



Detroit Food

POLICY COUNCIL

2013 Voter Guide for City of Detroit General Elections

Detroit Food Policy Council

October 7, 2013

Council Roster (as of September, 2013)

	Sector
Phil Jones, Chair COLORS-Detroit and Jones Urban Foods	Food Industry Workers
Suzette Olaker, M.D., Vice Chair	Nutrition and Well Being
Dan Carmody, Treasurer Eastern Market Corporation	Wholesale Food Distributors
Jerry Ann Hebron, Secretary Northend Christian CDC	Farmers' Markets
Ashley Atkinson Keep Growing Detroit	Sustainable Agriculture
Marilyn NeferRa Barber	At Large
Lydia Gutierrez Hacienda Foods	Food Processors
Myra Lee	At Large
Roxanne M. Moore	At Large
Mariangela (Mimi) Pledl Detroit Economic Growth Corporation	Urban Planning
Kami Pothukuchi, Ph.d. Wayne State University, SEED Wayne	Colleges and Universities
Sam Shina Apollo Market	Retail Food Stores
Willie Spivey	At Large
Velonda Thompson, PhD Institute for Population Health	Appointee City of Detroit Dept. of Health and Wellness
Myrtle Thompson Curtis Freedom Freedom	At Large
Sandra Turner Handy Michigan Environmental Council	Environmental Justice
Kathryn Lynch Underwood	Appointee Detroit City Council
DeWayne Wells Gleaners Community Food Bank of SE MI	Emergency Food Providers
Betti Wiggins Detroit Public Schools Office of School Nutrition	K-12 Schools
Marja Winters City of Detroit Planning and Development Department	Mayor's Office Appointee
Malik Yakini Detroit Black Community Food Security Network	At-Large
STAFF:	
Cheryl A. Simon Coordinator	Kibibi Blount-Dorn Program Manager

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About This Voter's Guide

The Detroit Food Policy Council does not endorse any candidate for any office. The DFPC is publishing this voter guide for the purpose of engaging residents and candidates on food and food related issues that impact all Detroiters. The candidate survey questions were developed by Council members and staff during our regular monthly meeting which was open to the public. The electronic survey was sent to all candidates for City Council and both Mayoral candidates via email. At least three follow up contacts were made by email and phone to encourage candidates to respond. The responses listed are those received by September 29, 2013. All responses are printed as submitted with corrections made for misspellings only.

For more information and a downloadable copy of this guide, please visit www.detroitfoodpc.org

MAYORAL CANDIDATE
MIKE DUGGAN

City of Detroit Food Security Policy

Q. In 2008, the Detroit City Council adopted a Food Security Policy for the city of Detroit.

Have you read the Food Security Policy?

A. YES

Implementation of the City's Food Security Policy

Q. What will you do to implement the City's Food Security Policy and what do you feel are the priorities within the policy?

A. When I led the SMART bus system, we made a number of changes to routes and arrival times that made it easy for people to get to and from stores for work and purchasing of goods and services. I am supportive of doing this with DDOT to ensure that people can get to fresh foods and services that they need. My neighborhood platform also supports neighbors being allowed to purchase lots near them for the purpose of urban gardening and growing.

Food Access

Q. Many neighborhoods in Detroit suffer from lack of food outlets that offer healthy food options. As a consequence, Detroiters suffer from poor health outcomes related to food and nutrition. All of these factors contribute to a lack of community food security. What would you do to ensure community food security and strengthen Detroit's local food system? What would be your priorities?

A. In addition to supporting urban gardening and the use of lots for food growth, I also have a plan to stabilize neighborhoods and increase retail by focusing on the thoroughfares around stable neighborhoods. This would include seizing vacant but usable retail structures and selling them for a nominal amount to any business willing to pay the taxes and open the location to provide services and goods to the neighboring communities.

Urban Agriculture

Q. The City of Detroit recently passed an ordinance to allow urban agriculture in the city. As an elected official, what would you do to ensure the implementation of the urban agriculture ordinance and related policies to support neighborhood-based urban agriculture?

A. As the ordinance indicates, there are some areas that are more appropriate than others for large scale farming initiatives. My administration will actively enforce this ordinance and manage development so that our more residential areas have more appropriate gardens and larger parcels of land are used in accordance with the ordinance.

Access to Land

Q. The equitable distribution of land is critical to improving community food security and strengthening the local food system. Among other benefits, access to land for Detroit-based gardeners and farmers would greatly increase food production in the city. What would you do to ensure that city residents have equitable access to land owned by the city of Detroit?

A. Again, my neighborhood plan includes a fast and simple process to allow homeowners to buy adjacent lots and land near their properties which would allow them to grow and garden if they choose to do so.

Business Development

Q. Supporting local food businesses and food entrepreneurs is a critical component of strengthening our local food system in Detroit. However, the cost of doing business in the city is higher than that in surrounding communities. For example, food entrepreneurs in the city experience cumbersome and expensive licensing and permitting, higher insurance rates and lower access to capital. What would you do to ensure that the City of Detroit supports small business development process that is streamlined, equitable and is competitive with other cities?

A. My administration will aggressively break down the back logs in the Building Safety Engineering process. The City has never actually created a one stop shop for business permitting. Not only will we create a one stop shop but will work with our local colleges and universities to include a business concierge service component, so that people who come in to the city for permit and compliance issues are assisted from start to finish.

Federal Nutrition Programs

Q. Federal nutrition programs such as WIC, SNAP, school lunch and breakfast programs, and Summer Food Service Program are important food security resources in our community. They also have an economic impact on retailers and food producers. What will you do to ensure that these programs continue to benefit Detroiters? What would you do to make sure every Detroiters who is eligible participates in these programs?

A. I have been extremely concerned by the city of Detroit's inability to manage programs that now are being administered by outside agencies often located outside of the city of Detroit. I would work to ensure that these programs are returned to the city of Detroit and monitor the management of the programs to ensure that they are not out of compliance. A Duggan Administration would partner with Detroit Public Schools to do a better job of identifying children and families in need.

MAYORAL CANDIDATE
BENNY NAPOLEON

City of Detroit Food Security Policy

Q. In 2008, the Detroit City Council adopted a Food Security Policy for the city of Detroit. Have you read the Food Security Policy?

A. YES

Implementation of the City's Food Security Policy

Q. What will you do to implement the City's Food Security Policy and what do you feel are the priorities within the policy?

