



**TO: Members of the Food Policy Council:
All interested parties**

DATE: April 10th, 2018

RE: Food Policy Council Meeting Minutes

INTRODUCTIONS:

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I. Introductions

II. New York Department of Agriculture and Markets: Ehle Shachter

- a. Overview of New York's Agriculture statistics
 - i. 20% of the New York state is farmland
 - ii. Over 35,000 farms throughout the state
 - iii. 1st in the nation in the production/harvest of poultry, yogurt, etc.
 - iv. 2nd in the production of apples and maple syrup.
- b. NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets
 - i. Mission-Promote high quality products grown across New York State
 - ii. Two office locations-NYC and Albany
 - iii. Divisions-Agriculture development, Animal industry, food laboratory, food safety and inspection (inspects whole sale foods, safeguard food supply. Inspect and educate), land and water resources, milk control and dairy services, plant industry, seed testing laboratory, statistics, weights and measurements.
 - iv. Farmer's Markets- NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets focus populations include; SNAP, WIC, veterans, seniors.
 - v. FreshConnect
 - 1. Governor Cuomo launched the FreshConnect Program in 2011 to create new farmers' markets and support existing markets that provide outlets for fresh food in high need neighborhoods. Since inception, the FreshConnect Checks Program has provided a \$2.00 incentive coupon for every \$5.00 of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefit used at participating markets thereby increasing the purchasing power of SNAP consumers by 40 percent while supporting local farmers.
 - 2. Must be an approved Farmers Market or Farm Stand-Must have at least 2 or more vendors at a farmer's market. Farmer's must apply by July of each year.
 - 3. Farmers Market Manger Certification Program (FMMPRO)
 - 4. Current Farms on LI accepting FreshConnect program- Port Jefferson Farmers Market, Rocky Point Farmers and Artisan Market, Hog Farm Stand, Riverhead Saturdays' Farmers Market, Flanders Farm Fresh Food Market, East Hampton Farmers' Market, and many more.
 - 5. Agenda-statewide 2019-2024-Food and policies, local agriculture, hunger, research and development (climate change, new technologies, etc.), labor (new technologies, etc.), and transportation (especially on long Island).

6. Grant opportunities
 - a. Community Growers Grant funded by the EPA-RFA will be posted in the near future
 - b. Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI)- Participating communities are nominated by the state's ten Regional Economic Development Councils (REDCs) based on the downtown's potential for transformation, and each community is awarded \$10 million to develop a downtown strategic investment plan and implement key catalytic projects that advance the community's vision for revitalization.
 - i. Communities selected in round 2 of the DRI on Long Island-Hicksville (Oyster Bay)
7. Food Policy Council Models for best practices
 - a. Erie County, NY
 - b. Mohawk Valley, NY

III. Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA)

- a. Food safety practices, include new regulations for farms that grow fresh produce and facilities that process food for people to eat.

IV. Community Gardens

- a. 501c Insurance
- b. Food and cooking demonstrations-open vs. closed event
- c. Liability insurance
- d. Suffolk County DOH and NYS DOH

V. Vending Machine Bill

- a. Federal Law-Passed
- b. IR1096-vending machines must meet certain nutritional standards
- c. Vending machines must show food labels
- d. Who regulates or polices?
- e. Vendor-Dover Gourmet Corporation, Plainview, NY

VI. Subcommittee Updates

- a. Community Gardens
 - i. April 19th LI Food Coalition- Conference at Hofstra (on SCFPC webpage)
 - ii. April 20th- Community Garden, Roosevelt 10 am
- b. Why Buy Local?
 - i. Funding for "Farm to School" programming Increased to 1.5m this year
- c. Food Equity
 - i. Cornell Evaluation
- d. Agricultural Education

VII. Vacancies

VIII. New Business