



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY OF CHICAGO

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 10, 2015

CONTACT:

Mayor's Press Office

312.744.3334

press@cityofchicago.org

MAYOR EMANUEL ANNOUNCES FRESH MOVES MOBILE MARKETS

Mobile Food Markets Will Provide Fresh Produce to Underserved Areas on the City's South and West Sides

Mayor Emanuel and Growing Power today announced that Fresh Moves Mobile Markets will begin providing affordable fresh fruits and vegetables in food desert communities on the city's south and west sides next week. The City will provide one out-of-service transit bus plus fuel and maintenance for one year in support of the program which will offer affordable, locally-sourced fresh fruits and vegetables in underserved areas. Growing Power, a national leader of the Good Food Movement for the last twenty years and an award-winning model of sustainable urban farming, will bring locally-sourced fresh produce to neighborhood stops throughout twelve communities in the program's first year.

"Every Chicago family deserves access to affordable, healthy food options and the Mobile Markets program will help to ensure that we eliminate food deserts in the City of Chicago," said Mayor Emanuel. "Over the last few years, we have decreased the number of low income Chicagoans without access to fresh fruits and vegetables by forty percent, and this new and innovative program will bring healthy options to more neighborhoods across the city."

The out-of-service bus will be retrofitted by Growing Power to serve as a mobile market, making community stops throughout the week at public locations including schools, health clinics, and community centers, where residents can purchase locally-sourced fresh produce. Residents will be able to use SNAP to make purchases.

Beginning Saturday, July 18, the Mobile Markets will be open year-round on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays. Times and locations for the bus route are as follows, and will be available [HERE](#).

Tuesday

11:00 AM to 12:30 PM

TCA Health (1029 East 130th Street)

1:00 PM to 2:30 PM

Our Lady of Guadalupe Church - The Claretian Initiative (9108 South Brandon Avenue)

Wednesday

11:00 AM to 12:30 PM

TCA Health (1106 East 79th Street)

1:00 PM to 2:30 PM

Wells Preparatory Elementary Academy (239 East 32nd Street)

3:00 PM to 4:30 PM

Centers for New Horizons, James Pitts Center (226 East 43rd Street)

Thursday

11:00 AM to 12:30 PM

TCA Health (1803 East 71st Street)

1:00 PM to 2:30 PM

The Renaissance Collaborative Senior Village (346 East 53rd Street)

3:00 PM to 4:30 PM

KLEO Center (119 East Garfield Blvd.)

Saturday

9:00 AM to 10:30 AM

CHA - Dearborn Homes (2960 South Federal Street)

11:00 AM to 12:30 PM

Neighborhood Housing Services (3601 West Chicago Avenue)

1:00 PM to 2:30 PM

Beth Anne Place/Bethel New Life (1143 North Laverne Avenue)

3:00 PM to 4:30 PM

So Fresh Saturdays; Touring Farmers Market (Various locations)

Sunday

10:00 AM to 2:00 PM

IMAN Market (2744 West 63rd Street)

“The launch of this program will enable us to distribute local, fresh and affordable food to families and communities in underserved Chicago neighborhoods, as well as support

emerging urban farmers via Farmers for Chicago,” said Erika Allen, Growing Power Chicago Director.

In May 2015, Mayor Emanuel introduced an ordinance authorizing the Department of Fleet and Facility Management to provide one out-of-service transit bus and fuel and maintenance for one year in support of this program. The Department of Fleet and Facility Management will provide up to \$110,000 in fuel and maintenance costs to support the program in its first year.

"Fresh food options on the South Side are scarce," said 34th Ward Alderman Carrie Austin. "With this understanding, it's not hard to recognize why I am a proud supporter of this program that will allow hard-working individuals and families, both in the 34th Ward and across the City of Chicago, an opportunity to access fresh fruits and vegetables."

Mobile food markets are part of a larger united strategy across Chicago's communities, government, and businesses to eliminate food deserts in Chicago. Over the last three years, Mayor Emanuel has opened eight new grocery stores in underserved areas and another five are planning to open soon, as well as expanded 18 existing stores to offer fresh produce. City-operated farmers markets have nearly doubled since 2011, with a 60 percent increase in the number of markets accepting SNAP. The City also created a new business license to allow the sale of fresh fruits and vegetables at free-standing produce stands throughout low-income areas of the city. Through these efforts, the number of low income Chicagoans living in food deserts has declined by 40 percent.

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