A. The City's Food Security Policy will dovetail right into my Neighborhood Growth Strategy which finally goes to work at transforming our neighborhoods. I wholeheartedly agree that many Detroiters lack access to quality healthy foods within the city. My Neighborhood Growth Strategy is based upon creating livable, walkable and sustainable neighborhoods which includes providing the culturally-based and healthy foods that are necessary for families. As city government, we can provide the environment for transformed neighborhoods that then entice entrepreneurs and businesses to open stores and other operations to provide quality, healthy foods in our neighborhoods. I believe residents will be best served when the city provides a safe, business-friendly environment in the neighborhoods.

Food Access

Q. Many neighborhoods in Detroit suffer from lack of food outlets that offer healthy food options. As a consequence, Detroiters suffer from poor health outcomes related to food and nutrition. All of these factors contribute to a lack of community food security. What would you do to ensure community food security and strengthen Detroit's local food system? What would be your priorities?

A. This question directly addresses my plan to change our city's focus from downtown to around town. Not every Detroiters can come to Whole Foods in Midtown, let alone afford its prices. My Neighborhood Growth Strategy will essentially build on what is core to each neighborhood and make them their individual Midtown with access to variety and healthy foods through private industry that want to provide food businesses for families in a safe environment. It will promote entrepreneurship in food service as well as offer job opportunities for people in our neighborhoods in the food industry. The United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) Local 876 labor union endorses my candidacy because I support increasing grocery and retail operations in our neighborhoods. And, because my mayoral administration will also provide workforce grants to employers to train Detroit residents while on the job, and that includes the quality food service industries.

Urban Agriculture

Q. The City of Detroit recently passed an ordinance to allow urban agriculture in the city. As an elected official, what would you do to ensure the implementation of the urban agriculture ordinance and related policies to support neighborhood-based urban agriculture?

A. As part of my Neighborhood Growth Strategy, our plan is to keep the urban farms dedicated in one area by working with Planning and Development to greater define zoning for urban farming. My Neighborhood Growth Strategy will provide access to food through the neighborhood transformation I mentioned in responses to your previous questions. I support gardening by homeowners, but I don't believe we should have urban farms across this city.

Access to Land

Q. The equitable distribution of land is critical to improving community food security and strengthening the local food system. Among other benefits, access to land for Detroit-based gardeners and farmers would greatly increase food production in the city. What would you do to ensure that city residents have equitable access to land owned by the city of Detroit?

A. Through our comprehensive Neighborhood Growth Strategy, we will provide clarity of land access, urban farming and gardening.

Business Development

Q. Supporting local food businesses and food entrepreneurs is a critical component of strengthening our local food system in Detroit. However, the cost of doing business in the city is higher than that in surrounding communities. For example, food entrepreneurs in the city experience cumbersome and expensive licensing and permitting, higher insurance rates and lower access to capital. What would you do to ensure that the City of Detroit supports small business development process that is streamlined, equitable and is competitive with other cities?

A. Small business development is core to my Neighborhood Growth Strategy. Far too long our city has focused on the corporate perspective. But it will be the residents and small businesses that truly transform this city and that includes in the quality food retail/delivery industry. We will cut the red tape for small businesses to operate in our city – taking the business licensing process from days to mere hours. And, we will roll out the red carpet for small businesses – including in the food industry – to operate in our city by making it simple, making it quick and making it safe.

Federal Nutrition Programs

Q. Federal nutrition programs such as WIC, SNAP, school lunch and breakfast programs, and Summer Food Service Program are important food security resources in our community. They also have an economic impact on retailers and food producers. What will you do to ensure that these programs continue to benefit Detroiters? What would you do to make sure every Detroiters who is eligible participates in these programs?

A. As part my One Square Mile Initiative, we will place an officer in each square mile of the city. That officer will look at and address the crime and quality of life issues in their assigned square mile. The One Square Mile officer will know the residents of their assigned square mile and their needs, therefore referring the residents to local, state and federal resources available to them. When someone moves into a neighborhood, they will receive a One Square Mile packet with information about the services available to them, the retail operations nearby – including food supply/grocery – and contact information for the One Square Mile officer for their area. Overall, we will look at our city from the micro level for the first time in at least 50 years, which in turn, addresses access to quality services.

DETROIT CITY COUNCIL
AT-LARGE COUNCIL CANDIDATE
DAVID BULLOCK

City of Detroit Food Security Policy

Q. In 2008, the Detroit City Council adopted a Food Security Policy for the city of Detroit. Have you read the Food Security Policy?

A. YES

Implementation of the City's Food Security Policy

Q. What will you do to implement the City's Food Security Policy and what do you feel are the priorities within the policy?

A. I completely support the City's Food Security Policy. I affirm the City of Detroit's commitment to nurturing the development of a food secure city in which all of its citizens are hunger-free, healthy and benefit from the food systems that impact their lives. I am committed to supporting sustainable food systems that provide people with high quality food, employment, and that also contribute to the long-term well-being of the environment. I believe the following issues are priorities: Current access to quality food in Detroit, Hunger and Malnutrition, Impacts/Effects of an Inadequate Diet, Citizen Education, Economic Injustice in the Food System, Urban Agriculture, The Role of Schools and other Public Institutions, Emergency Response.

Food Access

Q. Many neighborhoods in Detroit suffer from lack of food outlets that offer healthy food options. As a consequence, Detroiters suffer from poor health outcomes related to food and nutrition. All of these factors contribute to a lack of community food security. What would you do to ensure community food security and strengthen Detroit's local food system? What would be your priorities?

A. I believe that all Detroiters should have access to healthy food options in safe neighborhoods. As a city council person I will champion community food security. I will advocate for urban agriculture and composting being included as part of the strategic development of the City of Detroit and work with various City departments to streamline the processes and approvals required to expand and improve urban agriculture in the City of Detroit including acquisition of land and access to water. I will work with others to produce and disseminate an annual City of Detroit Food System Report that assesses the state of the city's food system, including activities in production, distribution, consumption, waste generation and composting, nutrition and food assistance program participation, and innovative food system programs.

Urban Agriculture

Q. The City of Detroit recently passed an ordinance to allow urban agriculture in the city. As an elected official, what would you do to ensure the implementation of the urban agriculture ordinance and related policies to support neighborhood-based urban agriculture?

A. I will work with community groups, non-profits and advocacy groups to education the citizenry and help lead the full implementation of this ordinance.

