

COUNTY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND
Legislative Session 2016, Legislative Day No. 1

Resolution No. 9-16

Councilmembers Almond & Jones

By the County Council, January 4, 2016

A RESOLUTION of the Baltimore County Council establishing the Baltimore County Food Policy Task Force.

WHEREAS, even in prosperous jurisdictions such as Baltimore County, a significant number of people still struggle to access or afford the foods essential to a healthy diet; and

WHEREAS, universal access to healthy, affordable foods helps to reduce rates of obesity, diabetes, and other chronic diseases; and

WHEREAS, the County Council believes it is important to establish an advisory task force to study and report to County government on methods to significantly improve public health, food security, and the community well-being of all who live, work, study, and recreate in the County, by developing and supporting healthy eating, active living policies and initiatives to create systemic change to the local food system, while simultaneously promoting health, economic opportunity, and well-being, especially among communities that have been negatively impacted by the lack of a coherent food system; and

WHEREAS, a key element of achieving the goal of a coherent, accessible food system in Baltimore County is ensuring that the most vulnerable of our citizens, our children, have access to adequate resources; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, by the County Council of Baltimore County, Maryland, that the Baltimore County Food Policy Task Force is established.

1. The Task Force consists of 18 members:

- one person from each Councilmanic District, appointed by the Council person
- a representative of TABCO
- a representative appointed by the County Board of Education
- a representative of the business community, appointed by the County Council
- a representative of a food-related non-profit organization, appointed by the County Council
- one person appointed by the County Executive
- a representative of the agriculture industry appointed by the county council
- a grocer or food retailer appointed by the county council
- a representative of the Department of Health and Human Services
- a representative of Maryland Hunger Solutions
- a representative of the Maryland Food Bank
- a representative appointed by the Baltimore County PTA Council
- staff support provided by the County Council

The Task Force shall select a Chairperson and a Co-Chair and shall meet at least monthly beginning in March, 2016.

2. The Task Force shall study and report on:

- the challenges presented by a limited access to healthy food, including obesity, diabetes, and other medical conditions
- the lack of access to a variety of healthy foods by vulnerable and at-

risk populations

- methods of increasing the number of children participating in federal child nutrition programs, including summer and after-school meal programs, ensuring that children have access to healthy foods where they live and learn
- methods of connecting more eligible seniors to the Food Supplement Program
- methods of advocating for increased nutrition program benefits and greater access to food support
- methods of educating the public and key stakeholders to the reality of hunger's existence and to solutions that are already at hand
- methods of connecting the activities of farmers, grassroots organizations, low-income residents, business leaders, health advocates, educators, and others in the development of coherent food/farm policies; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Task Force annually shall report its findings and recommendations to the County Executive and County Council on the results of the studies conducted in accordance with paragraph 2.

The Task Force shall report to the County Executive and County Council on or before July 1 of each year, with a final report and recommendation due on July 1, 2018. The July 1, 2018 report shall include a recommendation as to whether the Task Force should be continued.