

October 28, 2013

**Resolution Of Intent To Establish a Food Procurement Policy For Macomb County To Recommend Local Sourcing**

**Commissioner Toni Mocerri on Behalf of the Board of Commissioners, Offer the Following Resolution:**

WHEREAS, the Macomb County Board of Commissioners adopted Ordinance 2012-1 (“Procurement Ordinance”) to establish comprehensive policies and procedures governing the awarding of Macomb County contracts for the procurement of services, supplies, materials and equipment; and

WHEREAS, the Macomb County Board of Commissioners adopted Proclamation 2013-40 to proclaim October 24, 2013 as “Food Day” in Macomb County; and

WHEREAS, locally sourced foods tend to be fresher and contain less preservatives due to a shorter time to market and consumer, reduces environmental impact of shipping and refrigeration, preserves open space and increases food security in Macomb County by keeping a greater percentage of the food dollar within the local and regional economies; and

WHEREAS, eating seasonally means enjoying the ripest and freshest food at the height of its natural harvest time, which in turn means supporting local farmers who transport their goods the shortest distance to your plate; and

WHEREAS, purchasing local products will reduce Macomb County’s carbon footprint by reducing the distance that goods travel from factories and farms to the city, thereby decreasing the amount of harmful emissions; and

WHEREAS, Michigan farms grow more diverse produce than most states in America, with more than 300 commodity foods reported in the last agriculture census; and

WHEREAS, food vendors that have locally sourced menu options is a simple strategy to differentiate their menu from other competitor and serve as a true benefit to help increase one’s profits and customer base; and

WHEREAS, the National Restaurant Association conducted a survey showing the top 20 trends in 2013 and locally sourced foods topped the list; and

WHEREAS, there exists Michigan-based initiatives for local food sourcing such as the Michigan Good Food Charter, which is committed in part to a mandate of: (1) Ensuring Michigan institutions source 20% of their food products from Michigan growers, producers and processors; and (2) Michigan farmers will profitably supply 20% of all Michigan institutional, retailer and consumer food purchases and be able to pay fair wages to their workers; and

WHEREAS, large purchasers of goods and materials such as Macomb County can strengthen the regional economy by procuring a greater percentage of their purchases from local farms and businesses; and

WHEREAS, establishing a county level policy will serve as a model to local municipalities to implement similar policies that supports local producers and local-food purchasers; and

WHEREAS, large purchasers of goods and materials such as Macomb County can strengthen the regional economy by procuring a greater percentage of their purchases from local farms and businesses.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Macomb County Board of Commissioners, by adoption of this Resolution, formally states its intention to establish a food procurement policy to recommend local sourcing for the reasons set forth in this Resolution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the food procurement policy will recommend the following for all Macomb County Departments:

1. Recommend sourcing food grown in Macomb County and/or near Macomb County for all sponsored events.
2. Recommend sourcing from farmers that participate in sustainable practices and/or that have Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program (MAEAP) Certification or Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) certification
3. Request food vendors to purchase from local farmers and to provide information on where the food is sourced at all sponsored events.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the food procurement policy will establish incentives when given a choice between vendors that meet the food procurement recommendations versus vendors that do not.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the food procurement policy will recommend the Macomb County Purchasing Department to create and maintain a list that contains the name and contact information of each local food vendor and/or local food producer and collaborate with the Macomb Food Collaborative to refine the vendor list.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that soft copies of this resolution be provided to all Macomb County Elected Officials, State of Michigan Food Policy Council, Macomb Food Collaborative, Macomb County Farm Bureau President Ken DeCock, MSU Extension Educator Kathe Hale, Macomb County Food Coordinator Linda Azar, and Macomb County Purchasing Department Director Polly Helzer.