Access to Land

Q. The equitable distribution of land is critical to improving community food security and strengthening the local food system. Among other benefits, access to land for Detroit-based gardeners and farmers would greatly increase food production in the city. What would you do to ensure that city residents have equitable access to land owned by the city of Detroit?

A. City owned land should be sold in a fair, just and transparent and that they reflect the will and priorities of the community. As a council candidate, I will champion a process for selling land that is accessible, written clearly, facilitates equal access and treatment, considers public interest and is transparent.

Business Development

Q. Supporting local food businesses and food entrepreneurs is a critical component of strengthening our local food system in Detroit. However, the cost of doing business in the city is higher than that in surrounding communities. For example, food entrepreneurs in the city experience cumbersome and expensive licensing and permitting, higher insurance rates and lower access to capital. What would you do to ensure that the City of Detroit supports small business development process that is streamlined, equitable and is competitive with other cities?

A. The City of Detroit must support all small business owners which includes local food businesses and entrepreneurs. In addition to creating a streamlined one stop shop for entrepreneurs it is important to stop the insurance redlining in Detroit and demand the banks lend. There are tons of great ideas and excited entrepreneurs simply waiting for a chance to turn their idea into reality or grow their business.

Federal Nutrition Programs

Q. Federal nutrition programs such as WIC, SNAP, school lunch and breakfast programs, and Summer Food Service Program are important food security resources in our community. They also have an economic impact on retailers and food producers. What will you do to ensure that these programs continue to benefit Detroiters? What would you do to make sure every Detroiters who is eligible participates in these programs?

A. I support all the Federal Nutrition programs. They meet needs and can spur economic growth. I will use the office of city council to educate, enlist and enroll people in these beneficial programs.

DETROIT CITY COUNCIL
AT-LARGE COUNCIL CANDIDATE
SAUNTEEL JENKINS

*CANDIDATE DID NOT COMPLETE SURVEY BUT ISSUED THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT:

"I appreciate the opportunity to address your group, but at this time I am comfortable with restating what I have made clear in the past often by vote and statement: 'Detroit will have a diverse mixture of opportunities and lifestyles and urban agriculture and gardening is among them. Every American, Detroiters among them, has the right to quality fresh wholesome food, both self-grown and provided by others. I will continue to work to bring both these visions into reality.'

DETROIT CITY COUNCIL
AT-LARGE COUNCIL CANDIDATE
BRENDA JONES

*CANDIDATE DID NOT RESPOND TO SURVEY

DETROIT CITY COUNCIL
AT-LARGE COUNCIL CANDIDATE
ROY MCCALISTER

*CANDIDATE DID NOT RESPOND TO SURVEY

DETROIT CITY COUNCIL
COUNCIL DISTRICT 1 CANDIDATE
WANDA JAN HILL

City of Detroit Food Security Policy

Q. In 2008, the Detroit City Council adopted a Food Security Policy for the city of Detroit. Have you read the Food Security Policy?

A. YES

Implementation of the City's Food Security Policy

Q. What will you do to implement the City's Food Security Policy and what do you feel are the priorities within the policy?

A. The policy contains several incentives that are good starts to healthier communities in Detroit. The educational component in the policy is high on my list. By engaging our young in the practice of producing healthy food and healthy food consumption, we can begin to change a society toward recognizing the importance of survival and how to survive healthier.

Food Access

Q. Many neighborhoods in Detroit suffer from lack of food outlets that offer healthy food options. As a consequence, Detroiters suffer from poor health outcomes related to food and nutrition. All of these factors contribute to a lack of community food security. What would you do to ensure community food security and strengthen Detroit's local food system? What would be your priorities?

A. My concern is that I would continue to encourage food chain operations to locate or relocate in Detroit. Additionally, we must have initiatives in place that encourage food outlets to promote the importance of healthy choices that are sold within their stores, along with purchases food products from Detroit producers. Metro Foodland on Grand River has revised its outlook by promoting healthy food choices and local purchases. That approach has truly given a better appearance and a caring factor to the store!

Urban Agriculture

Q. The City of Detroit recently passed an ordinance to allow urban agriculture in the city. As an elected official, what would you do to ensure the implementation of the urban agriculture ordinance and related policies to support neighborhood-based urban agriculture?

A. At this time, I can not comment entirely on this subject for I need to know what is planned in the bigger picture relative to Detroit's future that would involve land use, banks and land allocation. My strong concern is making sure we have a holistic plan surrounding what, where and how we plan to incorporate the uses of the vast amounts of land. This is land now and land that will be available. Continuity, conformity, usefulness and what is beneficial for the city as a whole in utilizing land space must be strongly considered. As a past city employee, I've seen failures when a big picture is not drawn in a holistic approach and wastefulness and a lack of uniformity is a result. The use of land must avoid being sporadic or lackadaisical in nature.

Access to Land

Q. The equitable distribution of land is critical to improving community food security and strengthening the local food system. Among other benefits, access to land for Detroit-based gardeners and farmers would greatly increase food production in the city. What would you do to ensure that city residents have equitable access to land owned by the city of Detroit?

A. Same answer as above (Question 3)

Business Development

Q. Supporting local food businesses and food entrepreneurs is a critical component of strengthening our local food system in Detroit. However, the cost of doing business in the city is higher than that in surrounding communities. For example, food entrepreneurs in the city experience cumbersome and expensive licensing and permitting, higher insurance rates and lower access to capital. What would you do to ensure that the City of Detroit supports small business development process that is streamlined, equitable and is competitive with other cities?

A. Rules and license languages must be business friendly, and I am sure that the rules and laws adopted by Detroit lawmakers may need to be reviewed to 'fit' today's situations and concerns. When I become a council member, I plan to work with all appropriate entities and my fellow council members to develop strategies on how we do business. In my opinion, small businesses are the gateway to the strength of our neighborhoods where they are located. We must give them the highest priority in order for them to survive and for our neighborhood economy to spur. Unfortunately, high insurance rates is a plague that also affects the residents of Detroit with no known resolve at this point, but surely room for further concern and vast improvements!

Federal Nutrition Programs

Q. Federal nutrition programs such as WIC, SNAP, school lunch and breakfast programs, and Summer Food Service Program are important food security resources in our community. They also have an economic impact on retailers and food producers. What will you do to ensure that these programs continue to benefit Detroiters? What would you do to make sure every Detroiters who is eligible participates in these programs?

