OPPORTUNITIES IN CITY FOOD POLICY: INNOVATIVE EXAMPLES FROM AROUND THE COUNTRY
• The Public Health Law Center does not lobby, nor does it provide legal representation or advice. However, based on our experience, we are able to provide you with our observations and other educational information for your own evaluation. This information is for educational purposes only; we do not request that a policymaker take any specific action in regard to our comments, nor should our comments be considered a replacement for legal advice. If you require a legal opinion, we encourage you to consult with local legal counsel. That said, we hope that our comments and suggestions are helpful to you.
ON THE MENU

- Policy as a tool for equity
- Minneapolis’s food policy landscape
- Highlighted policy examples from other cities
LEGAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

- Legal Research
- Policy Development, Implementation, Defense
- Publications
- Trainings
- Direct Representation (red x)
- Lobby (red x)
LAW AS A TOOL FOR EQUITY?
Equality

Equity
EQUITY IN POLICY CREATION

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

• **Proposal**: What is the policy, program, practice or budget decision under consideration? What are the desired results and outcomes?

• **Data**: What’s the data? What does the data tell us?

• **Community engagement**: How have communities been engaged? Are there opportunities to expand engagement?

• **Analysis and strategies**: Who will benefit from or be burdened by your proposal? What are your strategies for advancing racial equity or mitigating unintended consequences?

• **Implementation**: What is your plan for implementation?

• **Accountability and communication**: How will you ensure accountability, communicate, and evaluate results?

Source: Local and Regional Government Alliance on Race & Equity
MINNEAPOLIS FOOD POLICY LANDSCAPE
WHAT ELSE?

POLICY EXAMPLES FROM OTHER COMMUNITIES

CITY LAND BANKS

A NEW PROCESS FOR PROPERTY DISPOSITION

EXISTING CYCLE

VACANT PROPERTY

TAX DELINQUENT

FORECLOSED

SOLD AT AUCTION

BOUGHT FOR SPECULATION

LAND BANK

CREASES TITLE AND RETURNS LAND TO USE

VACANT PROPERTY

TAX DELINQUENT

FORECLOSED

RETURNED TO PRODUCTIVE USE

TITLE CLEARED

PLACED IN INVENTORY

RESIDENTIAL

COMMERCIAL

MAINTAINED LOT

GARDEN

POCKET PARK

http://media.phillyvoice.com/media/images/Land_Bank_.width-704.png
CITY LAND BANKS

- Example: Kansas City, MO
URBAN AG INCENTIVE ZONES
URBAN AG INCENTIVE ZONES

• **Example: San Francisco, CA:**

• An ordinance designates the entire city/county area as an agricultural incentive zone.

  • Property owners can enter into contracts with the City. In exchange for reduced property taxes, landowners commit to using their land for agricultural purposes for at least five years.
## ZONING PRIORITIES

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<th>ZONING DISTRICTS</th>
<th>Residential</th>
<th>Business</th>
<th>Industrial</th>
<th>Special</th>
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</thead>
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| **Residential Use** | L | F | R | M | H | P | L | U | S | R | O | R | C | L | G | R | S | G | U | I | D | E | O | S | R |
| **Manufactured Home** | C | C | C | C | C | C | C | C | C | C | C | C | C | C | C | C | C | C | C | C | C | C | C | C | C |
| **Mobile Home**     | C | C | C | C | C | C | C | C | C | C | C | C | C | C | C | C | C | C | C | C | C | C | C | C | C |


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URBAN GARDEN DISTRICTS

- Example: Cleveland, OH

URBAN AG OVERLAY DISTRICT

• Pending Example: Cleveland, OH
  • Overlay zoning district for larger-scale farming, including raising of animals
    – Would allow for special zoning for contiguous parcels of at least one acre in size
    – Currently pending before the Cleveland City Council
RELAXED PERMITTING FOR SEASON EXTENSION

Example: Burlington, VT

- Exempts certain agricultural structures from zoning permit requirements including cold frames, hoop houses and other season extension structures and rooftop urban agriculture structures (provided size and placement requirements are met).
- Among other things, the exemptions allow for hoop houses to be sheathed in translucent plastic or similar material for a maximum of nine months per year and for the frame to remain in place year-round.
LOCAL PURCHASING PREFERENCES

• Example: Cleveland, OH
  – The City passed a local purchasing preference ordinance that gives a bid discount of two percent to bids on city contracts from local food producers, as well as other sustainable and local businesses.
TAX INCENTIVES FOR FOOD BUSINESS IN PRIORITY AREAS

- **Example: Washington D.C.**
  - Law creates 10 year tax and licensing fee exemptions for restaurants, retail stores, and supermarkets located in specific "priority development areas" of the District.
  - Benefits: real property tax exemption, business license fee exemption, personal property tax exemption and, sales and use tax exemption on building materials necessary for construction.
  - District has searchable tax incentives map for property owners and developers.
THE END IS NEAR.
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