

EXECUTIVE ORDER No. 122

September 19, 2008

FOOD POLICY COORDINATOR FOR THE CITY OF NEW YORK AND  
CITY AGENCY FOOD STANDARDS

WHEREAS, New York City is committed to reducing the prevalence of obesity and diabetes, which are the only major health problems in New York City that continue to affect increasing numbers of New Yorkers; and

WHEREAS, cardiovascular disease is the leading cause of death in New York City, and poor nutrition is a major contributor to the development of the disease; and

WHEREAS, the City is committed to promoting access to healthy, nutritious food for all New Yorkers; and

WHEREAS, the City serves over 1,000,000 meals on a typical day through its public schools, hospitals, senior centers, correctional facilities, homeless shelters, and other programs; and

WHEREAS, the City also supports and administers several food policy initiatives on an ongoing basis, including: Food Stamps, School Meals and the Emergency Food Assistance Program, which provide food to millions of New Yorkers in need; the Council on the Environment of NYC's Greenmarket program, which operates several markets throughout the City each growing season; and nutrition regulation and education in City schools, day care programs, after-school programs, and other settings;

NOW, THEREFORE, by the power vested in me as Mayor of the City of New York, it is hereby ordered that:

Section 1. Food Policy Coordinator. There shall be a Food Policy Coordinator ("Coordinator") for the City of New York within the Office of the Mayor, who shall report to the Deputy Mayor for Health and Human Services and the Mayor.

§ 2. Duties of the Coordinator. The Coordinator shall develop and coordinate initiatives to promote access to healthy food for all New Yorkers. The Coordinator shall increase access to and utilization of food support programs for those who cannot afford to

purchase food and ensure, to the extent allowable under federal, state and local law, that the meals and snacks served by City contractors and agencies in any City-funded programs meet the Food Standards as set forth in Section 3. The Food Policy Coordinator shall convene a Food Policy Taskforce, which shall have representation including, but not limited to, the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (the “Health Department”), Department of Education, the Human Resources Administration, the Office of the City Council Speaker, and the Council on the Environment of New York City.

§ 3. Food Standards. The Commissioner of the Health Department and the Coordinator shall develop City Agency Food Standards (“Food Standards”) for all meals or food supplies that are purchased, prepared or served in agency programs or other relevant settings. The Food Standards shall be formalized and circulated to all agency heads. All City agencies shall follow the Food Standards for all meals that are purchased, prepared or served by the agency. City agencies shall also ensure that their contractors follow the Food Standards for all meals served in City funded programs. The Coordinator and the Health Department, with input from other relevant agencies, shall periodically review and revise the Food Standards as needed, but at least once every three years from the date of their implementation. Such review shall take into consideration implementation progress and ensure that the Food Standards continue to meet or exceed current dietary recommendations based upon the latest scientific evidence.

§ 4. Agency Cooperation. All City agencies shall cooperate with the Coordinator and with the Health Department in developing and ensuring compliance with the Food Standards. Such cooperation shall include, but not be limited to, ensuring that the meals served by the agencies meet the Food Standards, instituting and maintaining programs designed to increase access to affordable and nutritious food in communities with limited access to such items, and increasing the awareness and utilization of food assistance programs by those who qualify for them.

§ 5. This order shall take effect immediately.

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Michael R. Bloomberg  
Mayor