A. Because these programs are beneficial in both their nutritional value and the social impact of our communities, I will strongly encourage the promotion and messaging of its value to the extent of my position as a council persons. Enhancing and improving upon its benefits through marketing would help move the message. We also need to review the list of items that are available for the recipients, along with engaging the food outlets to promote the importance of these nutritional programs more vigorously within and outside Detroit. This could become one of several 'educational moment' to introduce healthier living through healthy eating. Something whose time has come.

DETROIT CITY COUNCIL
COUNCIL DISTRICT 1 CANDIDATE
JAMES TATE
*CANDIDATE DID NOT RESPOND TO SURVEY

DETROIT CITY COUNCIL
COUNCIL DISTRICT 2 CANDIDATE
RICHARD BOWERS JR.

City of Detroit Food Security Policy

Q. In 2008, the Detroit City Council adopted a Food Security Policy for the city of Detroit. Have you read the Food Security Policy?

A. YES

Implementation of the City's Food Security Policy

Q. What will you do to implement the City's Food Security Policy and what do you feel are the priorities within the policy?

A. If elected to Detroit City Council, District 2, I will help update ordinances and policies that make Urban Agriculture easier. I will also work with groups to be able to have access to hoop houses and other year round growing options. I will help bring fresh food closer to more Detroiters by encouraging the development of better grocery stores and improving the current ones. I will also make sure that the green task force, which I helped start when I worked for Ken Cockrel, continues.

Food Access

Q. Many neighborhoods in Detroit suffer from lack of food outlets that offer healthy food options. As a consequence, Detroiters suffer from poor health outcomes related to food and nutrition. All of these factors contribute to a lack of community food security. What would you do to ensure community food security and strengthen Detroit's local food system? What would be your priorities?

A. I will work with area food banks and other agencies to see how many people we have that are unfed or undernourished in order to serve those people. I will work with the local growers to see what their needs are and how local food production can be improved.

Urban Agriculture

Q. The City of Detroit recently passed an ordinance to allow urban agriculture in the city. As an elected official, what would you do to ensure the implementation of the urban agriculture ordinance and related policies to support neighborhood-based urban agriculture?

A. I was involved in the early stages of the drafting of this ordinance, and I know how much time went into its creation. I will work with departments and producers to see what road blocks exist in the implementation of this ordinance so we can iron out any problems.

Access to Land

Q. The equitable distribution of land is critical to improving community food security and strengthening the local food system. Among other benefits, access to land for Detroit-based gardeners and farmers would greatly increase food production in the city. What would you do to ensure that city residents have equitable access to land owned by the city of Detroit?

A. First of all, the city shouldn't keep ownership of any land for any reason unless it is a building that is currently used by the city. We need to divest ourselves of owning land and put it back on the tax role. With that being said, there needs to be a fair process by which the land is distributed. Perhaps a public auction where the land goes to the highest bidder AND the best proposed use.

Business Development

Q. Supporting local food businesses and food entrepreneurs is a critical component of strengthening our local food system in Detroit. However, the cost of doing business in the city is higher than that in surrounding communities. For example, food entrepreneurs in the city experience cumbersome and expensive licensing and permitting, higher insurance rates and lower access to capital. What would you do to ensure that the City of Detroit supports small business development process that is streamlined, equitable and is competitive with other cities?

A. I will work with small businesses and city departments to make sure that licensing fees make sense and the process is easier and that the businesses have every opportunity to succeed.

Federal Nutrition Programs

Q. Federal nutrition programs such as WIC, SNAP, school lunch and breakfast programs, and Summer Food Service Program are important food security resources in our community. They also have an economic impact on retailers and food producers. What will you do to ensure that these programs continue to benefit Detroiters? What would you do to make sure every Detroiters who is eligible participates in these programs?

A. I will ensure that the word gets out about all the programs, and I will work to see that other meal programs are expanded such as meals on wheels, etc.

DETROIT CITY COUNCIL
COUNCIL DISTRICT 2 CANDIDATE
GEORGE CUSHINGBERRY JR.

City of Detroit Food Security Policy

Q. In 2008, the Detroit City Council adopted a Food Security Policy for the city of Detroit. Have you read the Food Security Policy?

A. YES

Implementation of the City's Food Security Policy

Q. What will you do to implement the City's Food Security Policy and what do you feel are the priorities within the policy?

A. Introduce ordinances and take other intergovernmental actions.

Food Access

Q. Many neighborhoods in Detroit suffer from lack of food outlets that offer healthy food options. As a consequence, Detroiters suffer from poor health outcomes related to food and nutrition. All of these factors contribute to a lack of community food security. What would you do to ensure community food security and strengthen Detroit's local food system? What would be your priorities?

A. Improve transportation to eastern market.

Urban Agriculture

Q. The City of Detroit recently passed an ordinance to allow urban agriculture in the city. As an elected official, what would you do to ensure the implementation of the urban agriculture ordinance and related policies to support neighborhood-based urban agriculture?

A. Will introduce similar legislation.

Access to Land

Q. The equitable distribution of land is critical to improving community food security and strengthening the local food system. Among other benefits, access to land for Detroit-based gardeners and farmers would greatly increase food production in the city. What would you do to ensure that city residents have equitable access to land owned by the city of Detroit?

A. Support neighbors owning lots.

Business Development

Q. Supporting local food businesses and food entrepreneurs is a critical component of strengthening our local food system in Detroit. However, the cost of doing business in the city is higher than that in surrounding communities. For example, food entrepreneurs in the city experience cumbersome and expensive licensing and permitting, higher insurance rates and lower access to capital. What would you do to ensure that the City of Detroit supports small business development process that is streamlined, equitable and is competitive with other cities?

A. Detroit is a unique competitive food market. The key is education.

Federal Nutrition Programs

Q. Federal nutrition programs such as WIC, SNAP, school lunch and breakfast programs, and Summer Food Service Program are important food security resources in our community. They also have an economic impact on retailers and food producers. What will you do to ensure that these programs continue to benefit Detroiters? What would you do to make sure every Detroiters who is eligible participates in these programs?

A. Work to improve inter governmental relations.

DETROIT CITY COUNCIL
COUNCIL DISTRICT 3 CANDIDATE
FRANCINE ADAMS

City of Detroit Food Security Policy

Q. In 2008, the Detroit City Council adopted a Food Security Policy for the city of Detroit. Have you read the Food Security Policy?

A. YES

Implementation of the City's Food Security Policy

Q. What will you do to implement the City's Food Security Policy and what do you feel are the priorities within the policy?

