would be ideal for growing food, is there vertical growing potential, what is the drainage of the land like, is the site a Brownfield that been remediated, and what is the zoning. Many of these questions are quickly answered from the reporting requirements in this bill or can easily be investigated based on this information. But none of these criteria can even be initially assessed without knowing the full inventory and legal and physical details of the City-owned land so potential sites can be better pinpointed, mapped and their viability as urban agriculture sites explored further.

Thank you again for holding these hearings and giving the Food Systems Network NYC the opportunity to comment.

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Testimony for Food Metrics and City Property Bills
June 16, 2011

I'm testifying on behalf of Farming Concrete. We are in favor of both proposed bills, as they will help the city move forward with a more democratic food system and more equitable access to information about public land.

Farming Concrete is a project that is currently measuring food production in our city's community gardens and school gardens, as well as a few urban farms. We believe this is important because understanding how much food is grown by these urban farmers will give us better insight into how community/school gardens fit into our food system. It amplifies the voice of those growing food for their families and neighbors, and reconnects neighborhood residents of all ages to the soil, their heritage, and their health.

Understanding this is just one part of the picture - another group is monitoring stormwater that urban agriculture is diverting from the waste water system, and gardeners are beginning to track the food waste that they divert from the landfills in their compost systems.

Creating an accessible database of all public property would give urban farmers a fair chance at finding new land to cultivate. Last year, 67 community gardens grew 87,690 pounds of food on just 1.7 acres, worth over $214,000. If we did a quick back-of-the-envelope calculation, at this rate we could be growing over 30 million pounds of fresh produce on the city's 596 acres of vacant lots, worth over $75million. Keep in mind that that is JUST FOOD - that is not the added value of diverting stormwater from our water treatment system, the value of the food waste diverted from the trash, carbon sequestration, or the value increased biodiversity has on our local environment.

We hope that community gardens are labeled in this new database of city owned land, as they are adding enormous wealth to our ecology, food security, and health. Either way, we look forward to information about vacant lots that we can all access, not just real estate developers. We also look forward to open source data about our food system. Thank you.

UPROSE

NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL HEARING ON FOOD METRICS
June 16, 2011

Testimony by Sabrina Terry, Policy Analyst, UPROSE

Good afternoon and thank you for the opportunity to present before you today. I am here representing UPROSE, Brooklyn's oldest Latino community-based organization. Based in Sunset Park, Brooklyn, - we work to heighten community awareness, develop environmental strategies and participatory community planning practices, and promote sustainable development, governmental accountability and environmental justice.

Sunset Park is a working-class highly diverse community with immigrants from the Spanish speaking, Caribbean, Mexico, China, the Middle East, and beyond. Latino and Asian residents constitute roughly 50% and 25% of the total population respectively. Half the residents in Sunset Park are foreign born and over forty percent of individuals over the age of five are not proficient in English. The poverty rate in Sunset Park is higher than the overall poverty rates of both Brooklyn and greater New York City.

Sunset Park, like other environmental justice communities, suffers from the inadequate food resources and flaws within our food system. There is an abundance of cheap and unhealthy food options, coupled with, a lack of access to culturally appropriate healthy foods. Limited open space makes urban farming and local food production challenging for residents. These conditions contribute markedly to obesity levels, which in turn are associated with higher rates of heart disease, diabetes, asthma, and other maladies. Child obesity is of great concern as there is an increasing rate of children experiencing these diseases at rates that were previously unheard of. Latino children have especially high rates of type-2 diabetes, a disease linked to obesity. Since 50% of the population of Sunset Park is Latino this is a highly relevant concern for the community. Insufficient open space, multiple pollution sources, and lack of healthcare coverage further exacerbate diet and consumption related health ailments for both children and adults alike.

Improving the food resources in environmental justice communities like Sunset Park will be challenging but is fundamental towards creating healthy and self-sufficient neighborhoods. It is our belief that gathering information on each stage of our food system will help identify and address the injustices within it. Based on the preliminary draft of the bill, food metrics can be further strengthened if the following key details are incorporated into a couple indicators so that they will account for food justice issues:

UPROSE

1. There is a disproportionate amount of people of color, predominately women in food processing, food preparation and food services, however, inspectors, administrators, and scientist positions are rarely held by people of color nor women. This trend adversely impacts EJ communities, as there is no representation in high-level decision-making positions. Tracking the number and borough of job training programs administered by the Department of Small Business Services and the Workforce Investment Board that aid individuals seeking employment in food related industries is a large first step, but it needs to also account for the background of the person assisted prior to securing employment and the type of employment secured. We hope this will reveal a better understanding of the food sector in NYC and how it can better represent the constituents it serves.

2. The lack of grocery stores that serve a full line of goods in low-income communities of color are another prevalent food justice issue. Tracking the space of grocery store per capita, sorted by neighborhood and the number of grocery stores opening during the past 5 years is important to ensuring that our pedestrian-oriented neighborhoods live in a comfortable walking distance of a grocery store. Yet, access is only half the battle, we hope that the affordability of stores is also assessed as grocery shopping consumes large portion household budgets. A new high-end vs. a new low-end grocery store entering a neighborhood makes a significant difference in the eyes of low-income residents located in food deserts. We hope that the measures taken to assess competitive and affordable food options are not left to puerile programs that have had marginal impacts on underserved communities.

3. Finally, we recommend that metrics be gathered in a participatory fashion. A crucial component of creating a more equitable food system is incorporating all stakeholders into the process, especially those that have suffered from it the most. This will ensure that a more comprehensive assessment is performed, while also empowering communities to be apart of a process that is so vital to improving their quality of life.

We urge you to adopt these subtle areas of improvement, as they will begin to tackle the food justice issues that prevent underserved communities from exercising their right to adequate food resources.

