



Commission of Animal Control & Welfare

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Deputy Director John P. Skeel

Animal Care & Control

Officer Joe Majeski

San Francisco Police Department

Lisa Wayne

Recreation and Parks Department

July 17, 2020

Supervisor Catherine Stefani

Board of Supervisors

City Hall, Room 244

1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place

San Francisco, CA 94102

Phone: (415) 554-7752

Email: Catherine.Stefani@sfgov.org

Dear Supervisor Stefani,

We are reaching out in support of Supervisor Fewer's proposed Food Purchasing Standards and Departmental Goals ordinance, which is scheduled for a Rules Committee vote on Monday, July 20.

We applaud the consideration of animal welfare, and also environmental sustainability and nutrition, as values upon which our city's food system will be based. The resulting changes will be critical, as reducing animal protein consumption and requiring a portion of purchases to be sourced from animal welfare certified vendors will mean fewer animals suffering on factory farms.

The positive impact on climate change will also be significant, as animal agriculture is a leading cause of greenhouse gas emissions and deforestation. By joining other major cities that have adopted Good Food Purchasing standards, San Francisco will be working towards fulfilling our promise to achieve net zero carbon emissions.

However, the case for reaching for higher standards is clear. Countless animals will be impacted by an additional reduction in animal protein in the approximately two million meals served each year by the Department of Public Health ("DPH"). Further, the health risk posed by zoonotic diseases that spread to humans due to animal consumption cannot be overstated. While many of these, like COVID-19, apparently spread to humans due to wildlife consumption, other diseases such as the swine flu (H1N1) and avian flu (H5N1), passed to humans through domestic animals. The risk is especially high for intensively reared animals who lack the genetic diversity that provides disease resilience.

Finally, from an environmental sustainability perspective, we agree, as the United Nations has warned, that "rapid, far-reaching, and unprecedented changes in all aspects of society" are required to maintain climate change at a level at which human life may adapt with less suffering. This means cutting emissions significantly *within this decade*, before achieving net zero in 2050.

For these reasons, ***we urge the Department of Public Health to increase its goal to align with that of the Sheriff's Department by committing to a 50% decrease in animal protein purchases.*** The current goal of a 15% reduction is a meaningful step in the right direction, but more is necessary and achievable.

We understand the challenges presented in contracting with food vendors. We urge our Supervisors to take measures to eliminate unnecessary contracting requirements that are barriers to achieving this critical goal, and encourage DPH to take advantage of the support offered by local non-profits in contracting with plant-based food vendors. Finally, we offer our support in taking any steps within our means to help accomplish this goal.

Respectfully,

San Francisco Animal Control and Welfare Commissioners



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Supervisor Hillary Ronen
Board of Supervisors
City Hall, Room 244
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102
Phone: (415) 554-5144
Email: ronenstaff@sfgov.org

Dear Supervisor Ronen,

We are reaching out in support of Supervisor Fewer's proposed Food Purchasing Standards and Departmental Goals ordinance, which is scheduled for a Rules Committee vote on Monday, July 20.

We applaud the consideration of animal welfare, and also environmental sustainability and nutrition, as values upon which our city's food system will be based. The resulting changes will be critical, as reducing animal protein consumption and requiring a portion of purchases to be sourced from animal welfare certified vendors will mean fewer animals suffering on factory farms.

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Supervisor Gordon Mar
Board of Supervisors
City Hall, Room 244
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102
Phone: (415) 554-7460
Email: marstaff@sfgov.org

Dear Supervisor Mar,

We are reaching out in support of Supervisor Fewer's proposed Food Purchasing Standards and Departmental Goals ordinance, which is scheduled for a Rules Committee vote on Monday, July 20.

We applaud the consideration of animal welfare, and also environmental sustainability and nutrition, as values upon which our city's food system will be based. The resulting changes will be critical, as reducing animal protein consumption and requiring a portion of purchases to be sourced from animal welfare certified vendors will mean fewer animals suffering on factory farms.

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