



BULLHORN

The Newsletter of Chicago Neighborhood Initiatives

Chicago Food Desert to Get an Oasis

About 100,000 residents of Chicago's Far South Side, who have been living without easy access to fresh food since their grocery shut down four years ago, are looking forward to better days.

After years of effort by community leaders, residents and 9th Ward Alderperson Anthony A. Beale are seeking use of Federal Covid-relief funds to finance the building of a Yellow Banana full-service grocery at the intersection of 130th Street and Eberhardt Avenue in the Riverdale neighborhood.

While efforts to land a grocery store in this far southern part of the city have been ongoing for some time, it was the entrance of a new company into Chicago that made it possible.

The catalyst for this development is a one-year-old, Black-owned company called Yellow Banana, which operates six stores throughout Chicago (and 38 total including others in the Cleveland, Milwaukee, Jacksonville and Dallas areas) under the Save-A-Lot banner.

"We're thrilled at the opportunity to partner with the City of Chicago to deliver quality food brands at affordable prices to Altgeld Gardens and neighboring communities, which for far too long have lacked access to healthy, affordable food," said Michael Nance, co-founder of Yellow Banana. "We're proud to be extending our mission to Chicago's Far South Side."

In keeping with its mission to deliver healthy food at reasonable prices to working families, the company's other Chicago locations include West Garfield Park, West Lawn, Woodlawn, South Chicago, Calumet Heights and Washington Heights.

Adela Bass, a 31-year resident of the community who, like her neighbors, has had to commute for as long as an hour to purchase food is delighted with the outcome. "While it's been a long time coming, I am grateful that our voices finally have been heard, and that Yellow Banana is hopefully bringing us the grocery store that we have long needed and asked for," she said.

Alderperson Beale shares the excitement. "With fresh food and at least 20 new, full-time jobs, we are welcoming Yellow Banana with open arms. Each investment in people and place makes our community stronger. We are an empowered community, and hopefully, an example to all."