



**Agenda Sheet for City Council Meeting of:**

11/27/2017

<b>Date Rec'd</b>	11/14/2017
<b>Clerk's File #</b>	RES 2017-0098
<b>Renews #</b>	
<b>Cross Ref #</b>	
<b>Project #</b>	
<b>Bid #</b>	
<b>Requisition #</b>	

0320 SPOKANE REGIONAL FOOD SYSTEM INVENTORY RESOLUTION

**Agenda Wording**

A resolution adopting the Spokane Regional Food System Inventory and requesting the development of the Spokane Regional Food Action Plan by the Spokane Food Policy Council.

**Summary (Background)**

This resolution formally adopts the Spokane Regional Food System Inventory and requests the Spokane Food Policy Council develop an adoptable food action plan for Spokane that addresses the following: 1. Local food economy opportunities throughout the entire food system; 2. Ways to increase Spokane resident access to healthy food; 3. Strategies to preserve our natural landscape, reduce food waste, and prepare for the impacts of climate change.

<b>Fiscal Impact</b>	Grant related? NO	<b>Budget Account</b>
	Public Works? NO	
Select \$		#
Select \$		#
Select \$		#
Select \$		#

<b>Approvals</b>		<b>Council Notifications</b>	
<b>Dept Head</b>	MCDANIEL, ADAM	<b>Study Session</b>	
<b>Division Director</b>		<b>Other</b>	Urban Development -
<b>Finance</b>	ORLOB, KIMBERLY	<b>Distribution List</b>	
<b>Legal</b>	PICCOLO, MIKE		
<b>For the Mayor</b>	DUNIVANT, TIMOTHY		
<b>Additional Approvals</b>			
<b>Purchasing</b>			

ADOPTED BY  
SPOKANE CITY COUNCIL:

11/27/2017  
*[Signature]*  
CITY CLERK

RESOLUTION NO. 2017-0098

A resolution adopting the Spokane Regional Food System Inventory and requesting the development of the Spokane Regional Food Action Plan by the Spokane Food Policy Council.

WHEREAS, the Spokane Food Policy Council was formed in 2013 with the mission to advance policies and initiatives that foster a resilient food system in the Spokane area; a system that is healthy and equitable for its citizens, economy and environment; and

WHEREAS, in 2016 the Spokane Food Policy Council published the Spokane Regional Food System Inventory which explains the perceived current reality of our local food system as collected from stakeholders in each part of Spokane's food system including growers, processors, distributors, retailers, eaters, and professional composters; and

WHEREAS, the Spokane Regional Food System Inventory identified areas of agricultural and food industry growth potential as an economic development tool as well as gaps in our current system that have detrimental impacts on citizen health and our natural resources; and

WHEREAS, 15% of adults and 25% of youth in Spokane County are food insecure; and

WHEREAS, in 2014 one in six middle and high school kids in Spokane reported that they had to skip meals because there was not enough to eat; and

WHEREAS, more than half of the students in Spokane's District 81 qualify for free or reduced-price school meals; and

WHEREAS, 31% of the city of Spokane's population reported to receiving SNAP (food stamps) benefits in 2010; and

WHEREAS, 27% of Spokane County's food insecure population is unable to receive assistance because they earn income above the threshold for federal nutrition assistance programs; and

WHEREAS, around 64% of all adults and 25% of youth in Spokane County are obese or overweight; and

WHEREAS, in 2014 in Spokane, only about 25% of adults and 20% of youth ate the recommended amount of fruits and vegetables; and

WHEREAS seventeen census tracts are designated as food deserts in Spokane County including the West Central and Riverside Neighborhoods in the city of Spokane; and

WHEREAS, between 40% and 50% of residents in the Riverside and West Central Neighborhoods receive SNAP benefits; and

WHEREAS, our region spends \$1.5 billion each year buying food from outside our region and only \$4.2 million buying locally grown food; and

WHEREAS, according to the standard developed by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations, Spokane County could feasibly be self-reliant using public land available with more than 775,000 acres available for agriculture in Spokane County; and

WHEREAS, Washington State Department of Revenue reported in 2014 that taxable retail sales in the City of Spokane for the food and beverage industry totaled \$250 million; and

WHEREAS, the total reported sales for five small farmers' markets in Spokane County totaled more than \$1.1 million although access to local food continues to be extremely limited for the size of our metropolitan area; and

WHEREAS, local farmers face distribution challenges because of increasing mandatory insurance and third-party food safety requirements such as tracing mechanisms from large institutional buyers, growing facility and storage needs, and the inability to produce enough product to attract willing distributors; and

WHEREAS, there are only two large-scale distributors that buy from farmers in the Spokane region; and

WHEREAS, although Spokane is the center of a large agriculture region, there are currently no major fruit or vegetable processing plants that process locally grown produce in Spokane County; and

WHEREAS, the lack of commercial kitchens in Spokane prevent many small producers from growing and has led to businesses relocating to other places that have supportive commercial kitchens; and

WHEREAS, farmland in Spokane County has decreased from 72% in 1950 to 47% today of total land available (a decrease of about 288,000 acres); and

WHEREAS, the amount of farmland in Spokane County from 2007 to 2012 declined by 14%; and

WHEREAS, the City of Spokane has zoned 153 acres for Residential Agriculture in Latah Valley, with 92 acres designated prime agriculture land, although land zoned Residential Agriculture is not protected and can be developed for residential uses; and

WHEREAS, there are no available water rights in Eastern Washington and land with water rights is very expensive, making it prohibitive for new farmers to purchase; and

WHEREAS, the Washington State Department of Ecology Water Resources Program report that Eastern Washington's groundwater tables are dropping, surface waters are already appropriated, and water for irrigation is drastically declining; and

WHEREAS, the average total water supply available to agriculture in Eastern Washington will likely to continue to decline as a result of climate change; and

WHEREAS, energy and water demand as a result of climate change and population growth will likely increase conflicts between hydropower and other water users such as farmers; and

WHEREAS, the growing average age of the farmers, the net income losses by more than 60% of Spokane County farmers, the millions of pounds in food waste produced by Spokane County residents, and increasing regulatory requirements create threats to our local food system; and

WHEREAS, local industry development in organic and food waste, growing institutional support of local food, agricultural areas with good soil, and a strong number of citizens committed to seeing our community have access to healthy food and our resources protected create opportunities to grow a vibrant local food system;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SPOKANE CITY COUNCIL that the City of Spokane formally adopts the Spokane Regional Food System Inventory; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Spokane requests the Spokane Food Policy Council develop an adoptable food action plan for Spokane that addresses the following:

1. Local food economy opportunities throughout the entire food system;
2. Ways to increase Spokane resident access to healthy food;
3. Strategies to preserve our natural landscape, reduce food waste, and prepare for the impacts of climate change.

ADOPTED by the City Council on November 27, 2017.

*Leri Z. Hoff*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk

Approved as to form:

*Michael P. Puccio*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Assistant City Attorney

