

RESOLUTION NO. 496-a

ESTABLISHING A LOCAL FOOD PURCHASING POLICY FOR ALBANY COUNTY

Introduced: 2/9/09

By Messrs. Nichols, Bullock, Domalewicz, Joyce, Steck, McCoy, Law Committee, Messrs. Aylward, Beston, Ms. Chapman, Messrs. Clay, Clenahan, Commisso, Ms. Connolly, Messrs. Cotrofeld, Dawson, Ethier, Higgins, Horstmyer, Houghtaling, Infante, Ms. Maffia-Tobler, Mr. Mayo, Ms. McKnight, Messrs. Morse, Rahm, Reilly, Scavo, Timmins, Ward and Ms. Willingham:

WHEREAS, It is the policy of Albany County to promote the economic vitality and public health and safety of its communities, and this “Local Food Purchasing Policy” is intended to increase regional per capita income, provide incentives for job creation, attract economic investment, fight global climate change and promote the health and safety of its citizens and communities, and

WHEREAS, “Locally produced food” shall mean food that the NYS Commissioner of Agriculture and Markets has established in a list verifying that the food is in sufficient quantity during ascertained periods of time each year and deemed beneficial to authorize a local food purchasing mandate, and

WHEREAS, A study in Iowa found that a regional diet consumed 17 times less oil and gas than a typical diet based on food shipped across the country and according to a study by the New Economics Foundation in London, a dollar spent locally generates twice as much income for the local economy, and

WHEREAS, Locally produced food makes farming more economically viable keeping farmers in business and saving valuable farmland from development, and

WHEREAS, While produce that is purchased in the supermarket or a big-box store has been in transit or cold-stored for days or weeks, produce purchased locally has often been picked within 24 hours providing fresh produce that not only improves the taste of food, but also the nutritional value of food which declines over time, and

WHEREAS, When a farmer is producing food that will not travel a long distance a shorter shelf life allows the farmer to try small crops of various fruits and vegetables making farming more profitable and providing consumers with more choices, now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, In accordance with Section 103 of the General Municipal Law, Albany County hereby establishes a “Local Food Purchasing Policy” whereby the Albany County Purchasing Agent shall request the assistance and advice of the Commissioner of Agriculture and Markets to establish the percentage of food products qualified as locally produced food for purchase for Albany County’s

Residential Healthcare Facilities and the Albany County Correctional Facility, and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the Local Food Purchasing Policy shall be updated periodically as the Commissioner of Agriculture and Markets releases updated lists of locally produced foods, and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the County Legislature is directed to forward certified copies of this resolution to the appropriate County Officials.

*Adopted by unanimous vote. 2/9/09
Mr. Gordon abstained.*