



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 6, 2012

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**MAYOR EMANUEL APPLAUDS PASSAGE OF ORDINANCE THAT WILL INCREASE
ACCESS TO FRESH AND HEALTHY FOOD THROUGHOUT CITY'S COMMUNITIES**

New license type additionally spurs small business development in Chicago neighborhoods

Today, the City Council approved an ordinance that will encourage new fresh, healthy food carts to operate across the city. The ordinance provides new avenues for small business development in the city's communities while working to increase access to healthy, fresh food throughout Chicago's neighborhoods. This is part of the Emanuel Administration's ongoing efforts to take "food deserts" off the map and spur economic development across the city.

"This is a win for local job creation and a win for our families and children," said Mayor Emanuel. "It's unacceptable that hundreds of thousands of people live without access to healthy, fresh food in our city, and fresh produce carts provide one important avenue for eliminating food deserts as well as creating jobs in our communities."

Produce merchants will be required to place at least 50 percent of their carts in areas that lack grocery stores and access to fresh fruits and vegetables, or "food deserts," ensuring that residents in these areas will have increased access to healthy food.

"Reducing the number of people living without access to fresh and healthy food is a goal of *Healthy Chicago*, the city's first comprehensive public health agenda," said Dr. Bechara Choucair, Commissioner of the Chicago Department of Public Health. "This is just one piece of the Emanuel Administration's broader strategy to increase access to fresh food in our neighborhoods and we're excited to see how far these new businesses will take us."



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In addition, the ordinance allows produce merchants to operate in one location during the course of a day rather than moving from place to place throughout the day as a traditional peddler's license requires. It also extends the hours of operation and allows merchants to sell uncut fruits and vegetables, nuts, grains, and bottled water.

A pilot program will also allow for up to 30 cart locations on the public way near transportation hubs and high foot traffic areas within food deserts.

"Healthy, fresh food carts spur job creation and also are an important element of the city's efforts to improve access to fresh fruits and vegetables for Chicagoans, making Chicago a healthier place for all of us," said Dr. Adam Becker, CLOCC Executive Director. "The work of our Healthy Places project supports expanding access to healthy foods and we are excited to see this new measure pass."

The City expects up to 50 carts to go live in the first two years, creating up to 100 jobs for local residents. This will lead to a 2.5-square mile shrinkage of food deserts in Chicago. Northwestern University has committed to conducting an evaluation of these carts over the next two years to determine the economic development and public health benefits to Chicagoans.

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