In conclusion, we support the establishment of the food metrics report, as the information is vital to improving services in the most vulnerable areas of the city. Please count on us for further information and know that we are a resource willing to help achieve shared goals. Thank you

For the Record

Good Morning Council,

My name is Julia Rohrer. I am a sophomore at Yale University and a Research Intern at WE ACT for Environmental Justice, a community based organization in West Harlem that works on environmental justice issues, where I am currently conducting research about NYC school food nutrition. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to testify on this bill. WE ACT strongly supports this bill and we believe that it can have positive effects both on New York City's environment and on the health of its residents.

Subsection ii of subdivision j of this bill would require city agencies to report on the "country and state of origin in which the essential components of such food products were grown, agriculturally produced, harvested, and processed." This clause is critical because parents have the right to know where school food comes from.

However, we believe that the council can strengthen the bill by requiring city agencies to disclose the ingredients and the full list of nutrients of the food they serve. On the New York City Department of Education's Office of School Food website, there is a chart that lists the products served in schools and their nutritional content, but this chart omits key categories such as sugar content and calories from fat. This chart also fails to list the ingredients of each product. In addition to providing information about the sources of the "essential components" of school food products, the Department of Education should [redacted] publish those components. The omission of sugar content, calories from fat, and ingredient lists from the SchoolFood nutrition data makes it difficult to assess the actual nutritional quality of the products, and thus creates an obstacle in both the city's and parents' fight against childhood obesity.

For example, with the information presently accessible on the Office of School Food's website, a concerned parent reading the nutrition data for Winston Duck Sauce, a condiment used in school lunches, would not be able to know that there are 11 grams of sugar in one 30 gram serving of the sauce, or that its two main ingredients are Corn Syrup and High Fructose Corn Syrup. She would not be able to know that nearly one fourth (98/415) of the calories in the seemingly harmless Taco Bites come from fat, or that the Taco Bites contain partially hydrogenated oils, potentially indicating the presence of small amounts of trans fats. She would remain unaware that nearly half (190/400) of the calories in Mozzarella Sticks, a SchoolFood entrée served at least twice a month in elementary schools[1], come from fat. The information that the Department of Education provides clearly does not present a full picture of the healthiness of school meals.

Ideally, the DOE should publish a spreadsheet of the full nutritional content, ingredients, and geographic source of each food product it serves so that parents can understand exactly what is in their food and where it comes from, and so that the city can work towards creating even healthier lunches and prioritizing the inclusion of locally produced foods. The DOE should make this information accessible to parents and students by posting it on their website and in school cafeterias.

To reduce the potential administrative burden of procuring and releasing this information, the DOE could release their food product labels, which they already have. While making the product labels accessible would only be a first step towards creating a full report of school lunches' content and sources, this measure would at least provide an initial indication of the food's origin by displaying the location of the product's manufacturer and country of origin. Making the

[1] http://www.opt-osfns.org/OSFNS/resources/SFMenuSystem/schoolfood/menusdailydisplay.aspx?boro=bx&month=3&grade=es

product labels available would also allow parents and students to fully understand what a school lunch contains and empower them to make healthier decisions.

Reporting the ingredients and origins of school food, and all food in city agencies, could help the city ascertain the percentage of locally produced foods, would make the regulation of nutritional content easier, and would allow New York City parents to make informed decisions about what school foods to eat. The public disclosure of more information on school meals, whether through the product labels or through a more comprehensive database, is thus essential from both an environmental and a public health perspective. The DOE, and every other city agency, should be held accountable for the food they serve. The passage of this bill would increase the transparency of their food operations and thus bring New York City one-step closer to providing fresh, local, and nutritious meals through a sustainable food system.

Thank you very much for your time.

Julia Rohrer

G26010

Nutrition Facts

Serving Size (30g)
Servings Per Container

Amount Per Serving	
Calories 50	Calories from Fat 0
	% Daily Value*
Total Fat 0g	0%
Saturated Fat 0g	0%
Cholesterol 0mg	0%
Sodium 230mg	10%
Total Carbohydrate 12g	4%
Dietary Fiber 0g	0%
Sugars 11g	
Protein 0g	

Vitamin A 2% •	Vitamin C 2%
Calcium 0% •	Iron 0%

*Percent Daily Values are based on a 2,000 calorie diet. Your daily values may be higher or lower depending on your calorie needs:

	Calories:	2,000	2,500
Total Fat	Less than	65g	80g
Saturated Fat	Less than	20g	25g
Cholesterol	Less than	300mg	300mg
Sodium	Less than	2,400mg	2,400mg
Total Carbohydrate		300g	375g
Dietary Fiber		25g	30g

Calories per gram:
Fat 9 • Carbohydrate 4 • Protein 4

Winston Duck Sauce

4/13/2006

INGREDIENTS: Corn Syrup, High Fructose Corn Syrup, Water, Unsulphered Apricots, Food Starch, Vinegar, Salt, Spices.

Oven Ready Reduced Sodium
Brd Mozzarella Sticks .84 oz CN

Ingredients: Mozzarella cheese (pasteurized part skim milk, cheese cultures, salt, enzymes), enriched wheat flour (flour, niacin, ferrous sulfate, thiamin mononitrate, riboflavin, folic acid), vegetable oil (soybean and/or canola and/or cottonseed oil), modified corn starch, water, whole wheat flour, contains less that 2% of the following: enriched yellow corn flour (yellow corn flour, niacin, ferrous sulfate, thiamin mononitrate, riboflavin, folic acid), salt, sugar, non-fat dry milk, leavening (sodium aluminum phosphate, sodium bicarbonate) whey, methylcellulose, spice, dehydrated parsley, yeast, calcium proprionate (preservative), natural flavor, cellulose gum.

