

New York City Council

Memorandum in Support of Legislation

This memorandum is authored by the sponsor and explains the need for the legislation referenced below, in accordance with Rule 6.00(d) of the Rules of the Council.

Introduction Number:

Int. No. Int 0533-2026

Prime Sponsors:

By Council Members Farías, Won and Brewer

Bill Title:

A Local Law to amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to creating a good food purchasing program.

Submitted by:

Council Member Amanda Farías

Justification:

Every day, New Yorkers in schools, hospitals, senior centers, shelters, and correctional facilities depend on public institutions for their meals. In New York City alone, that amounts to more than 220 million meals each year, backed by roughly half a billion dollars in public spending. When that spending is guided only by the lowest bid, the result is often food that arrives near expiration, damaged, or unfit to serve, and meals that fall far short of what any New Yorker deserves.

This bill creates a Good Food Purchasing Program and advisory board to establish standards and goals for food procurement across public institutions, evaluating bids against sourcing, production, and quality guidelines rooted in public health, worker well-being, environmental sustainability, racial equity, and support for local farmers and suppliers. The advisory board, comprising agency commissioners and both mayoral and Speaker appointees with relevant expertise, would conduct baseline assessments, develop a five-year plan with one, three, and five-year benchmarks, and submit annual progress reports with public hearings and recommendations posted through the Mayor's Office of Food Policy. Modernizing how this city buys food means procurement decisions can reflect best value, not just lowest price, and that every New Yorker served by a public institution receives a meal that meets a standard we would all be willing to accept.