

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND
2024 Legislative Session

Resolution No. CR-006-2024

Proposed by Council Member Oriadha

Introduced by Council Members Oriadha, Blegay, Watson, Olson, Ivey, Burroughs,
Hawkins, Dernoga and Franklin

Co-Sponsors _____

Date of Introduction February 13, 2024

RESOLUTION

1 A RESOLUTION concerning

2 The Healthy Food in Prince George's County Correctional Facilities Task Force

3 For the purpose of creating a task force that will recommend to the County Council, sitting as the

4 Board of Health, nutritional, food safety, and other standards suitable for the correctional facility

5 meal program that support the health, well-being, and religious and cultural identities of detained

6 individuals and incarcerated

7 individuals, align with the GFPP (Center for Good Food Purchasing's Good Food Purchasing

8 Program) core values, meet or exceed the Dietary Guidelines for Americans, and consider the

9 daily caloric and serving size needs of the populations served.

10 WHEREAS, there is a concern that the inmates at the County Adult Detention Center are

11 not receiving adequate nutritional, food safety, and other standards suitable for the correctional

12 facility meal program that support the health, well-being, and religious and cultural identities of

13 detained individuals and incarcerated individuals; and

14 WHEREAS, these disparities ultimately result in public health issues for incarcerated

15 individuals.

16 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the County Council of Prince George's

17 County, Maryland, that no later than one hundred twenty (120) days, the County Executive and

18 the County Council shall convene a task force, known as the Healthy Food in Prince George's

19 County Correctional Facilities Task Force. The County Executive and the County Council shall

20 fill all task force vacancies within 30 days or before the next task force meeting, whichever

21 comes first.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Healthy Food in Prince George's County Correctional Facilities Task Force shall be composed of fourteen (14) members:

1. One (1) member appointed by the County Council Chair;
2. With approval from the County Council, the County Executive shall appoint one representative from each of the following County agencies to the Task Force:
 - (i) Department of Corrections;
 - (ii) Department of the Environment;
 - (iii) Department of Health & Human Services;
3. The County Council shall also appoint:
 - (i) Two individuals who are currently incarcerated in correctional facilities and shall aim to minimize turnover in these task force seats;
 - (ii) An individual with expertise in researching and implementing food policy in carceral settings;
 - (iii) Two members of organizations that work with pre- and post-release formerly incarcerated populations in Prince George's County;
 - (iv) A member of the Prince George's County Returning Citizens Affairs Division;
 - (v) A registered dietitian;
 - (vi) A member affiliated with a nonprofit organization that focuses on urban farming in Prince George's County; and
 - (vii) A member affiliated with a food justice and farming organization working in Prince George's County; and
 - (viii) A member affiliated with Prince George's Community College.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that no later than one (1) year after it is convened, the Task Force shall recommend to the County Council, sitting as the Board of Health, nutritional, food safety, and other standards suitable for the correctional facility meal program that support the health, well-being, and religious and cultural identities of detained individuals and incarcerated individuals, align with the GFPP (Center for Good Food Purchasing's Good Food Purchasing

Program) core values, meet or exceed the Dietary Guidelines for Americans, consider the daily caloric and serving size needs of the populations served, and educational components for healthy eating and ways to obtain healthier food. Such standards shall include at a minimum:

1. At least one plant-based main course option per meal;
2. At least three servings of minimally processed raw fruit per day, all of which are fresh and may be seasoned during correctional facility preparation;
3. At least three servings of minimally processed dark green vegetables per week, at least one of which is served raw, and all of which are fresh and may be seasoned during correctional facility preparation; and
4. At least three servings of minimally processed red and orange vegetables per week, at least one of which is served raw, and all of which are fresh and may be seasoned during correctional facility preparation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that no later than one (1) year after it is convened, the Task Force shall recommend to the County Council, sitting as the Board of Health, nutritional standards for correctional facility commissaries that support the health, well-being, and religious and cultural identities of detained individuals and incarcerated individuals, align with the GFPP core values, and meet or exceed the Dietary Guidelines for Americans.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that no later than two (2) years after it is convened, the task force shall submit a report to the County Executive and County Council identifying steps to accomplish and a funding source to support the following within two (2) years:

1. Partnering with established hospitality and culinary arts and agriculture training and education programs in Prince George's County to provide detained individuals and incarcerated individuals with such training and education, with an emphasis on increasing participants' economic stability and reducing recidivism by connecting participants with apprenticeship or job placements and supportive services upon release;
2. Feasibility of creating a central dining area or other meal-time facilities conducive to positive eating habits;
3. Introducing nutrition and health education programs for detained individuals and incarcerated individuals;
4. Creation of a long-term procedure for the Department of Corrections to engage with detained individuals and incarcerated individuals regarding food

1 security, including satisfaction with food served, meal delivery, and mealtime procedures, and to
2 incorporate resulting feedback into food programs on an ongoing basis;

3 5. Other related goals identified by the task force.

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that no later than one (1) year after the task force
5 establishes the nutrition standards required to be developed, the Department of Corrections shall
6 provide all detained individuals and incarcerated individuals, except juveniles, with meals
7 meeting such standards.

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Notwithstanding use of the nutrition standards,
9 detained individuals or incarcerated individuals who have dietary restrictions or requirements
10 based on health or medical needs, or religious or cultural beliefs shall receive meals in
11 accordance with such needs or beliefs. Before implementing the nutrition standards required to
12 be developed, the Department of Corrections shall develop an intake form for assessing the food
13 needs of each detained individual and each incarcerated individual. Upon development of such
14 intake form, the Department of Corrections shall use it to screen existing detained individuals
15 and incarcerated individuals, and each new detained individual and incarcerated individual going
16 forward.

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The Department of Corrections shall procure food
18 for detained individuals and incarcerated individuals in a manner consistent with the GFPP core
19 values.

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that every five years, or more frequently, when
21 necessary, the Department of Corrections, in consultation with the Department of Health, shall
22 review and update the nutrition standards to ensure alignment with the latest scientific evidence
23 and with cultural and religious needs.

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that no later than one (1) year after enactment of this law,
25 the Department of Corrections shall undergo a GFPP baseline assessment, conducted by the
26 Center for Good Food Purchasing, to determine current alignment with GFPP core values and
27 how better to meet the GFPP core values. Each year thereafter, the Department of Corrections
28 shall undergo an annual GFPP assessment.

29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The Department of Corrections shall use findings
30 from the assessments to increase food procurement consistent with the GFPP core values.

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The Department of Corrections shall make reports
 2 from the following agencies available to the public by publishing them on the department's
 3 webpage within 30 days of receipt from the reporting agency:

4 (ii) Prince George's County Health Department; and

5 (iii) Maryland Commission on Correctional Standards.

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The Department of Corrections shall provide a
 7 public annual progress report to the County Executive and County Council on the
 8 recommendations put forth by the task force.

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The Department of Corrections shall establish and
 10 operate an urban farm, from which food shall be made available for consumption by detained
 11 individuals and incarcerated individuals, and any surplus food available for consumption shall be
 12 donated to local food banks.

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 16 donated to local food banks.

Adopted this 29th day of October, 2024.

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE
 GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

BY: 

Jolene Ivey
 Chair

ATTEST:



Donna J. Brown
 Clerk of the Council