Cooking Instructions: Cook from frozen state.
Convection Oven: Preheat oven and bake at 425°F for 6-7 minutes.
Deep Fryer: Preheat fryer to 350°F. Fry sticks for 2 minutes 15 seconds

5 Sticks provide 2 oz equivalent meat and 2.25 bread servings.

Nutrition Facts

Serving Size 5 Sticks (119g)
Servings Per Container About 83

Amount Per Serving	
Calories 400	Calories from Fat 190
	% Daily Value
Total Fat 21g	**32%**
Saturated Fat 8g	**40%**
Trans Fat 0g	
Cholesterol 30mg	**10%**
Sodium 490mg	**20%**
Total Carbohydrate 35g	**12%**
Dietary Fiber 2g	**8%**
Sugar 3g	
Protein 17g	**34%**
Vitamin A 4% •	Vitamin C 0%
Calcium 40% •	Iron 8%

*Percent Daily Values are based on a 2,000 calorie diet. Your daily values may be higher or lower depending on your calorie needs.

CONTAINS: WHEAT, MILK, SOY.

REDUCED SODIUM

Code # G1042DFNY

Pack 4/5.445 lbs.

High in Calcium & Protein

HIGH LINER FOODS
(USA) INCORPORATED

Elementary Lunch

MAY 2011

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
2 Cheese Lasagna Roll-up Savory Tomato Sauce Normandy Vegetables	3 TRAYLESS TUESDAYS Vegetarian Patty OR Hamburger Deluxe on a small Whole Wheat Bun Choice of Dipping Sauce NEW! Red Roasted Potatoes	4 Mozzarella Sticks served with Savory Tomato Sauce Spinach with Toasted Garlic	5 LATIN RICE BOWL Crispy Chicken Tenders Spanish Rice Sweet Plantains Southwest Red Pepper Sauce	6 New York City Pizza Slice Cold Broccoli Crowns Choice of Dressing
9 ITALIAN TACO Italian Meat Topping with Diced Tomatoes in a Taco Boat French Cut Green Beans	10 TRAYLESS TUESDAYS BUILD A BURGER Hamburger Deluxe on a small Whole Wheat Bun Choice of Cheese Choice of Sauce Straight Cut Potatoes	11 Chicken Tenders with Savory Tomato Sauce and Mozzarella Cheese in a Wrap Roasted Broccoli Spears	12 Cajun Spiced Roasted Chicken Rachael Ray's Yum-O! Cheesy Mac and Trees NEW! Fresh Braised Collards	13 Pizza Bagel SchoolFood Green Salad Fresh Balsamic Vinaigrette
16 Teriyaki Chicken Patty Teriyaki Sauce Jasmine Rose Rice Vegetable Egg Roll	17 TRAYLESS TUESDAYS Fish and Cheese OR Hamburger Deluxe on a small Whole Wheat Bun Choice of Dipping Sauce NEW! Red Roasted Potatoes	18 BBQ Glazed Chicken Tenders Frito-Lay® SunChips® Cheesy Crepini™ Roll-up	19 Italian Meatballs with Savory Tomato Sauce Whole Grain Pasta Choice Toasted Garlic Rolls Capri Vegetables	20 French Bread Pizza Cold Broccoli Crowns Choice of Dressing
23 PHILLY WRAP Beef Gyro Strips with American Cheese and Peppers and Onions in a Wrap Seasoned Wedge cut Potatoes	24 TRAYLESS TUESDAYS Hot Turkey OR Ham and Cheese on a NY Style Bagel Crunchy Carrot Sticks with Honey Mustard Sauce	25 Mozzarella Sticks served with Savory Tomato Sauce Spinach with Toasted Garlic	26 *Enjoy A Cool School Lunch* BBQ Roasted Chicken Whole Grain Vegetable Pasta Salad with Fresh Herbs Capri Vegetables Whole Fruit Ice	27 Pizza Bagel SchoolFood Green Salad Fresh Balsamic Vinaigrette
30 MEMORIAL DAY Cheese Lasagna Roll-up Savory Tomato Sauce Normandy Vegetables	31 TRAYLESS TUESDAYS Vegetarian Patty OR Hamburger Deluxe on a small Whole Wheat Bun Choice of Dipping Sauce NEW! Red Roasted Potatoes			

SchoolFood Feed your mind

Daily: milk (1% low fat, fat free and fat free chocolate), fruit, Peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, Cheese sandwiches
Dipping sauce choices: mustard, duck, honey mustard, BBQ, tomato, tartar, salsa, specialty
SchoolFood proudly serves Pride of New York products

VEGAN OFFERING

Menu subject to change

Society for
Aquaponic
Values and
Education

Wednesdays and Fridays @

THE POINT

Learn about growing your own food with Aquaponics (fish and vegetables in water), Aquaculture (fish farming), Hydroponics (growing plants in water) and Permaculture (Permanent Agriculture)!

1:00pm -3:00pm

Wednesdays and Fridays

July 6, 8, 13, 15, 20, 22, 27, 29, 2011

This week's topic: Just add Fish to your Garden.

Next week: You gotta have Bees, Worms and Bacteria!

$5 per day & $5 for Gourmet Fish Soup when prepaid @ The Point CDC

If not prepaid, then $10 entry at the door. Soup is subject to availability.

THE POINT CDC
940 Garrison Avenue
Bronx, NY 10474
P: (718) 542-4139

By Subway: Take the 6 train to Hunts Point Avenue. Walk under the Bruckner Expressway (right in front of you when you exit the train station onto Hunts Point Avenue) and make a right turn at the first light onto Garrison Avenue. THE POINT is on the corner of Garrison and Manida Street (the first street on your left walking on Garrison). The entrance is on Manida Street.

By Car: Take the FDR Drive to the Willis Avenue Bridge. Bear right on Bruckner Boulevard (and stay under the Bruckner Expressway) for 1 to 2 miles. Turn right onto Barretto Street. Turn left onto Garrison. THE POINT is located on the corner of Garrison and Manida. Park on the street. The entrance is on Manida.

