



Office of the Chicago City
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City Council Document Tracking Sheet

Meeting Date:	4/24/2012
Sponsor(s):	Burke, Edward M. (14)
Type:	Resolution
Title:	Call for hearing(s) on proposed private/public partnership for distribution of excess food products to needy individuals
Committee(s) Assignment:	Committee on Finance

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the corporate authorities of the City of Chicago are committed to ending hunger; and

WHEREAS, no resident of the City of Chicago should have to wonder where the next meal will come from or question the quality of that meal; and

WHEREAS, the City of Chicago's *Healthy Chicago: A Public Health Agenda for a Healthy City, Healthy Neighborhoods, Healthy People and Healthy Homes* addresses the need for residents to have access to healthy, affordable food to improve public health; and

WHEREAS, funding for food and nutrition programs has failed to keep up with the growing need for food among those in need; and

WHEREAS, private donations of food to the Greater Chicago Food Depository and food pantries throughout Chicago have failed to met the growing demand; and

WHEREAS, America's convenience stores, restaurants and supermarkets throw out approximately 27 million tons of food every year; and

WHEREAS, while there are many business partnerships, it is important to achieve the maximum amount of donations; and

WHEREAS, nearly 40% of food (prepared or harvested) goes uneaten and, accordingly, becomes waste; and

WHEREAS, some food products are wasted for cosmetic reasons while others are discarded due to turnover; and

WHEREAS, food distributors for restaurants and caterers often discard items intended for one client that are no longer needed; and

WHEREAS, many businesses are hesitant to donate perfectly suitable food (prepared or otherwise) due to potential legal liability; and

WHEREAS, it is critical to strike a balance between ensuring the distribution of safe food and simply reclaiming waste; and

WHEREAS, the Emerson Good Samaritan Food Donation Act of 1996 encouraged the donation of food and grocery products to non-profit organizations for distribution to needy individuals; and

WHEREAS, the aforementioned Act makes it easier to donate by protecting donors from liability absent a showing of "gross negligence"; and

WHEREAS, the City of Chicago seeks to encourage the private donation of food to non-profit organizations for distribution to needy individuals in an attempt to eradicate hunger; NOW THEREFORE

BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the Mayor and members of the Chicago City Council hereby urge the farm, restaurant and business communities to partner with Chicago's food pantries, soup kitchens, and shelters to provide excess food products (prepared or otherwise) for distribution in the City of Chicago; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Committee on Finance hereby calls upon the Commissioner of the Department of Family and Support Services, Commissioner of the Department of Public Health, members of the farm, restaurant and business communities and representatives from Chicago's food pantries, soup kitchens, and shelters appear before the aforementioned Committee to testify regarding this private/public partnership.



Edward M. Burke, Alderman, 14th Ward