Stay Connected: Keeping Food Policy Rooted in Community

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Food Policy Council

- Established through the DC Food Policy Council and Director Establishment Act of 2014.
- Local advocates recognized that many different D.C. communities and agencies have been addressing issues of food access, agriculture, and food business and food related health disparities for many years.
- The DCFPC’s goal is to bring these parties together in one place to collaborate on improving food access, equity, and economy for all in the District.
Duties of Food Policy Council

1. Collect and analyze data on the local food economy and food access in the District, including an assessment of food deserts.
2. Monitor and research national best practices in food policy, including public health policy for dietary-related illness, and determine how they could be implemented in the District.
3. Advise the Food Policy Director on how to promote food access, food sustainability, and a local food economy in the District, how to reduce regulatory barriers to the development of a local food economy, and how to implement national best practices in food policy in the District.
City Council
Government Agencies

Department of Health
- Produce Plus and farmers’ market development
- Produce Prescription
- Medically Tailored Home Delivered Meals
- Joyful Markets
- Healthy Corner Stores

Department of Human Services
- SNAP/EBT

Office on Aging
- Grocery Plus

Department of General Services
- Urban agriculture policy implementation

Department of Employment Services
- Food system workforce development

Office of Greater Economic Opportunity
- Grocery store development
- Online grocery options for SNAP customers

Department of Small Business and Labor Development
- Restaurant and grocery store development
The City Budget

- Agencies' budgets finalized
- Final budget vote
- Feb & March
- April: Mayor's proposed budget released
- Proposed budget hearings
- Winter
- April & May
- Performance and Oversight Hearings
Hearings

- Performance Oversight Hearings
- Budget Hearings
- Legislative Hearings
Community Meetings

- Ward 5 Health Alliance
- Ward 7 Health Alliance
- Ward 8 Health Council
- ANCs
Reflections

Food Policy Council

- The council members need to be more representative of the community. We need more people who have experienced food injustice on the FPC
- The priorities need to be more community based instead of business based-- people first. More focus on food access issues.

Community Meetings

- More structure for communicating meetings to the people most impacted

Council Meetings and Hearings

- A publicly available directory
- Better locations

Generally

- More spaces for the community to engage with food policy
Policies we want

More funding for food programs
More stores that accept WIC

Produce Plus customers pose with their WIC FMNP at Arcadia’s Mobile Market at Deanwood
Faster and easier recertification for EBT, Medicaid, and other services

Residents wait outside an Economic Security Administration Service Center in Anacostia
Healthy food in our schools, senior centers, jails, and homeless shelters
Community kitchen spaces

A woman making cinnamon rolls for her small business at a public kitchen in St. Louis. She rents the kitchen space for $10/hr.
More opportunities to grow our own food

A man harvests carrots on the K St Farm
More places to buy healthy food

Customer relax outside the Good Food Markets community grocery on Rhode Island Ave

A customer selects produce from the expanded Healthy Corners refrigerator at Grubbs Pharmacy in Anacostia
Maintaining affordable housing and setting reasonable population growth goals
Our Next Steps and How to Support Us

- We are going to apply for funding to start a group that educates and organizes our community members around these issues.

- Share your plans for the future and how you want people to support:
  - Sign up for our group or share your contact info as a supporter
  - Donate to our group
  - Testify at hearings
  - Support us at the Food Policy Council hearing and other City Council hearings (written or in-person testimony)
Contact Us

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