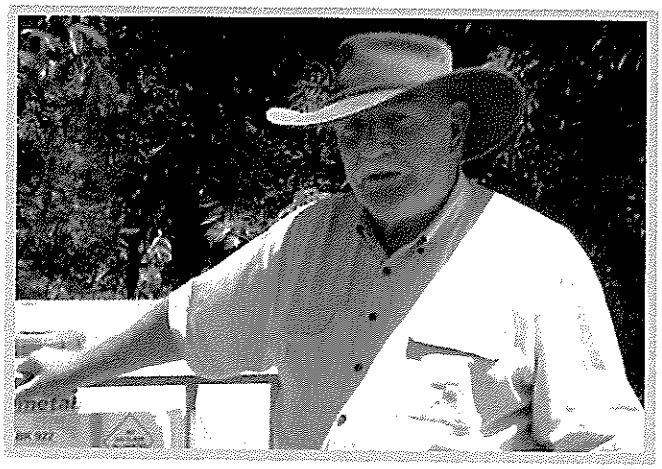
Email: farmer@vifarms.com for more information, or ask for Christopher Toole @ www.thepoint.org
www.savefarms.org or www.vifarms.com

Practical Aquaponics
www.PracticalAquaponics.com
61 7 3200 0272
21—31 Hives Road North Maclean
Queensland
Australia 4280
A.C.N. 53 087 289 745

Toteponics

A three bed D.I.Y. Aquaponics system built from recycled Totes (IBC's) utilising the CHOP Mark 2 operating system.

Congratulations on deciding to build your own Aquaponics system using Tote tanks / IBC's.



ABOVE:- Murray Hallam from Practical Aquaponics.

You will find that the finished system will give you excellent service and will provide an abundance of fresh fish and vegetables to your table.
The exciting thing is you will be putting some pre used materials to good use. The possibilities are endless using this build method.
You can add a single grow bed when needed, or add groups of three as a satellite cluster. These will all be easily integrated into your system utilising the CHOP Mark 2 operating system.
This set of instructions has all the information necessary for you to complete a successful Aquaponics project and enjoy fresh fish and vegetables at your place.

The photo to the right is a three bed Tote system made from 3 x recycled Tote tanks or IBC's as they are also known.
This is the end result of following these instructions. It is easy to do if you have basic handyman skills and some basic tools.
At the time this photo was shot, this system was 22 days old....that's right, 22 days from planting of the first seedlings and just 15 days with fish in the system.
See the fantastic growth of the salad vegetables in the front two beds and the sweet corn in the back bed.
You will see that we have added some vertical towers to this system. This helps utilise vertical space. How-to do this is described in a later set of instructions.
We dressed the system up with some bamboo skirting. The system would look very nice in any back yard garden area, or even on a back patio.

ABOVE:- Some vertical Strawberry Towers have been added to the system making use of vertical space. You can grow strawberries, lettuce and soft herbs very well in vertical towers..
We will soon publish instructions "How to make vertical towers"

S.A.V.E. farms, Hunts Point
What we're about:

- Mission: Establish and maintain sustainable, Vertically Integrated Community-Based Permaponic Farms supporting the food industry and manifesting in a tertiary school of applied sciences, Hunts Point.
- Current Active Locations: The Point CDC, Hunts Point & Riverdale, Bronx
- Status: Suitable expansion sites have been located in the area of Food Center Drive (FCDr), Hunts Point. NYEDC is the landlord.
- Ideal location: 200 FCDr, rail shed and yard.
- Other possibilities: 600 FCDr, warehouse and office area. Other vacant land around FCDr

S.A.V.E. farms, Hunts Point
A few definitions:

- Aquaponics is a sustainably balanced combination of Aquaculture (fish farming) and Hydroponics (growing plants in water without soil), while striving for maximum resource efficiency (low energy, low water usage etc.)
- Permaponics is Permaculture (Permanent Agriculture) with a focus on Aquaponics.

S.A.V.E. farms, Hunts Point
Our proposal:

Pop-Up Farm @ 200 FCDr - Rail Shed, with

- Retail Farm Stand
- Wholesale Farm Supply
- Educational Program
- Ecotourism Tours
- Manufacturing

Society for
Aquaponic
Values and
Education

Proudly supported by:

Vertically Integrated FARMS
VIFarms.com

Good Morning Council,

My name is James Subudhi. I am the Environmental Policy and Advocacy Coordinator at WE ACT for Environmental Justice where I focus on getting good food into schools. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to deliver testimony. I am here to speak in support of T2011-3135. I will be speaking directly to subsection 2 of section 1 as it is related to the city's Department of Education (DOE) which would amend the city charter in relation to establishing reporting requirements regarding the production processing, distribution, and consumption of food in and for the city by including the total dollar amount of annual city expenditures on food products, and for each agency, the dollar amount of such expenditures disaggregated and sorted by the country and state of origin in which the essential components of such food products were grown, agriculturally produced, harvest, and processed.

During the last year I have conducted research on the New York City school food supply chain. The research led to the discovery that the DOE has approved vendors that obtain foods grown and manufactured in country's outside of the United States. While this makes sense for products not grown in the U.S. like pineapples and plantinos, it makes absolutely no sense for products like peaches, pears, collard greens, and corn which all are grown in New York State and the U.S.

According to the DOE, from 2009 to 2012 they will spend an estimated $$95 million dollars on direct food manufacturers and distributor contracts. I estimate that 75% of the money DOE spends on food through direct procurement contracts goes to manufactures and distributors outside NYC and the NYS. Clearly New York State growers and New York City manufacturers are losing out on our own tax dollars spent on school food. Why not use the city's food dollars to support our manufacturing economy and state agricultural economy to create jobs and increase

tax revenue? Why purchase foods from thousands of miles away from when the same foods are grown in our own back yards?