A. Health is the optimum goal of a food security policy. In a country where farmers are paid not to farm, land is overdeveloped, toxic, and operating farms have become more factory than farm nutritious food is becoming scarce. Even food that looks like it should be healthy can be nutrient deficient because of the chemicals it contains and the altered growth process. The best way to make sure we receive quality products is to grow our own or to obtain it from a trusted local grower.

Food Access

Q. Many neighborhoods in Detroit suffer from lack of food outlets that offer healthy food options. As a consequence, Detroiters suffer from poor health outcomes related to food and nutrition. All of these factors contribute to a lack of community food security. What would you do to ensure community food security and strengthen Detroit's local food system? What would be your priorities?

A. Food that is detrimental to our health is plentiful in our community while a salad or anything beneficial is hard to come by. The city needs a moratorium on certain types of restaurants to encourage the development of a broader range of food options. There also needs to be better monitoring of the grocery stores in regards to the quality of their products. There are some stores in the city that feel it is okay to have green and grey meat in their coolers or 1/2 rotten produce for sale at regular price. We should also promote urban gardens and farmers markets to encourage restaurants and stores to patronize them. Food is at its healthiest the closer it is to its source.

Urban Agriculture

Q. The City of Detroit recently passed an ordinance to allow urban agriculture in the city. As an elected official, what would you do to ensure the implementation of the urban agriculture ordinance and related policies to support neighborhood-based urban agriculture?

A. Any ordinance on record should be enforceable. Citizens need to be made aware of the ordinance and the parameters within it. They need to be made aware of and encouraged to receive training since many of us are several generations removed from an agricultural lifestyle.

Access to Land

Q. The equitable distribution of land is critical to improving community food security and strengthening the local food system. Among other benefits, access to land for Detroit-based gardeners and farmers would greatly increase food production in the city. What would you do to ensure that city residents have equitable access to land owned by the city of Detroit?

A. The city does not do an adequate job at moving properties from the city rolls to the hands of the taxpayers. The White Picket Fence program has had some success in the pilot areas. I would like to see this expanded city wide. Many Detroiters are already farming on land adjoining or abutting their homes. Some are using commercial lots, others are using public parks without authorization and at the risk of losing their crops. There is an interest in urban farming that needs to be promoted.

Business Development

Q. Supporting local food businesses and food entrepreneurs is a critical component of strengthening our local food system in Detroit. However, the cost of doing business in the city is higher than that in surrounding communities. For example, food entrepreneurs in the city experience cumbersome and expensive licensing and permitting, higher insurance rates and lower access to capital. What would you do to ensure that the City of Detroit supports small business development process that is streamlined, equitable and is competitive with other cities?

A. Nearly every city department is in need of streamlining. We need to take advantage of technology to provide efficient services to our private & corporate citizens. I would like to see citizen owned small businesses develop utilizing pooled resources and grant funding.

Federal Nutrition Programs

Q. Federal nutrition programs such as WIC, SNAP, school lunch and breakfast programs, and Summer Food Service Program are important food security resources in our community. They also have an economic impact on retailers and food producers. What will you do to ensure that these programs continue to benefit Detroiters? What would you do to make sure every Detroiters who is eligible participates in these programs?

A. Most of these programs are operated at the state & federal level. Other than staffing for the W.I.C. program the city has little to no control over the administration of the programs. As the District 3 City Councilwoman I would make sure the residents are aware of the resources available to them and support their ability to connect to those resources.

DETROIT CITY COUNCIL
COUNCIL DISTRICT 3 CANDIDATE
SCOTT BENSON

City of Detroit Food Security Policy

Q. In 2008, the Detroit City Council adopted a Food Security Policy for the city of Detroit. Have you read the Food Security Policy?

A. YES

Implementation of the City's Food Security Policy

Q. What will you do to implement the City's Food Security Policy and what do you feel are the priorities within the policy?

A. I am drawn to the economic justice section of the policy. I will work to ensure that City Council supports efforts to encourage greater rates of participation of Blacks in Detroit's food system.

Food Access

Q. Many neighborhoods in Detroit suffer from lack of food outlets that offer healthy food options. As a consequence, Detroiters suffer from poor health outcomes related to food and nutrition. All of these factors contribute to a lack of community food security. What would you do to ensure community food security and strengthen Detroit's local food system? What would be your priorities?

A. Work closely with the Detroit Food Policy Council to ensure their issues are heard, and work to implement policies at the City Council table that support Detroit's local food system.

Urban Agriculture

Q. The City of Detroit recently passed an ordinance to allow urban agriculture in the city. As an elected official, what would you do to ensure the implementation of the urban agriculture ordinance and related policies to support neighborhood-based urban agriculture?

A. I am a strong supporter of urban agriculture and I support the expansion of the agriculture ordinance to allow for the maintenance of live stock for food production, i.e. milk, eggs, meat.

Access to Land

Q. The equitable distribution of land is critical to improving community food security and strengthening the local food system. Among other benefits, access to land for Detroit-based gardeners and farmers would greatly increase food production in the city. What would you do to ensure that city residents have equitable access to land owned by the city of Detroit?

A. Make land sales/leases to individuals and community groups, with the financial and labor capacity, a priority for the re-purposing of vacant residential lots into agricultural uses. These land sales/leases will have to be managed to ensure properties that are placed back onto the tax rolls are being used for agricultural purposes and not being land banked.

Business Development

Q. Supporting local food businesses and food entrepreneurs is a critical component of strengthening our local food system in Detroit. However, the cost of doing business in the city is higher than that in surrounding communities. For example, food entrepreneurs in the city experience cumbersome and expensive licensing and permitting, higher insurance rates and lower access to capital. What would you do to ensure that the City of Detroit supports small business development process that is streamlined, equitable and is competitive with other cities?

A. Look to streamline the licensing and permitting process by passing ordinances that support small businesses and encourage entrepreneurs to start new food based businesses.

Federal Nutrition Programs

Q. Federal nutrition programs such as WIC, SNAP, school lunch and breakfast programs, and Summer Food Service Program are important food security resources in our community. They also have an economic impact on retailers and food producers. What will you do to ensure that these programs continue to benefit Detroiters? What would you do to make sure every Detroiters who is eligible participates in these programs?

A. While WIC and SNAP are state run programs, I want to ensure the \$100M in annual benefits received by Detroiters are spent in the City of Detroit, and the state encourages that these dollars are used to purchase locally grown healthy food options.

