Collaborative Strategies & Tools for Emergency Managers to Build Food System Resilience

Presented by: **Meg Burke, Community Manager, City AI Connect, Bloomberg Center for Government Excellence, Johns Hopkins University and Elsie Moore, PhD Candidate and Research Assistant, Environmental Health and Engineering, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.**

Presentation Abstract: Providing healthy, sustainable, nutritious, and culturally appropriate foods during emergencies is a key goal for many jurisdictions. Often those tasked with food systems work are not consistently partnered with emergency managers except during the emergency itself. Enhanced partnerships and collaborations between food actors and emergency managers can help jurisdictions plan for, respond to, and recover from food system disruptions. To help facilitate these collaborations and build food system resilience, researchers at the Johns Hopkins Center for a Livable Future and the Bloomberg Center for Government Excellence at Johns Hopkins University partnered with representatives from local government in five US cities to co-develop “Food System Resilience: A Planning Guide for Local Governments”. Building on previous work done with Baltimore, Maryland on food resilience, the city representatives and researchers worked together to develop and tests resources that bring together diverse actors around a shared goal of helping local governments prepare their food systems for natural and human-made disruptions. The resulting planning guide is an action-oriented resource, composed of six modules and twelve tools, that help actors

develop and implement strategies that promote food security during emergencies. This session will focus on the information and tools of the planning guide that empower emergency managers to create collaborations and strategies to incorporate food system resilience into their work. This session will also share results from an evaluation of the process of developing the guide, and lessons learned from the participating cities about emergency food response efforts. One of the reoccurring themes in the planning guide is the role of partnerships and its criticality in emergency food response efforts. This session will highlight how the planning guide can support collaborations focused on emergency food response efforts.

Speaker Bio: Meg Burke is the Community Manager for AI City Connect at the Bloomberg Center for Government Excellence with almost 15 years of experience working in Baltimore City. The majority of her work has been at research centers at Johns Hopkins University focused on the role of Community Based Organizations and using data to improve policy solutions in cities. Specializing in food systems, Communities of Practice and data related to standards of living in cities, Meg uses that experience to focus on translating research and data into resources for cities to improve their processes.

By focusing on helping cities use data and collaboration to solve complex issues, Meg focuses on researching data sources and methodology around standards of living in cities across the US with a focus on equitable approaches. Over the past several years, her work facilitating a Community of Practice of five cities focused on food system resilience and the response to the COVID-19 pandemic has gained attention through invited talks, conference presentations and peer reviewed publications. Meg is passionate about using data to improve our cities and the US food system and loves the opportunity to collaborate with other researchers at JHU and in cities in order to have a diversity of perspectives. When she's not at work, Meg is an avid gardener and knitter and loves spending time with her husband and two young sons.

Elsie Moore is a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Environmental Health and Engineering at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health and a research assistant at the Johns Hopkins Center for a Livable Future. Her research focuses on understanding equitable strategies that advance sustainable and resilient food systems. For her dissertation, Elsie has partnered with several cities in the United States to help them plan for

crises and implement and evaluate policies and programs aimed at preventing disruptions. Before her Ph.D., Elsie worked on a multi-country collaboration on the role of academic institutions in advancing the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Elsie earned her MPH in Social and Behavioral Sciences from the Yale School of Public Health, where her research and practice concentrated on planetary health and the health impacts of climate change.