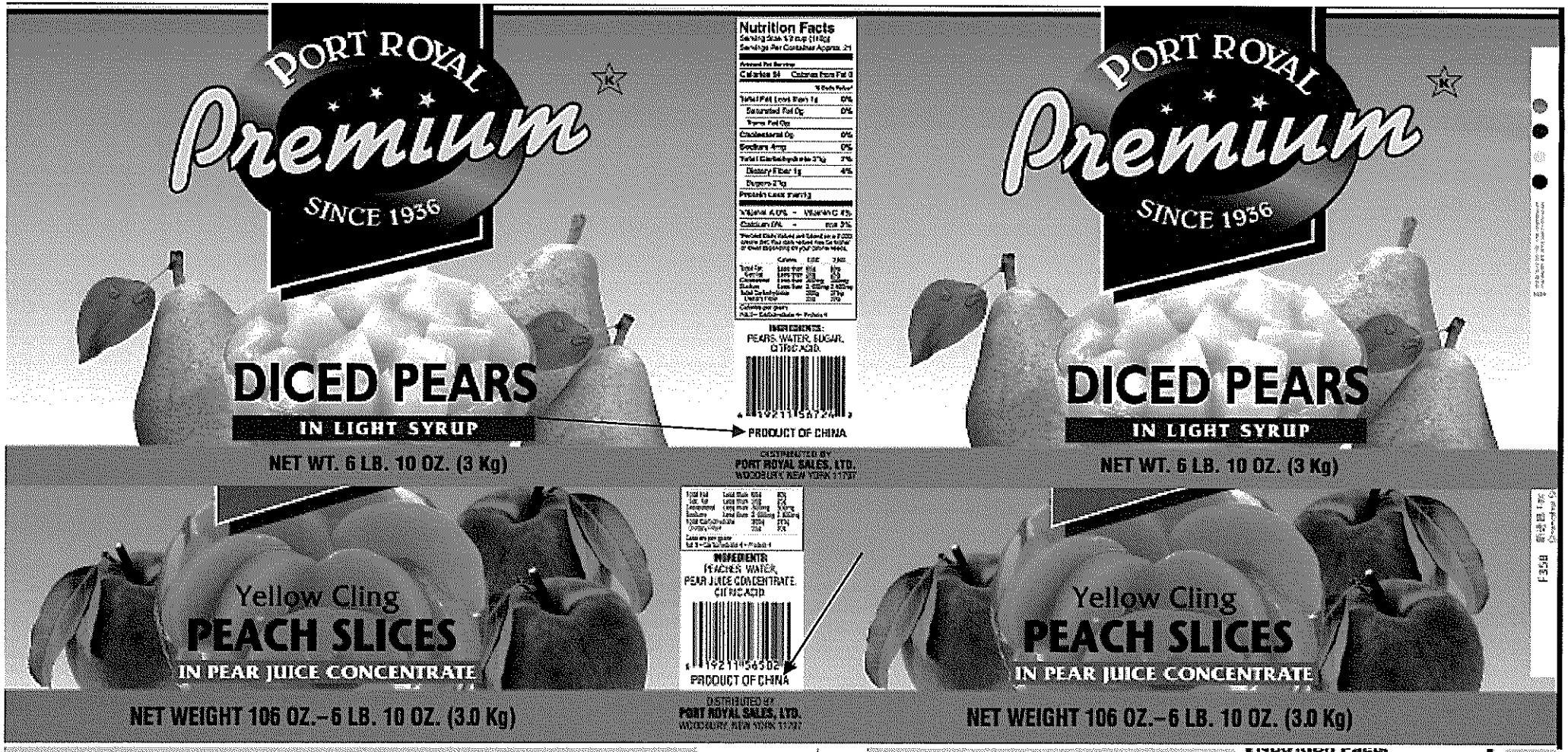
To reduce the potential administrative burden of collecting information on where their food products are manufactured and grown, I suggest that the DOE annually release on their website, in all cafeterias, and to the City Council Speaker their food product labels. I suggest this because the Office of SchoolFood within the DOE already collects their food product labels as you can see from the ones in my testimony. In cases where the food is from another country, the name of the country is on the label. While they don't include the grower, product labels often have the name and location of the manufacturers of the product.

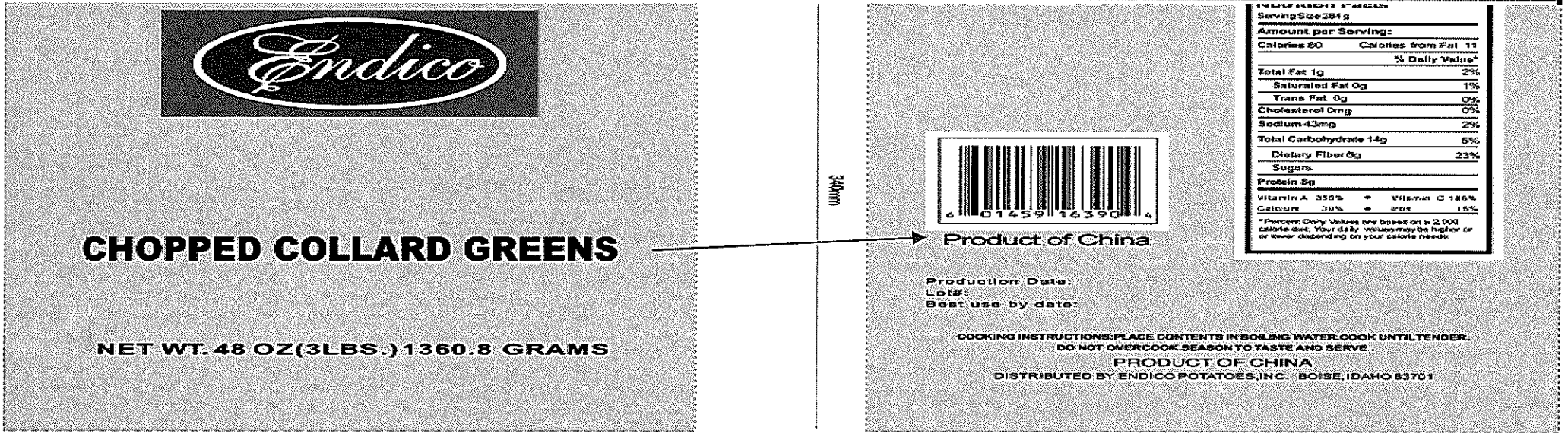
To make this bill even stronger, the DOE and all city agencies should also release the ingredients and the full list of nutrients of their products because people have a right to know what is in the food that the city is serving, much like a consumer at a supermarket. Releasing the product labels can also achieve this because the ingredients and nutrients are listed on them.