City of Detroit Food Security Policy

Q. In 2008, the Detroit City Council adopted a Food Security Policy for the city of Detroit. Have you read the Food Security Policy?

A. YES

Implementation of the City's Food Security Policy

Q. What will you do to implement the City's Food Security Policy and what do you feel are the priorities within the policy?

A. I will continue to advocate the City's Food Security Policy. My priorities will be the same as those designated within the written agreement.

Food Access

Q. Many neighborhoods in Detroit suffer from lack of food outlets that offer healthy food options. As a consequence, Detroiters suffer from poor health outcomes related to food and nutrition. All of these factors contribute to a lack of community food security. What would you do to ensure community food security and strengthen Detroit's local food system? What would be your priorities?

A. I would build relationships with current food suppliers within the Detroit area. Fortunately, many suppliers are now developing and measuring their support of healthy food options for the residents.

Urban Agriculture

Q. The City of Detroit recently passed an ordinance to allow urban agriculture in the city. As an elected official, what would you do to ensure the implementation of the urban agriculture ordinance and related policies to support neighborhood-based urban agriculture?

A. As a City Council Member, I would advocate for the ordinance and develop a volunteer community council to work with me to insure the implementation of the urban agriculture ordinance within District #4.

Access to Land

Q. The equitable distribution of land is critical to improving community food security and strengthening the local food system. Among other benefits, access to land for Detroit-based gardeners and farmers would greatly increase food production in the city. What would you do to ensure that city residents have equitable access to land owned by the city of Detroit?

A. As mentioned in the question before, I would encourage the community volunteers to implement and ensure District 4 residents received their fair share of land for implementation of basic gardening.

Business Development

Q. Supporting local food businesses and food entrepreneurs is a critical component of strengthening our local food system in Detroit. However, the cost of doing business in the city is higher than that in surrounding communities. For example, food entrepreneurs in the city experience cumbersome and expensive licensing and permitting, higher insurance rates and lower access to capital. What would you do to ensure that the City of Detroit supports small business development process that is streamlined, equitable and is competitive with other cities?

A. As a City Council Member, I would support local food businesses and food entrepreneurs when proposals come forth from them.

Federal Nutrition Program

Q. Federal nutrition programs such as WIC, SNAP, school lunch and breakfast programs, and Summer Food Service Program are important food security resources in our community. They also have an economic impact on retailers and food producers. What will you do to ensure that these programs continue to benefit Detroiters? What would you do to make sure every Detroiters who is eligible participates in these programs?

A. Federal nutrition programs such as WIC, SNAP, and school lunch programs are designed for children. Statistics show that there are several thousand hungry or mal-nourished children living in Southeastern Michigan, therefore, the aforementioned programs are necessary for the development of the children. I would do my part in making sure that Detroit residents who are eligible are informed.

DETROIT CITY COUNCIL
COUNCIL DISTRICT 4 CANDIDATE
ANDRE SPIVEY

City of Detroit Food Security Policy

Q. In 2008, the Detroit City Council adopted a Food Security Policy for the city of Detroit. Have you read the Food Security Policy?

A. I will continue to be a strong voice on the City Council when it comes to addressing the issues outlined in the policy developed by the Food Policy Council. I believe that we can increase the access and consumption of healthy foods in ways that will also boost our local economy. The role of schools and other public institutions combined with citizen education and the impact/ effects of an inadequate diet combined are a major priority. Since being elected to the Detroit City Council in 2009 the issue of healthy eating and quality food access has been one of my personal platforms. It has been my goal to implement model programs, bringing the right people together to generate ideas, share resources, and promote policy changes to improve our local food system.

Implementation of the City's Food Security Policy

Q. What will you do to implement the City's Food Security Policy and what do you feel are the priorities within the policy?

A. I have personally been involved by facilitated meetings with grocers, the community and also the food and beverage associations who govern the industry to discuss the necessary changes that need to take place in order for our neighborhood grocery stores to provide adequate services and produce. This year we have seen a shift in food accessibility and neighborhood grocers are becoming more responsible when it comes to this concept. There has been a serious effort to address this need. My priority would be to increase the number of good grocers. Whole Foods is a great example of "if you build it, they will come". Confirming that Detroiters do want access to fresh produce and quality foods. The expansion of the local food industry will boost the economy by creating more jobs and producing and processing food locally instead of hundreds or even thousands of miles away.

Food Access

Q. Many neighborhoods in Detroit suffer from lack of food outlets that offer healthy food options. As a consequence, Detroiters suffer from poor health outcomes related to food and nutrition. All of these factors contribute to a lack of community food security. What would you do to ensure community food security and strengthen Detroit's local food system? What would be your priorities?

A. A lot of hard work went into developing the Urban Agriculture ordinance and I was glad to support this piece of legislation when it came before the city council in April 2013. As an elected official, we must continue to ensure the ordinance is being implemented in a manner that will uphold its purpose. As the city looks to utilize the vacant land space that is available in the City of Detroit, the Urban Agriculture ordinance will be essential when it comes to streamlining the rules when it comes to urban gardening, farmers markets, and it will control zoning rights for those looking to profit from commercial farming.

Urban Agriculture

Q. The City of Detroit recently passed an ordinance to allow urban agriculture in the city. As an elected official, what would you do to ensure the implementation of the urban agriculture ordinance and related policies to support neighborhood-based urban agriculture?

A. The proper notifications regarding the adjunct lot purchase program is a critical component of making sure each Detroiters who wants access to land is given the opportunity to purchase it at a fair price and they receive the first right of refusal before any major business or corporate interest party. I am looking to put into place a better process developed, a more streamlined way of purchasing vacant lots by putting forth an ordinance to ensure fair pricing and fair notices.

Access to Land

Q. The equitable distribution of land is critical to improving community food security and strengthening the local food system. Among other benefits, access to land for Detroit-based gardeners and farmers would greatly increase food production in the city. What would you do to ensure that city residents have equitable access to land owned by the city of Detroit?

A. The proper notifications regarding the adjunct lot purchase program is a critical component of making sure each Detroiters who wants access to land is given the opportunity to purchase it at a fair price and they receive the first right of refusal before any major business or corporate interest party. I am looking to put into place a better process developed, a more streamlined way of purchasing vacant lots by putting forth an ordinance to ensure fair pricing and fair notices.

