File #: Int 0824-2026, **Version:** *

Int. No. 824

By Council Members Marte, Louis and Narcisse

A Local Law to amend the New York city charter, in relation to the establishment and development of school gardens

Be it enacted by the Council as follows:

Section 1. Section 20 of the New York city charter is amended by adding a new subdivision k to read as follows:

k. Interagency school gardens team. 1. There is hereby established within the office an interagency school gardens team under the management of the director or the director's designee to support the creation and maintenance of school gardens.

2. The interagency school gardens team shall include as members the commissioners of buildings, education, environmental protection, health and mental hygiene, parks and recreation, and the chairperson of the city planning commission, or their respective designees, and such other members as the director shall designate.

3. The interagency school gardens team shall:

i. identify and catalogue existing school garden locations and potential school garden locations;

ii. develop and administer incentive programs to encourage public or private entities to help schools identify and develop school garden locations;

iii. promote community participation and community assistance in the identification and development of school garden locations;

iv. disseminate information to schools about the resources that are available for identifying and developing school garden locations;

v. facilitate interactions among city agencies, community based organizations, environmental experts, and schools regarding school gardens;

vi. support the efforts of schools to obtain and utilize federal, state, and private incentives to identify and develop school garden locations; and

vii. take other such actions as may be necessary to facilitate the identification and development of school garden locations.

4. No later than April 22, 2023, and no later than every April 22 thereafter, the interagency school gardens team shall prepare and submit to the mayor and the speaker of the city council a report on the city's school gardens, disaggregated by community district and council district, where possible. Such report may be included in the office's annual report on the city's long-term planning and sustainability efforts. The report shall include, but not be limited to:

i. locations of existing school gardens;

ii. potential locations for future school gardens; and

iii. the ways in which schools have implemented school garden programs, such as whether the gardens are part of the curriculum or extra-curricular activities and whether the gardens serve as a source of food to the school and/or surrounding community.

§ 2. This local law takes effect 90 days after it becomes law.

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LS # 8247
Int. #0618-2024
1/5/2026 4:17 PM