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## \$1.5M donation for healthy carts

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A THOUSAND fruit-and-vegetable carts will soon hit the streets in the city's poorest neighborhoods — and a private donor is footing the \$1.5 million bill, the Daily News has learned.

Mayor Bloomberg is expected to sign the controversial Green Carts bill today, in the city's attempt to bring healthy food options to underserved neighborhoods.

"There's a correlation between high rates of obesity and diabetes in areas where the green carts will go," said Benjamin Thomases, the city's food policy coordinator.

The \$1.5 million donation from the Laurie M. Tisch Illumination Fund will pay for everything from designing the carts to helping vendors buy them once the city grants them a license.

Although the carts have not yet been designed, Thomases said he expects they'll

become a piece of city furniture that is easily recognized as a city trademark for healthy eating.

"The goal in the long run is that the carts will have a modern and appealing look that's comparable to the bus shelters," Thomases said.

"I would think that there will be some green there, it would seem appropriate," he said of the carts' color. "I will leave that to the designers."

Tisch, who was at City Hall when the City Council passed the bill a few weeks ago and wanted to do something to help, said the carts are "part of the bigger plan dealing with the problems of obesity, diabetes and high blood pressure.

"Access and opportunity, whether it's resources, education or health shouldn't be available for only a small part of the community," Tisch said.

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### Where to find your local Green Cart

WHERE YOU'LL start seeing the Green Carts starting this summer:

■ **BROOKLYN:** 350 green cart vendors will set up shop in neighborhoods that include Sunset Park, East New York, Flatbush, Crown Heights, Bushwick, Brownsville, Bedford Stuyvesant, Prospect Heights and Williamsburg.

■ **MANHATTAN:** 150 carts will be in Harlem, Washington Heights and Inwood.

■ **BRONX:** 350 carts will come to every Bronx neighborhood except Kingsbridge and Riverdale.

■ **QUEENS:** 100 carts will be in communities, including Jamaica, the Rockaways, Broad Channel, JFK Airport, Brairwood, Hollis and St. Albans.

■ **STATEN ISLAND:** 50 carts will be dispersed through the North Shore in communities including Port Richmond, New Brighton and West Brighton.