Disclosing food product labels for city agencies is a small step in the right direction of creating some transparency into the government's food programs. I hope that you vote yes on this bill with the inclusion of the reporting language on origins of city agency foods.

Thank you.

James Subudhi
WEACT for Environmental Justice
james@weact.org
212-961-1000 ext. 311





Nutrition Facts
Serving Size 284 g
Amount per Serving:

Calories 80	Calories from Fat 11
	% Daily Value*
Total Fat 1g	2%
Saturated Fat 0g	1%
Trans Fat 0g	0%
Cholesterol 0mg	0%
Sodium 43mg	2%
Total Carbohydrate 14g	5%
Dietary Fiber 6g	23%
Sugars	
Protein 3g	
Vitamin A 35% •	Vitamin C 186%
Calcium 3% •	Iron 15%

*Percent Daily Values are based on a 2,000 calorie diet. Your daily values may be higher or lower depending on your calorie needs.

For the Record

Good Morning Council.

My name is Marcela Johnson, I am a student at Columbia University studying Environmental Policy. I am currently a research intern at WE ACT for Environmental Justice. WE ACT is a community-based organization in Harlem that works on environmental justice issues, two of which are school food in New York City public schools and climate change. Thus, I am here to voice my support of this bill because the reporting on where agency food comes brings us one step closer to assessing the contribution of the city's food system to its climate footprint, in particular those foods purchased by the NYC Department of Education (DOE).

Many of the products currently served in schools by the DOE are produced and imported from abroad, specifically from China. Take the Endico Chopped Collard Greens, served in NYC schools, for example. The product label which the DOE has, states it is a product of China; why purchase canned vegetables from China when growing them fresh within the United States would be better for the health of the consumer, and reduce the city and country's air greenhouse gas emissions? Other products manufactured abroad include: Port Royal Diced Pears, North East Sliced Peaches, and Sun Pac's fruit juices just to name a few. These products without a doubt contribute to climate change.

According to the Food and Agriculture Organization the food and agricultural sector makes up for more than one third of global greenhouse gas emissions, a leading cause of the increasing global temperature and changing weather conditions like drought and floods.[1,1] These conditions will affect the food system, and have negative impacts on the quantity, affordability, and variety of food available in New York City and around the world.[1, 1,1]

Distributing food is a major component of the food system process. Transporting food internationally by air releases more than 37% more greenhouse gases than by rail, and 32% by ship.[i] Yet we don't currently know where New York City's school food comes from and how it gets here.

Subsection ii of subdivision j will require the DOE to report the "dollar amount of [food] expenditures disaggregated and sorted by the country and state of origin in which the essential components of such food products were grown, agriculturally produced, harvested and processed". Requiring the DOE and other city agencies to report on the geographic location of where their foods are grown and manufactured will give us a baseline of how much of the city's food comes from in and outside the United States. With this information the City can begin to assess school food's contribution to the city's carbon footprint, and perhaps consider reducing the numbers of international manufactures who are DOE vendors, to reduce NYC's greenhouse gas emissions and help meet the goals of PLANYC.

Passing this bill with the reporting language and giving people access to this information will invariably benefit NYC school children and help us understand the connection between food and climate change. Access to the food production information is paramount if New York City hopes to improve the health of the current generation of students and reduce its carbon footprint.

Thank you for your time.

---

[i] Weber, C. et al., *Food-Miles and the Relative Climate Impacts of Food Choices in the United States*. 28 November 2007 (http://psufoodscience.typepad.com/psu_food_science/files/es702969f.pdf)

规格：340x240mm

340mm

240mm

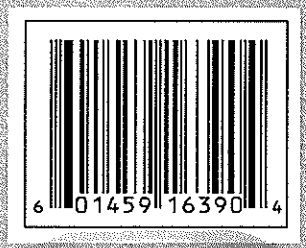
Endico

CHOPPED COLLARD GREENS

NET WT. 48 OZ(3LBS.)1360.8 GRAMS

340mm

240mm



Product of China

Production Date:
Lot#:
Best use by date:

Nutrition Facts

Serving Size 284 g

Amount per Serving:

Calories 80	Calories from Fat 11
	% Daily Value*
Total Fat 1g	2%
Saturated Fat 0g	1%
Trans Fat 0g	0%
Cholesterol 0mg	0%
Sodium 43mg	2%
Total Carbohydrate 14g	5%
Dietary Fiber 6g	23%
Sugars	
Protein 8g	

