

## Week 29: How can you, as district supervisor, get more grocery stores into District 11?

### Ernest "EJ" Jones

As Supervisor, I will make sure that we prioritize investment in these neighborhoods. We need to incentivize grocery stores to open in our communities, support local farmers' markets, and promote community gardens where families can grow their own food. We cannot address hunger without addressing access.

Lakeview/OMI neighborhoods are prime examples of the food deserts plaguing our city, where access to fresh, affordable food is either limited or nonexistent. It's unacceptable that families in these communities often have to travel to access staple items. The lack of nearby grocery stores forces many of our residents to rely on corner stores selling mostly processed and overpriced items, leaving them with few real options for a healthy diet.

To solve for this we must work with newly built developments that have commercial space attached early in the development process. The most expensive cost to open a facility is the build out. When these spaces go in with open floor plans many smaller and co-op grocers, who would be willing to open in our neighborhoods are deterred by build out costs. The same is true for small restaurant businesses. A build-out added to the initial project adds minimal cost.