



# City of Chicago



R2020-294

Office of the City Clerk

## Document Tracking Sheet

**Meeting Date:**

4/22/2020

**Sponsor(s):**

Waguespack (32)

Cardenas (12)

**Type:**

Resolution

**Title:**

Call for Governor JB Pritzker to support local farmers, farmers' markets and nurseries to provide economic security to local producers and ensure Illinoisans have increased access to affordable and sustainable food during COVID-19 pandemic

**Committee(s) Assignment:**

Committee on Environmental Protection and Energy

**R E S O L U T I O N**

**WHEREAS**, The City of Chicago, the State of Illinois, the United States, and the rest of the world continue to confront the challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic; and

**WHEREAS**, On April 22, 1970, 20 million Americans from every corner of the country joined together to demand a national conversation and action on the protection of the environment, natural resources, and public health; and

**WHEREAS**, 2020 will mark 50 years of Earth Day on April 22, and millions of people desire to safely mobilize on behalf of our planet and our collective health during the COVID-19 pandemic; and,

**WHEREAS**, We know that even seemingly small actions we take in our lives help protect the environment, improve our lives, and influence others to do the same, which will lead the way to a more sustainable planet for us now and for future generations; and

**WHEREAS**, We can learn and do more to influence policymakers and save our environment while we #StayatHome during the pandemic; and

**WHEREAS**, The One Earth Film Fest's Virtual Mini Film Festival runs throughout Earth Week 2020 to provide educational experiences to and engage with Chicagoans during the pandemic; and

**WHEREAS**, It is imperative, now more than ever, to cooperate locally and internationally to defend the progress we have made in environmental and public health protection; and

**WHEREAS**, Further progress can only be achieved if we account for and address the racial and socioeconomic disparities that threaten the most vulnerable among us; and

**WHEREAS**, The Trump administration and the Environmental Protection Agency continue to serve the interests of polluting industries at the expense of public health and vulnerable communities, especially communities of color, including recent administrative rules that make it easier for mercury and other cancer-causing toxins to pollute our air; and

**WHEREAS**, Students, residents, environmental groups, and local leaders have taken great steps to reduce plastic pollution in 2020, by reducing the prevalence of single-use plastic, like water bottles, plastic utensils, and plastic bags that destroy our lakes, rivers, and streams with nanoplastics; and

**WHEREAS**, Despite setbacks and insufficient recycling rates citywide, Chicagoans must continue to press for better recycling efforts and systems; and

**WHEREAS**, Buying locally-sourced produce helps reduce your carbon footprint, and supporting local farmers, nurseries, and community-supported agriculture or cooperatives will help our small business community; and

**WHEREAS,** The closure of our local markets, farms, nurseries, and cooperatives has led to devastating impacts on our economy and our local food system, especially for populations facing food insecurity; and

**WHEREAS,** Our fight for environmental justice extends beyond a single day annually; now, therefore,

**BE IT RESOLVED,** That we, the Mayor and Members of the City Council of the City of Chicago, assembled this twenty-second day of April 2020, do hereby commit to celebrate Earth Day by continuing to fight for clean air and waterways, especially in communities that disproportionately bear the burden of pollution in our environment; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** That we urge the Governor of the State of Illinois to support local farmers, farmers' markets, and nurseries to help provide economic security to local producers and to ensure that Illinoisans have increased access to affordable and sustainable food options during the COVID-19 pandemic; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** That we support efforts by Chicagoans to mobilize virtually from their homes during this pandemic to advocate for a cleaner environment and to safeguard public health.

Scott Waguespack  
Chairman, Finance

George Cardenas  
Chairman, Committee on  
Environmental Protection and Energy

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