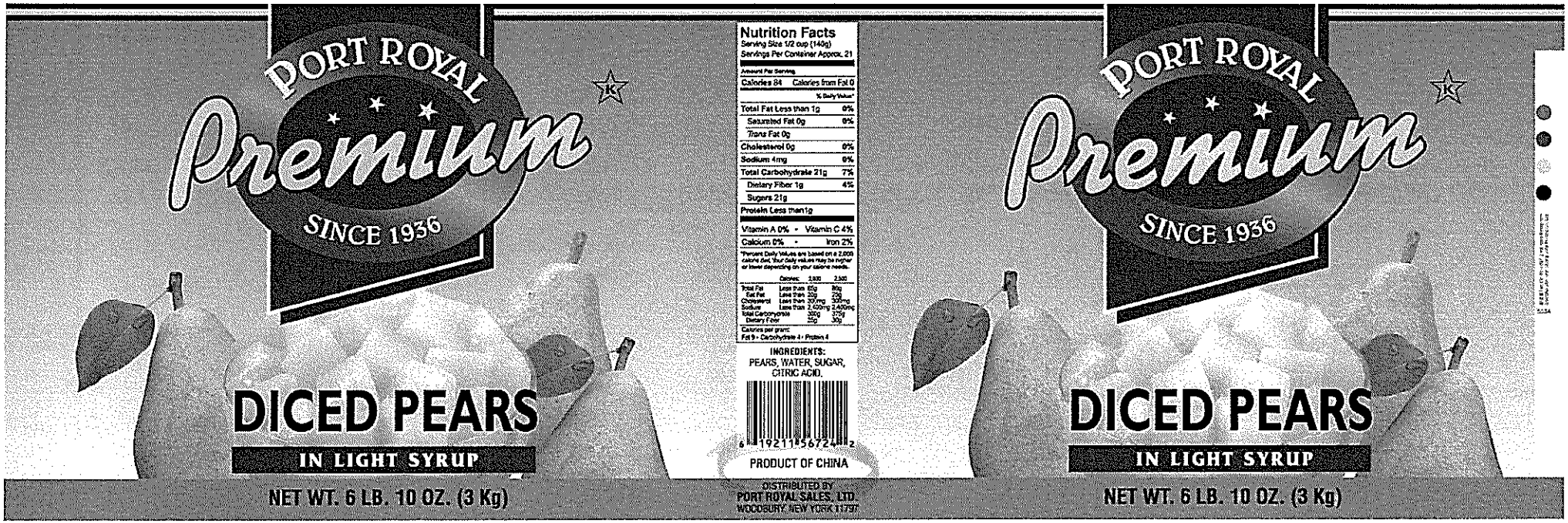
Vitamin A 355% • Vitamin C 186%
Calcium 39% • Iron 15%

*Percent Daily Values are based on a 2,000 calorie diet. Your daily values may be higher or or lower depending on your calorie needs:

COOKING INSTRUCTIONS:PLACE CONTENTS IN BOILING WATER.COOK UNTIL TENDER. DO NOT OVERCOOK.SEASON TO TASTE AND SERVE .

PRODUCT OF CHINA

DISTRIBUTED BY ENDICO POTATOES,INC. BOISE,IDAHO 83701


PORT ROYAL
Premium
SINCE 1936
DICED PEARS
IN LIGHT SYRUP
NET WT. 6 LB. 10 OZ. (3 Kg)
Nutrition Facts
Serving Size 1/2 cup (140g)
Servings Per Container Approx. 21
Amount Per Serving
Calories 84 Calories from Fat 0
% Daily Value*
Total Fat Less than 1g 0%
Saturated Fat 0g 0%
Trans Fat 0g
Cholesterol 0g 0%
Sodium 4mg 0%
Total Carbohydrate 21g 7%
Dietary Fiber 1g 4%
Sugars 21g
Protein Less than1g
Vitamin A 0% • Vitamin C 4%
Calcium 0% • Iron 2%
*Percent Daily Values are based on a 2,000 calorie diet. Your daily values may be higher or lower depending on your calorie needs.
Calories: 2,000 2,500
Total Fat Less than 65g 80g
Sat Fat Less than 20g 25g
Cholesterol Less than 300mg 300mg
Sodium Less than 2,400mg 2,400mg
Total Carbohydrate 300g 375g
Dietary Fiber 25g 30g
Calories per gram:
Fat 9 • Carbohydrate 4 • Protein 4
INGREDIENTS:
PEARS, WATER, SUGAR, CITRIC ACID.
4 19211 56724 2
PRODUCT OF CHINA
DISTRIBUTED BY
PORT ROYAL SALES, LTD.
WOODBURY, NEW YORK 11797
PORT ROYAL
Premium
SINCE 1936
DICED PEARS
IN LIGHT SYRUP
NET WT. 6 LB. 10 OZ. (3 Kg)

PUSH UP HERE

THANK YOU FOR SELECTING

SUNCUP

PUSH UP HERE

TO OPEN

100% APPLE JUICE
FROM CONCENTRATE
INGREDIENTS: WATER, APPLE JUICE CONCENTRATE, ASCORBIC ACID (VITAMIN C).
CONTAINS APPLE JUICE CONCENTRATE FROM USA, ARGENTINA, AND OR BRAZIL, CHINA, CHILE, NEW ZEALAND.
PACKED BY
GREGORY PACKAGING, INC.
PO BOX 5168, NEWARK, NJ 07105
NO SUGAR ADDED
KEEP FROZEN. THAW, REFRIGERATE AND USE WITHIN 10 DAYS

4 FL. OZ. (118 mL)

TO OPEN

Nutrition Facts

Serving Size 1 CONTAINER (4 oz /118 ml)
Servings Per Container 1

Amount Per Serving	
Calories 50 Calories from Fat 0	
	% Daily Value*
Total Fat 0g	**0%**
Saturated Fat 0g	**0%**
Trans Fat 0g	
Cholesterol 0mg	**0%**
Sodium 10mg	**0%**
Total Carbohydrate 13g	**4%**
Dietary Fiber 0g	**0%**
Sugars 12g	
Protein 0g	

Vitamin A 0% • Vitamin C 2%
Calcium 0% • Iron 0%

* Percent Daily Values are based on a 2,000 calorie diet.

