

RESOLUTION NO. 24 - _____

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE
CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD ESTABLISHING A
POLICY TO REQUIRE SUSTAINABLE AND
CLIMATE-FRIENDLY FOOD CHOICES FOR CITY-
SPONSORED EVENTS

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD DOES HEREBY
RESOLVE AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. *Findings.* The City Council finds and declares as follows:

1. West Hollywood's Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (WeHo Climate Action) provides that "every aspect of a food system, from production to distribution, intersects with the climate crisis" and that food production is a major contributor to greenhouse gas emissions and water pollution.
2. The EAT-Lancet Report found that even if every other sector — energy, transportation, buildings — became completely carbon-neutral by 2050, the current food system alone would take us past 1.5 degrees C of warming by 2050.
3. Plant-based meals have on average, a 63% lower carbon footprint than animal-based meals, and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has recognized eating more plant-based foods as among the most effective ways for individuals to reduce their carbon footprints,
4. Current food norms may sometimes make it challenging, especially for people with cultural and/or religious dietary restrictions, and people with certain allergies or medically prescribed diets, to feel included with food options at meetings and events where meat and/or dairy tend to be at the center of food options.
5. Serving plant-based foods by default (with the option to opt into meat and dairy served to accompany plant-based foods) includes everyone by default, such as the 30-50 million Americans who are lactose intolerant, people with cultural and/or religious dietary restrictions, and young people who are eating more plant-based foods.
6. Serving plant-based foods by default has proven to be a tremendously effective yet simple strategy to support people in consuming healthier and more sustainable foods, thereby reducing catering water, land, and carbon footprints without taking away anyone's choice to opt into eating animal products, and while being inclusive of a larger range of dietary needs and preferences.

7. This policy is consistent with the City's support for West Hollywood's businesses, City staff will prioritize the procurement of plant-based foods from locally owned businesses when possible.

8. Based on direction from the City Council, staff will post educational information, such as short signage, in food-serving areas about the City's default to plant-based food and refreshments to engage event and meeting attendees with information about the City policy.

SECTION 2. *Policy.* The policy set forth in this Resolution shall be known as The Plant Based Food Policy for City-Sponsored Events.

A. This Policy shall apply to City-sponsored events and meetings in which the City provides food to attendees. This policy does not apply to co-sponsored events or private events taking place in the City of West Hollywood.

B. For City-sponsored events and meetings, the West Hollywood city government commits to serving plant-based food and refreshments by default, giving attendees the choice to opt into options with animal products.

C. To ensure adherence with this policy, City staff will ensure that plant-based foods will be made available at the beginning of the menu or buffet; in addition, City staff will ensure a default of plant-based options for food and refreshments and provide animal product options to supplement plant-based options so that event and meeting attendees may opt into these choices.

SECTION 3. *Effective Date.* This Resolution will become effective immediately upon its adoption.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of West Hollywood at a regular meeting held this ____ day of ____, 20__.

AYES: Councilmember:
NOES: Councilmember:
ABSENT: Councilmember:
ABSTAIN: Councilmember:

JOHN ERICKSON, MAYOR

ATTEST:

Melissa Crowder, City Clerk