Business Development

Q. Supporting local food businesses and food entrepreneurs is a critical component of strengthening our local food system in Detroit. However, the cost of doing business in the city is higher than that in surrounding communities. For example, food entrepreneurs in the city experience cumbersome and expensive licensing and permitting, higher insurance rates and lower access to capital. What would you do to ensure that the City of Detroit supports small business development process that is streamlined, equitable and is competitive with other cities?

A. The City of Detroit continues to improve its efficiency and business licensing services. This includes upgrading technology and streamlining services. Most recently, the building permit application has become an on-line service eliminating the need to come to city hall to take care of filling out application. Realizing that a small business owner may not be able to spend a lot of time away from their business, these are the types of changes that are being made to help foster a better business service experience. Also, we have seen an increase in grocers applying for tax incentives to make store upgrades or request zoning changes to acquire additional land space to enlarge storefronts or provide more adequate parking. The local-level projects that City Council supports will simultaneously create food sector jobs and foster entrepreneurship.

Federal Nutrition Programs

Q. Federal nutrition programs such as WIC, SNAP, school lunch and breakfast programs, and Summer Food Service Program are important food security resources in our community. They also have an economic impact on retailers and food producers. What will you do to ensure that these programs continue to benefit Detroiters? What would you do to make sure every Detroiters who is eligible participates in these programs?

A. I have been an avid supporter of the Fair Food Network, a national nonprofit that works at the intersection of food systems, sustainability, and social equity to provide access to healthy, fresh and sustainably grown food. Programs that they support such as the Double Up Food Bucks and the Strengthening DetroitVoices Initiative. In 2012 I worked with this organization to sponsor a resolution to support federally funded programs and I arranged for leaders of the organization to speak before the entire City Council body to educate Detroiters on the Double Up Food Bucks. It has been successful initiative and I have seen the positive effects of the program at the Eastern Market and now it is spreading to other grocery retailers. Families are receiving more fresh local produce and local farmers are being promoted and encouraged to participate in the program bringing an additional revenue stream to local business owners.

DETROIT CITY COUNCIL
COUNCIL DISTRICT 5 CADIDATE
ADAM HOLLIER

City of Detroit Food Security Policy

Q. In 2008, the Detroit City Council adopted a Food Security Policy for the city of Detroit. Have you read the Food Security Policy?

A. YES

Implementation of the City's Food Security Policy

Q. What will you do to implement the City's Food Security Policy and what do you feel are the priorities within the policy?

A. I will work with residents to start businesses that bring access to locally grown foods to residents. As a city we have to promote entrepreneurship and connecting local growers with retail customers is critical. I think we can develop delivery services based on the co-op model where residents put in a certain amount and get a share of the returns on the crops.

Food Access

Q. Many neighborhoods in Detroit suffer from lack of food outlets that offer healthy food options. As a consequence, Detroiters suffer from poor health outcomes related to food and nutrition. All of these factors contribute to a lack of community food security. What would you do to ensure community food security and strengthen Detroit's local food system? What would be your priorities?

A. First, we have to promote more local growers by supporting the development of farmland used to grow fruits and vegetables. Second, we must develop more avenues to bring these products to underserved communities. The Eastern Market is a great example of a large-scale wholesale weekly market, but increased satellite locations have got to become a priority for ensuring all residents have access to produce across the district.

To ensure greater access to fresh food we must:

1. Create effective markets to bring locally grown food to residents.
2. Promote commercial food packaging and manufacturing with the development of business incubators.
3. Promote restaurant usage of locally grown products to further stimulate the economy.

Urban Agriculture

Q. The City of Detroit recently passed an ordinance to allow urban agriculture in the city. As an elected official, what would you do to ensure the implementation of the urban agriculture ordinance and related policies to support neighborhood-based urban agriculture?

A. I am committed to working with the Building Safety Engineering and the Environment Department to ensure that businesses are licensed appropriately to grow. It's going to be extremely important to ensure the process that was created is flexible and can grow with the burgeoning urban agriculture industry.

Access to Land

Q. The equitable distribution of land is critical to improving community food security and strengthening the local food system. Among other benefits, access to land for Detroit-based gardeners and farmers would greatly increase food production in the city. What would you do to ensure that city residents have equitable access to land owned by the city of Detroit?

A. I am committed to making the purchase of city-owned land easier, especially for residents who would like to invest in small businesses in their community. As a councilperson, I hope to radically change the way the city sells property because individuals who want to invest in the city shouldn't have to wait months to put property back on the tax rolls. I am also committed to being an advocate with the Planning and Development Department to assemble properties for development of neighborhood developments.

Business Development

Q. Supporting local food businesses and food entrepreneurs is a critical component of strengthening our local food system in Detroit. However, the cost of doing business in the city is higher than that in surrounding communities. For example, food entrepreneurs in the city experience cumbersome and expensive licensing and permitting, higher insurance rates and lower access to capital. What would you do to ensure that the City of Detroit supports small business development process that is streamlined, equitable and is competitive with other cities?

A. As a councilperson cleaning up our business licensing codes and ordinances is extremely high on my priority list. I would like to develop regional permitting and bring our codes into greater line with state licensing and permitting, allowing local growers one-stop permitting options. To the extent that local regulations are critical to ensuring the safety of residents, I will work to increase online permitting and tracking the process for continued improvement.

Federal Nutrition Programs

Q. Federal nutrition programs such as WIC, SNAP, school lunch and breakfast programs, and Summer Food Service Program are important food security resources in our community. They also have an economic impact on retailers and food producers. What will you do to ensure that these programs continue to benefit Detroiters? What would you do to make sure every Detroiters who is eligible participates in these programs?

A. As a councilperson, I hope to link more school food programs with local growers as an inroad to families. These programs are already of great benefit in feeding Detroiters; now we need to transition them into economic drivers that allow residents to grow food they can eat and to access more secure avenues for fresh food. This past year I worked with the United Way of Southeastern Michigan on their "Meet Up, Eat Up" program to spread the word and raise the profile of the program. As a councilperson I will continue to do outreach and I will be willing to knock doors and spread the word using my weekly newsletter and social media outlets.

DETROIT CITY COUNCIL
COUNCIL DISTRICT 5 CANDIDATE
MARY SHEFFIELD

City of Detroit Food Security Policy

Q. In 2008, the Detroit City Council adopted a Food Security Policy for the city of Detroit. Have you read the Food Security Policy?

A. YES

Implementation of the City's Food Security Policy

Q. What will you do to implement the City's Food Security Policy and what do you feel are the priorities within the policy?

