



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

GERALD R. BENNETT
Mayor

October 5, 2022

Donna Miller
6th District Commissioner
Cook County Board of Commissioners
118 N. Clark St., Rm.567
Chicago, IL 60602

Re: Ordinance Amendment – File #22-5345

Dear Commissioner Miller,

As you know, lack of access to healthy food choices contributes to disparities in health outcomes and life expectancy. Data from the Illinois Suburban Cook County Community Health Assessment demonstrated that south suburban Cook County has the least access to full-service chain supermarkets per person, and a high density of corner stores with few to no healthy food options.

It is vital to encourage the location of new grocery stores, and assist in retaining existing grocery stores, in identified food deserts to expand healthy food access and improve economic opportunities for underserved communities.

Therefore, I am writing in full support of your legislation to create a Class 7d property tax incentive to attract or retain grocery stores in food deserts, which has been shown to be an effective strategy for sustainable development in urban areas. Not only will it help create greater access to healthy foods in food deserts, but it will serve as an economic development catalyst, creating good jobs and help improve the health of our communities.

I would like to thank you, President Preckwinkle and the Cook County Board for your leadership in helping to revitalize the Southland, and I hope you will all be equally supportive of this proposal as I am.

Sincerely,

Gerald R. Bennett
Mayor
City of Palos Hills