1. Name
2. Organization
3. One Key Update
   • Policy Updates
   • Program Updates
   • Event/Other Announcement
RESIDENT FOOD EQUITY ADVISOR (RFEA)
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SMALL FOOD RETAIL

FOOD PAC
June 6, 2018
BFPI Structure

1. Inter-governmental collaboration
   • Department of Planning
   • Office of Sustainability
   • Health Department
   • Baltimore Development Corporation

2. Food Policy Action Coalition

3. Resident Food Equity Advisors
   • 2\textsuperscript{nd} Year
   • Theme: Corner and Convenience Store
Application Process
• 80 applicants
• 16 selected

Commitment
• 7 meetings, 2.5 hours each
• Over 3 months
• $250 compensation

Goal
• Create Resident Informed Policies to Improve Corner & Convenience Stores

Overview: Corner and convenience stores have very low Healthy Food Availability Index (HFAI) scores. In response to these findings and feedback from 2017 advisors, the 2018 RFEA cohort committed to a series of meetings to identify priorities within the corner and convenience store system, ultimately creating a corner and convenience store policy strategy and agenda.
District 1
Jessica Pimentel

District 2
Mary Brown-Bey

District 4
Samone Flowers

District 5
Ewan (Mike) Meiklejohn

District 6 and Resident Co-Chair
Adamaah Grayse

District 7
Sheena Ham

District 8
Nicole Butler

District 8
Jessica Tinnin

District 9
Anthony Francis

District 10
Shareka House

District 10
Theodore (TJ) Jackson

District 11
Valeria Fuentes

District 12
Kelly Crawford

District 13
Ava Richardson

District 14
Terrell Williams

Food Policy Director and Co-Chair
Holly Freishtat

Advisors from Districts 3 and 6 withdrew as a result of scheduling and commitment conflicts.
2018 RFEA MEETINGS

Meeting 1:
• What is Food Justice and Equity
• What is Policy

Meeting 2:
• Current State of Corner Stores
• Factors Impacting Corner Stores

Meeting 3:
• Zoning and Corner Stores
• Cultural Biases Related to Corner Stores

Meeting 4:
• Staple Food Ordinance and Business Licenses
• Creating Goals, Strategies, and Recommendations

Meetings 5 and 6:
• Finalizing Goals, Strategies, and Recommendations
• Preparing to present to Food PAC
“WHEN THE CUSTOMERS ARE VIEWED AS NUISANCES AND HAZARDS BY THE OWNERS AND STAFF OF THE VERY STORES THEY PATRONIZE, YOU CAN BET THAT PROVIDING HIGHER-QUALITY, NUTRITIOUS FOOD TO THESE CUSTOMERS WON’T BE HIGH ON THEIR LIST OF PRIORITIES. SO WHEN YOU FACTOR IN THAT VIRTUALLY NONE OF THESE CORNER AND CONVENIENCE STORES CAN BE FOUND IN HIGHER-INCOME, WHITE NEIGHBORHOODS, THE DISPARITY IN FOOD ACCESS, FOOD QUALITY, AND QUALITY OF CUSTOMER SERVICE BECOMES MORE EVIDENT.”

JESSICA TINNIN
RESIDENT FOOD EQUITY ADVISOR

DEVELOPING RECOMMENDATIONS
“Corner/convenience stores are denser in neighborhoods that have a higher proportion of African-American residents, while in other neighborhoods that mainly serve residents that are majority non-African-American, they have more eateries that serve fresh cooked food and greater access to markets... stores stock what they think African-Americans will only consume. That assumption has led to detrimental outcomes as far as chronic diseases and addictions.”

Nicole Butler
Resident Food Equity Advisor

Draft Recommendations
Goal: Improve the physical environment to provide a clean, safe and accessible shopping experience.

Strategies:

• Create an official definition of “small food retail” to improve minimum standards for exterior and interior of stores.

• Improve and coordinate enforcement of existing requirements, regulations and laws (e.g., Food Facility License, tobacco sales, building code, zoning code, ADA)

• Pair technical assistance with all enforcement efforts
Goal: Increase quality, accessibility and availability of food to provide nutritional foods and improve community health.

Strategies:

• Create minimum stocking requirements for the variety and quantity of foods a store must sell.
• Assist in ongoing training and education for store owners to successfully achieve product mix that meets the needs of the local community, while not compromising profitability.
• Ensure retailers have greater access to supply chains that distribute healthier foods
• Create and support strategies and campaigns that increase demand for healthy foods
Goal: Ensure small food retail have the support and resources they need to be economically viable businesses that serve their communities.

Strategies:

- Encourage more opportunities for retailers to share information and resources
- Support merchant access to right-sized capital
- Ensure retailers have greater access to information and technical support
Goal: Change the negative perception of small food retail establishments from potentially predatory to an integral part of the neighborhood

Strategies:

- Create opportunities for retailers and communities to build relationships and foster cultural exchanges
- Establish small food retail as a vehicle for economic empowerment
- Increase safety in and around small food retail stores
THANK YOU
“MOST OF THE CORNER STORES HERE ARE RAN BY FOLKS WHO DO NOT LIVE NEAR OR EVEN HAVE A CLEAR UNDERSTANDING OF THE COMMUNITY. SOME CORNER STORES TAKE PRIDE IN THE COMMUNITY WHILE OTHER SIMPLY PREY ON THE PEOPLE HERE WHO ARE IN LIVING IN SUB-PAR CONDITIONS. I AM FOR EQUAL OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL BUT THERE IS A CLEAR IMBALANCE HERE. I HOPE THERE ARE MORE OPPORTUNITIES FOR COMMUNITY MEMBER INVESTMENT IN THE FUTURE.”

ANTHONY FRANCIS
RESIDENT FOOD EQUITY ADVISOR

REMARKS FROM FOOD POLICY DIRECTOR

Holly Freishtat
Baltimore City Food Policy Director
Holly.Freishtat@baltimorecity.gov
WORKSHOP STATIONS

1. Physical Environment/Infrastructure
2. Store Product/Staple Food Stock
3. Technical Assistance/Support/Incentives
4. Store and Community Relations
DISCUSSION GUIDELINE

- We can agree to disagree (civilly)
- Awareness of time when sharing
- All questions are welcomed
- Speak YOUR truth
- Step up / Step back
- Respect each other by NOT talking over others
DISCUSSION GUIDELINE

First 5 Minutes: Review
- Read over the Goals, Strategies, Actions
- Write down comments on Post Its and place on poster

Next 20 Minutes: Discuss
- How do you see your role in supporting these goals and strategies?
- What do you think are the greatest barriers and opportunities?
- Any additional thoughts and recommendations around the Goals, Strategies, and Actions?