


COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

 CITY OF DES MOINES OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER	Number:	24-020	Meeting:	January 8, 2024
	Agenda Item:	16	Roll Call:	24-0041
	Submitted by:	Malcolm A. Hankins Assistant City Manager		

AGENDA HEADING:

Approving Appointments to the Food Security Task Force

SYNOPSIS:

Approving appointments of new task force members for the Food Security Task Force. Appointments for this term of the task force are based on relevant subject matter expertise to address the goals of the task force.

FISCAL IMPACT: NONE

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

The Food Security Task Force was established in December of 2020 with an emphasis on strengthening community food resilience in the face of a changing climate, connecting residents and local businesses with the knowledge and resources to grow their own food, and to increase access to nutritious, sustainable, locally grown food. To achieve this mission, three goals were created:

1. Work with the City Manager to develop and promote urban agricultural best practices, answer frequently asked questions about the growing of food within the city.
2. Research best practices related to urban agriculture in other urban areas, compare them to City practices, and make recommendations for ordinances based on those practices.
3. Develop a resource guide on where to find tools, soil, compost, seeds, seedlings, laying hens, honeybees, and other urban agriculture equipment, supplies, and guidance.

The work of the Task Force to date established initial guidance for continued citywide efforts that advance urban agriculture and empower local community members. The City is committed to ensuring continued access to nutritious and beneficial food sources in the face of a changing climate. The FEED DSM initiative created by the Task Force further mobilizes city staff to advance urban agriculture and to develop programs, projects, and resources to strengthen local food systems.

The Task Force's initial focus also highlights the critical work that must be done at a systemic level to address the economic, social, and environmental risks to our local food system and those most vulnerable to impacts from food system challenges. Therefore, the Des Moines City Council moves to reestablish the Food Security Task Force indefinitely to evaluate the overlapping systemic challenges

that our community faces from climate change and food insecurity. The task force will leverage the experience and expertise of local food security, social services, education, public health, business and other food system professionals, as well as the public to investigate ways the City of Des Moines can lead, support, fund or otherwise promote and protect local food security, while strengthening the system against future climate change impacts.

FOOD SECURITY TASK FORCE TERM 2 GOALS		
Goal 1	Goal 2	Goal 3
Work with the City Manager to strengthen local food systems through joint planning, coordination, and service delivery, aligned with city plans, initiatives, and programs, including ADAPT DSM.	Identify and work to fill gaps in food access citywide and determine ways the City of Des Moines can work to reduce barriers to food access, expand local food options, and reduce food deserts.	Collect, review, evaluate, create, and share relevant public information and data to increase awareness of food security and insecurity in DSM and expand resources available through the FEED DSM Initiative.

APPOINTMENTS

Applicant Name	Application Experience	Applicant Affiliation	Applicant Roll on Task Force
Sheila Knoploh-Odole, Esq	Attorney/Sustainability Consultant	Independent	Prior Member of the Task Force
Jennie Erwin	Farm Supervisor, Global Greens Incubator Farm	Lutheran Services of Iowa	Social Services Professional w/Food Security Experience
Hailey Boudreau, MPH, RD, LD	Screening and Management Section Supervisor	Iowa Department of Public Health	Healthcare/Diet and Nutrition Professional
Matt Unger	Chief Executive Officer	DMARC	Food Pantry Professional
Alejandro Murguiz-Ortiz	Logistics Manager	Supply Hive	Food Rescue Professional
Vanessa Silva	Produce Manager	Gateway Market	Food Retail and/or Distribution Professional
Katherine Klingensmith	Farm Manager	Central Iowa Shelter Services	Food Insecure Individual
Luke Lynch	Senior Community Engagement Officer	United Way of Central Iowa	Alternate
Aaron Thormodsen	Head Grower/Farm Manager	Wesley Life	Alternate

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S):

Date: February 8, 2021

Roll Call Number: 21 - 0186

Action: Recommendation from Mayor and Council on Appointments to the Food Security Task Force

Date: December 21, 2020

Roll Call Number: 20 - 2138

Action: Creating the Des Moines Food Security Task Force

BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S): NONE

ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS:

The Food Security Task Force will determine recommendations for policy, ordinances, programs, initiatives and other actions in support of the Task Force goals. Work of the Task Force will also align with relevant ADAPT DSM Strategies and Tactics identified under the Food Systems and Security Key Focus Area.

For more information on this and other agenda items, please call the City Clerk's Office at 515-283-4209 or visit the Clerk's Office on the first floor of City Hall, 400 Robert D Ray Drive. Council agendas are available to the public at the City Clerk's Office on Thursday afternoon preceding Monday's Council meeting. Citizens can also request to receive meeting notices and agendas by email by calling the Clerk's Office or sending their request via email to cityclerk@dmgov.org.