A2-5156-020F 356
A2-5156-COM

4-5 C1

100% PURE
APPLE JUICE
FROM CONCENTRATE
NO SUGAR ADDED
PASTEURIZED

4 FL. OZ. (118 mL)

TO OPEN

100% PURE
APPLE JUICE
FROM CONCENTRATE

SUNCUP

SUNCUP

4 FL. OZ. (118 mL)

THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 248A Res. No. _____

☑ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 6/16/11

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Charlene Chi

Address: _____

I represent: Shelley Bennett (Central Park East 2 school)

Address: _____

THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 6/16/11

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Noah Goodman

Address: 60 W 124th Apt 6D

I represent: _____

Address: _____

THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 248A Res. No. _____

☒ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Paula Z. Segal

Address: 603 Bergen St.

I represent: Brooklyn Food Coalition / myself

Address: _____

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. both Res. No. _____

☒ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: ERIC BRELSFORD

Address: 920 PACIFIC BROOKLYN

I represent: FARMING CONCRETE

Address: _____

THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☒ in favor ☐ in opposition

Both bills *Date:* 6/16/11

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Shanti Prasad

Address: 614 Lafayette Avenue #3, Brooklyn, NY 11216

I represent: Food Systems Network NYC

Address: _____

THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 800 Res. No. _____

☒ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 6/6/11

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Yhane Smith

Address: _____

I represent: Central Park East II School/ WEACT

Address: _____

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. Food Res. No. _____

☒ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 6/16

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Shelly Ann Bennett

Address: 4331 Richardson Ave # 2C

I represent: CPE 11 / PS 171

Address: 104th & Madison St

THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. Food Res. No. _____

☑ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: June 16, 2011

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Jacqueline Mason-Francis

Address: 53 West 111th St Apt 3E

I represent: CPE II / Weact

Address: _____

THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. Bottle Res. No. _____

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 6/16/10

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Fern Cate Estrow MS RD CDN

Address: 200 W 19 th St

I represent: ~~Bottle~~ 7GE Food & Nutrition Team

Address: Same

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☑ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Anna Pardeeva

Address: 4205 Henry Hudson Pkwy #7A Bronx NY 10471

I represent: VI Farms

Address: _____

THE COUNCIL Food Metrix.
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☑ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: SABRINA TERRY

Address: 184 LEXINGTON AVE #1 BK, NY

I represent: UPROSE

Address: 166A 22nd St BK, NY

THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 248-A Res. No. _____

☑ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Jori Berg

Address: 1 Plaza St U. Brooklyn

I represent: NYC Coalition Against Hunger

Address: 50 Broad St, NY, NY

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 248-A Res. No. _____

☒ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 6/16/2011

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Ruth Katz

Address: 412 11th St.

I represent: Stone Barns Center for Food & Agriculture

Address: Home 412 11th St. Brooklyn 11215

THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 248-A Res. No. _____

☒ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 6/16/11

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: KYBI ACKERMAN

Address: 232 POWERS ST. #1 BROOKLYN

I represent: URBAN DESIGN LAB

Address: 475 RIVERSIDE DR. NEW YORK

THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. Reconsidered Res. No. _____

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 6/16/11

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Kim Kossler

Address: DM, HHS, 253 Broadway, 14th Floor

I represent: Mayor's

Address: _____

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 248 Res. No. _____

☒ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 06/16/2011

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: DANIEL BOWMAN SIMON

Address: _____

I represent: _____

Address: _____

THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 248A Res. No. _____

☐ in favor ☒ in opposition

Date: 6/14/11

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: CAROLYN GROSSMAN

Address: _____

I represent: CITY PLANNING

Address: _____

THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. NYC Wetlands Food Res. No. _____

☒ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Mark Izeman

Address: _____

I represent: Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC)

Address: 40 W. 20th St NYC 10011

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☒ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 06/16/11

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: James Subudhi (WEA cT)

Address: _____

I represent: WEA cT

Address: _____

THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 6/16/11

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Charlene Chi

Address: _____

I represent: WEACT

Address: 1854 Amsterdam Ave. 10031

THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 248A, Foodmetrics Res. No. _____

☒ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 6/16/11

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Carolyn Zezima

Address: 455 E. 14th St # 8A

I represent: NYC Foodscape Alliance (client org's)

Address: s/a

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 248-A Res. No. _____

☒ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: June 16, 2011

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: NADIA JOHNSON

Address: 1155 Ave of the Americas 3rd fl NY NY 10036

I represent: JUST FOOD

Address: Above address

THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☑ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 6/16/11

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: PETULA JAMES-HANLEY

Address: BROOKLYN

I represent: PS171/ HEART

Address: EAST HARLEM

THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 6.16.11

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Randal Fong

Address: First Assistant Commissioner, Asset Management

I represent: _____

Address: DCAS

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. ~~248~~ Res. No. _____

~~☒~~ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 6/16/11

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Dr. Mariohe Orr's - We Act

Address: 415 CPW NY NY

I represent: We Act.

Address: _____

THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. ~~248~~ Res. No. _____

☒ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 6-16-11

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Julia Rohrer

Address: 780 West End Avenue

I represent: WE ACT

Address: _____

THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☒ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: June. 16. 2011

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Marcela Johnson

Address: 2920 Broadway New York, Ny 10027

I represent: WE ACT

Address: _____

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☒ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 6/16/11

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: PATRICIA POZOS (WE ACT)

Address: 556 W. 140 St. #42 - N.Y. 10031

I represent: WE ACT + PS 161

Address: _____

THE COUNCIL Food Metrics
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☒ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 6/16/11

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Christopher Tooley

Address: 470 S Henry Hudson Pkwy W Apt 7B Bronx

I represent: _____

Address: _____

THE COUNCIL Food Matrix
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☑ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 6/16/11

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: DENISE CLARKE

Address: BROOKLYN

I represent: PS 171 / WEACT

Address: EAST HARLEM

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms