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**STEUART PITTMAN  
County Executive**

**AMENDED AND RESTATED EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER 60**

**TO ESTABLISH THE ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY FOOD COUNCIL**

**WHEREAS**, Anne Arundel County seeks to memorialize lessons learned in the food access workgroup, establish in March 2020, consider evolving state policy, continue coordination to reduce food insecurity, and ensure residents do not have to choose between eating and paying bills; and

**WHEREAS**, the Anne Arundel County neighborhoods with the most poverty and food insecurity are disproportionately African American and Hispanic/Latino; and

**WHEREAS**, some of the inequities in these neighborhoods are based on historic, national policies, such as redlining; and

**WHEREAS**, the COVID-19 pandemic disproportionately affected these neighborhoods for a variety of reasons, including discrimination and systemic barriers to healthcare, employment, and housing options; and

**WHEREAS**, these issues have compounded the effects of COVID-19 by furthering disparities in access to nutritious foods, which has heightened other health risks for chronic illnesses such as diabetes, hearing disease, hypertension, and asthma; and

**WHEREAS**, there are racial and ethnic disparities in obesity rates because low income families may have to choose lower cost foods that are higher in calories and less nutrient dense due to lack of access to, or the means to prepare, healthier alternatives; and

**WHEREAS**, the costs of food and other household necessities are increasing; and

**WHEREAS**, Anne Arundel County has seen a sharp and sustained increase in resident use of free and emergency resources offered by various government and nonprofit programs; and

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**WHEREAS**, the availability of free and emergency food resources offered by government and nonprofit programs is shrinking due to reduced funding availability at all levels; and

**WHEREAS**, the County Executive has determined that there is an urgent need to establish a coordinated, multi-disciplinary effort to address food access issues and the health issues resulting from such in Anne Arundel County; and

**WHEREAS**, the State of Maryland is also evaluating policies and procedures to address these issues throughout the State through the Maryland Food System Resiliency Council; and

**WHEREAS**, the County Executive has determined that the needs set forth above will be best addressed by the establishment of a Food Council.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Steuart Pittman, County Executive, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Charter and laws of Anne Arundel County, Maryland, hereby order and direct on this 30th day of June, 2023, as follows:

1. That the Anne Arundel County Food Council (“Council”) is hereby created.
2. The Council shall meet with the frequency it deems necessary to perform its functions under this Executive Order, but in no event shall there be less than six meetings annually.
3. The Council shall conduct its meetings pursuant to all applicable County and State laws, regulations, and procedures, including the Open Meetings Act.
4. The County Executive shall appoint no more than 15 voting members to the Council that shall include one representative, unless otherwise noted, from each of the following:
  - a. Anne Arundel County Food Bank;
  - b. Anne Arundel County Public Schools Food & Nutrition Services Program;
  - c. Anne Arundel County Agriculture Commission Member or an Anne Arundel County farmer;
  - d. Anne Arundel County Early Childhood Commission;
  - e. Two non-profit organizations that actively provide food or other support in the community related to the work of the Council;
  - f. Four residents who experience(d) food insecurity, one from each Community of Hope;
  - g. Anne Arundel County high school student;
  - h. Two representatives of grocery store, food retailer, restaurant, or related association with an active food donation program;

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i. Inter-Faith Advisory Council or a faith-based representative that actively provides food or other support in the community related to the work of the Council; and

j. State Department of Agriculture.

5. The following individuals, or their designee, shall serve in an ex officio, non-voting capacity on the Council:

a. Director of County Department of Aging and Disabilities;

b. Health Officer of County Department of Health;

c. Director of County Department of Social Services;

d. President & Chief Executive Officer of Maryland Food Bank;

e. Director of County Office of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion;

f. Director of County Office of Emergency Management;

g. Executive Director of County Partnership for Children, Youth, and Families;

h. One representative from each local hospital;

i. Member of State House of Delegates representing Anne Arundel County;

j. Member of State Senate representing Anne Arundel County; and

k. Chief Executive Officer of Arundel Community Development Services;

At any time, other ex officio members may be asked to join the Council to contribute their expertise and offer a fuller representation of citizens, agencies, and organizations. Such ex officio members shall be non-voting members and shall serve as needed.

6. Voting members of the Council shall be appointed by the County Executive to serve conterminously with the term of the County Executive. Voting members shall serve no more than two (2) consecutive terms. Voting Members shall serve at the pleasure of the County Executive and may be removed at any time, with or without cause. Voting Members shall be considered removed for cause if they miss more than one-half of the meetings held during a twelve (12) month period.

7. The County Executive shall designate one member as Chair and one member as Vice-Chair of the Council, each to serve conterminously with the term of the County Executive.

8. The Council shall be responsible for addressing inequity in the food system, creating an inclusive mechanism to launch and coordinate food policies and programs, reducing food

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insecurity in the County, and improving equitable access to nutritious food in the County, with a focus on supporting the local food economy and food infrastructure of low access areas.

9. The Council shall act as an advisory body. Specifically, the Council shall:

a. Advise the County Executive, County Departments and Agencies on methods to improve equitable access to healthy and culturally appropriate food to all County residents, specifically those in under-resourced areas and healthy food priority areas.

b. Draft a comprehensive County-wide plan, including short- and long-term strategies, to address food insecurity using both evidence-based practices and innovative approaches within one year of the creation of the Council.

c. Monitor and make recommendations for existing and proposed policies in County government for their impact on food access including, but not limited to, poverty alleviation policies, affordable housing and equitable education.

d. Compile and assess data related to food access in the County, and inform County policy makers, administrators, and the public-at-large about the status of the region's food system and food security.

e. Evaluate the administration of County food and nutrition programs annually and suggest revisions to the County-wide strategy.

f. Explore new means for the County to improve the local food economy, and the availability, sustainability, accessibility, and quality of food and our environment, including the preservation of agricultural land.

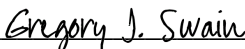
10. The Council shall submit an annual report by January 30, which should include assessment findings, achievements, and recommendations, to the County Executive and the County Council.

This Executive Order shall be archived at the Office of Law and remain in existence until altered or terminated by a subsequent Executive Order.



STEUART PITTMAN  
County Executive

Approved as to form and legal sufficiency:

DocuSigned by:  
  
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Gregory J. Swain  
County Attorney