

## **New York City Council**

### **Memorandum in Support of Legislation**

*This memorandum is authored by the sponsor and explains the need for the legislation referenced below, in accordance with Rule 6.00(d) of the Rules of the Council.*

#### **Introduction Number:**

Int. No. 0167-2024

#### **Prime Sponsors:**

Council Member Amanda Farías

#### **Bill Title:**

A Local Law to amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to requiring the establishment of a municipal human milk bank

#### **Submitted by:**

Council Member Amanda Farías

#### **Justification:**

The 2022 shutdown of Abbott Laboratories, one of four companies that produce 90% of baby formula for U.S consumers, triggered a nationwide shortage. As prices soared due to price gouging, families were left scrambling to feed their infants, with some facing severe health risks. This bill would require the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, or an agency or entity designated by the mayor, to establish a municipal human milk bank in New York City. The bank would collect, process, and distribute donor breast milk to families, including those with adopted or orphaned children and mothers unable to produce milk. Unlike costly private milk banks, a public option would offer affordable access and greater supply stability.

By creating a municipal milk bank, New York City can reduce its vulnerability to supply chain disruptions, counteract corporate price gouging, and ensure that no child goes hungry due to market failures. As climate change and geopolitical uncertainties continue to threaten global supply chains, this bill's passage would allow New York City to set the precedent for the use of public milk banks, ensuring families and infants have reliable access to the nutritional resources essential for their mental and physical well-being, while ensuring another scenario like the 2022 shutdown of Abbott Laboratories will not harm New Yorkers of any age.