



SPUR

San Francisco | San Jose | Oakland

July 16, 2020

Rules Committee
Board of Supervisors
City and County of San Francisco
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
City Hall, Room 244
San Francisco, CA 94102

Dear Members of the Rules Committee:

On behalf of SPUR, I am writing to express enthusiastic support for the Food Purchasing Standards and Department Goals (File #200244). The City and County spends nearly \$7.5 million on food through agencies such as the Department of Public Health (hospitals) and the Sheriff's Department (jails). San Francisco has a responsibility to set a high standard for the community and to ensure that public funds maximize public benefits. This ordinance will help the City and County reach this higher bar.

The Good Food Purchasing Program (GFPP), developed by the Center for Good Food Purchasing, provides a clear framework for analyzing and improving the environmental, social, and health impacts of food procured by public institutions. San Francisco has already taken important strides in improving food procurement by conducting an assessment of existing food vendors to evaluate alignment with the Good Food Purchasing Standards through Resolution 191-18¹. By articulating ambitious standards and goals based on these assessments the City and County can build on its national leadership and set a strong example for Good Food Purchasing Program participants across the country.

In our reports, *Locally Nourished* and *Healthy Food Within Reach* we highlighted how public procurement can and should support all residents.² For example, using public procurement to support California agriculture has economic benefits to the state far beyond the farms growing the fruits and vegetables served. It is also a powerful strategy to support environmentally friendly agricultural practices that improve water-use efficiency, carbon sequestration and resilience during droughts, environmental impacts that effect all Californians. Public agencies can also encourage healthier diets by expanding the options it offers when it serves food directly to people in its hospitals and jails.

For these reasons, SPUR respectfully requests you to vote in support of the Food Purchasing Standards and Department Goals ordinance.

Sincerely,

Katie Ettman
Food and Agriculture Policy Associate

CC: Victor Young

¹ City and County of San Francisco Board of Supervisors, Resolution 191-18, June 27, 2018.
<https://sfgov.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=3482887&GUID=B2F5E86C-8791-4771-90D4-C2CDD05D91FA&Options=ID%7CText%7C&Search=good+food+purchasing>

² SPUR, *Locally Nourished: How a Stronger Regional Food System Improves the Bay Area*, 2013: <https://www.spur.org/publications/spur-report/2013-05-13/locally-nourished>. SPUR, *Healthy Food Within Reach: Helping Bay Area Residents Find, Afford and Choose Healthy Food*, 2015: www.spur.org/foodaccess