

AWARD OF BIDS/RFPS/CO-OPS/SINGLE SOURCES (cont.)

SINGLE SOURCE #6972 SUMMARY: **FRESH AND PREPARED FOODS** for a two (2) year period beginning January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2027

HIGHLIGHTS AT A GLANCE
2024/2025 YTD Expenditures = \$1,143,943.81
2026/2027 Estimate = \$2,500,000.00

This recommendation provides availability of fresh and prepared food and beverages, to be purchased on an “as-needed” basis for a two (2) year period beginning January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2027 for food service operations (various concessions and restaurants) throughout the Park District and fresh produce and fruit for the Zoo. The award will provide flexibility to purchase from various food suppliers and purveyors based on need, freshness and seasonal availability. Furthermore, this recommendation will allow the food service operations and the Zoo to consider/purchase new products that come to market that may be chosen based on quality, seasonal opportunities, the competitive marketplace and price fluctuation.

Regarding the restaurant industry, it is built on trends (gluten free, vegan, power foods, free range, etc.) and commodity indexes, and these trends/indexes can fluctuate quickly. The success of Cleveland Metroparks’ restaurant operations depends on the ability to adapt to and change with these trends, seasons and opportunities. In addition, menus may change throughout the year as well as different daily specials. New suppliers/producers also enter the market each year. The need for versatility here is apparent as staff is tasked with making food operations a success.

This award will ensure freshness, high quality, unique opportunities, trendy offerings and consistent product at all of Cleveland Metroparks food operations.

Anticipated Vendors and Possible Product (included but are not limited to):

- **Food & beverage (both fresh and prepared):** Aslan Inc., Economy Produce & Vegetable Company, Inc., Lexington Services, Northern Haserot, Blue Ribbon Meats, Paragon Produce, Cantanese Classic Seafood, Premier Produce, Sanson Produce, Michael’s Bakery, Orlando Baking, Simple Times, Camelot Bakery, various vendors at West Side Market, Utz, and Peck Food Service.

In order to meet purveyor order minimums and maximize operational efficiency, staff may also include non-food restaurant-related items, such as disposables or ware-washing supplies, on the same purchase order as fresh and prepared food and beverage items. These non-food restaurant-related items are equal to or less than \$75,000 and will be purchased following Cleveland Metroparks’ by-laws and Purchasing Manual for purchases equal to or less than \$75,000.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

That the Board approve the purchase of **Fresh and Prepared Foods** from the vendors noted above and others on an “as needed” basis per Single Source #6972 for a two (2) year period beginning January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2027, for a total cost not to exceed \$2,500,000. In the event the log of consumption approaches 90 percent and is likely to surpass 100 percent of the estimate during the time period, an action item will be presented to the Board requesting an estimated increase.