

Every day in Los Angeles food goes to waste while countless Angelenos go hungry. It is estimated that the City of Los Angeles sends over one million tons of organic waste to the landfill annually, while over 1.5 million residents are food insecure.

In 2010, the City Council approved the Surplus Food Policy, an attempt to advise City departments and contractors to donate surplus food to food banks, pantries, or any agency providing food to the needy. While the policy included a set of procedures and guidelines to assist departments in donating surplus food, it lacked the necessary supportive infrastructure and regulatory weight of an ordinance to spur longtime and permanent adherence to this much-needed Citywide policy. Today, with the State and County implementing new laws, regulations, and policies regarding food donations and surplus food, and with more Los Angeles organizations working in the field of surplus food rescue and redistribution, the time is ripe for the City of Los Angeles to create and implement a Food Surplus ordinance.

In 2016, California passed SB 1383, which established a statewide goal to recover 20% of edible food that is currently discarded, and AB 1219, which updated the California Good Samaritan Food Donation Act to expand liability protections to persons, businesses and organizations who donate food. In response to AB 1219, the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health Environmental Health Division prepared food safety guidelines to help facilitate safe food donations.

In 2017, the City launched recycLA, a new public private-partnership with recycLA Service Providers (RSPs) that expanded waste and recycling services to commercial and large multi-family developments in the City. As part of recycLA, RSPs are required to help expand the role of food rescue and reuse to commercial customers in order to increase the amount of food recovered annually that would otherwise end up in landfills. In February 2017, the Los Angeles Food Policy Council released its LA Area Food Recovery Guide called "Reducing Food Waste: Recovering Untapped Resources in our Food System." The guide made multiple recommendations to improve food recovery; including for the City to:

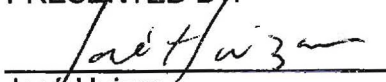
- Review all City contracts to identify opportunities to subcontract for food recovery and
- Add a 'food recovery' component into City event permits

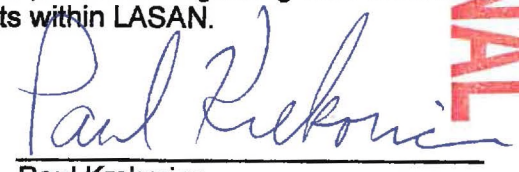
Given these developments, it is now appropriate to create clear, consistent guidelines through a new Surplus Food Policy ordinance.

WE THEREFORE MOVE for LA Sanitation and the Environment (LASAN), with assistance from the CLA and the City Attorney's office, to report, within 90 days, as follows:

- Report on implementing a citywide Surplus Food Policy ordinance requiring food donations for all food service contracts, food concessions on city property and food at city-sponsored and city-permitted events.
- Guidelines should include possible mechanisms to connect food servers with food rescue organizations, including a running contact list of regional food rescue organizations, as well as third-party organizations and emerging technologies that match donors with food rescue groups and organizations.
- Guidelines should also ensure that procedures for food donation align with Los Angeles County and state policies.
- Report on the implementation of the recycLA franchise agreement provisions regarding food donations and the management of that program and other food rescue efforts within LASAN.

PRESENTED BY:


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 Councilmember, 14th District


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SECONDED BY:



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