A. I will first look to incorporate the City's Food Security Policy in the discussions and framework of the City Council committee structure by making food security a subcommittee of the Neighborhood and Community Services Committee. Next, I will advocate for funding of the recommendations from the policy through the City's budget as well as the philanthropic and business community.

The three priorities in my opinion are: 1.) Current access to quality food in Detroit; 2.) Impact/Effects of an inadequate diet; and 3.) Urban agriculture.

Food Access

Q. Many neighborhoods in Detroit suffer from lack of food outlets that offer healthy food options. As a consequence, Detroiters suffer from poor health outcomes related to food and nutrition. All of these factors contribute to a lack of community food security. What would you do to ensure community food security and strengthen Detroit's local food system? What would be your priorities?

A. I would utilize the power of my office to author legislation which would direct resources (money and water) and city-owned land into the hands of local farmers, initiatives and programs which increase access to fresh fruits and vegetables in the City. My priorities would be ensuring the City of Detroit is a true partner in improving food security by reducing the red tape which hinders progress for local food security initiatives and educating residents on the importance of a better diet based in fresh fruits and vegetables.

Urban Agriculture

Q. The City of Detroit recently passed an ordinance to allow urban agriculture in the city. As an elected official, what would you do to ensure the implementation of the urban agriculture ordinance and related policies to support neighborhood-based urban agriculture?

A. I would work to ensure the City's Planning and Development Department incorporates the provisions of the Urban Agriculture Ordinance into their annual and future plans, outlining goals and reporting standards. I would also develop a public/private/philanthropic partnership which would work to support urban agricultural efforts within city-limits. Lastly, I will advocate for tax incentives for residents and businesses who invest in urban agriculture and provide jobs for Detroiters.

Access to Land

Q. The equitable distribution of land is critical to improving community food security and strengthening the local food system. Among other benefits, access to land for Detroit-based gardeners and farmers would greatly increase food production in the city. What would you do to ensure that city residents have equitable access to land owned by the city of Detroit?

A. I would work to ensure the City's Planning and Development Department incorporates the provisions of the Urban Agriculture Ordinance into their annual and future plans, outlining goals and reporting standards. I would also develop a public/private/philanthropic partnership which would work to support urban agricultural efforts within city-limits. Lastly, I will advocate for tax incentives for residents and businesses who invest in urban agriculture and provide jobs for Detroiters.

Business Development

Q. Supporting local food businesses and food entrepreneurs is a critical component of strengthening our local food system in Detroit. However, the cost of doing business in the city is higher than that in surrounding communities. For example, food entrepreneurs in the city experience cumbersome and expensive licensing and permitting, higher insurance rates and lower access to capital. What would you do to ensure that the City of Detroit supports small business development process that is streamlined, equitable and is competitive with other cities?

A. I would look to expedite the zoning and transferring of land for the purpose of allowing businesses to make contributions to strengthening our local food system. I would also advocate for the reduction of licensing/permitting expenses for business which improve our local food system and reduce Detroit's unemployment rate. I again would lean on the business and philanthropic community to assist with barriers such as insurance rates and access to capital by developing a public/private partnership designed to address the inadequacies in our food system.

Federal Nutrition Programs

Q. Federal nutrition programs such as WIC, SNAP, school lunch and breakfast programs, and Summer Food Service Program are important food security resources in our community. They also have an economic impact on retailers and food producers. What will you do to ensure that these programs continue to benefit Detroiters? What would you do to make sure every Detroiters who is eligible participates in these programs?

A. I will use the influence of my office to fight the cuts to the above mentioned programs and advocate for increased funding. I would ensure the City of Detroit helps direct/educate residents in how to receive these critical resources and work to ensure these options are readily available for all Detroiters who need them. I would utilize official City communications such as water bills and election newsletters to disseminate information to residents.

DETROIT CITY COUNCIL
COUNCIL DISTRICT 6 CANDIDATE
RAQUEL CASTANEDA-LOPEZ

City of Detroit Food Security Policy

Q. In 2008, the Detroit City Council adopted a Food Security Policy for the city of Detroit. Have you read the Food Security Policy?

A. YES

Implementation of the City's Food Security Policy

Q. What will you do to implement the City's Food Security Policy and what do you feel are the priorities within the policy?

A. The priorities of the policy are clearly stated as addressing access to quality food to combat hunger, malnutrition, and the impacts and effects of an inadequate diet; improvements to citizens' education on food and nutrition; elimination of injustice within the food system; promotion of urban agriculture; an increase in the role of schools and institutions in promoting food literacy; positive development of nutritious and healthy food options; and the creation of a food emergency plan. Implementation of the suggested action items would have a positive impact on our city. For example, the implementation of bus 'grocery routes' going not only to nearby grocery stores but to farmers' markets as well would be a feasible solution while healthy, culturally appropriate food outlets are being developed. Creating mechanisms with store operators and the Michigan Dept. of Agriculture to ensure that Detroit stores comply with food safety codes is also a top priority. I strongly support community food banks, partnering with community organizations such as local churches, schools, businesses and nonprofits to find community-based solutions to food security and access in our neighborhoods.

Food Access

Q. Many neighborhoods in Detroit suffer from lack of food outlets that offer healthy food options. As a consequence, Detroiters suffer from poor health outcomes related to food and nutrition. All of these factors contribute to a lack of community food security. What would you do to ensure community food security and strengthen Detroit's local food system? What would be your priorities?

A. My priorities would be to:

- a) Ensure that food safety codes are met and upheld.
- b) Promote and advocate for education campaigns in our schools and institutions ensuring that our children and families are well-educated on the subjects of nutrition, healthy meal creation, and local food resources (including community gardens, markets, and grocery stores with fresh produce).
- c) Support urban agriculture by helping community groups and residents navigate through the red tape and streamline the process.
- d) Advocate for bus lines to help increase access to grocery stores and markets providing fresh and healthy options, further exploring the concept of 'grocery routes'.
- e) Encourage local entrepreneurship and support incentives for businesses that provide healthy food alternatives for their communities.

Urban Agriculture

Q. The City of Detroit recently passed an ordinance to allow urban agriculture in the city. As an elected official, what would you do to ensure the implementation of the urban agriculture ordinance and related policies to support neighborhood-based urban agriculture?

A. In line with the Council's power to review and approve site plans for urban agriculture locations, as a member I would do everything within my power to encourage the establishment and development of safe and productive urban agriculture in Detroit. Furthermore, I would fight any legislative or policy-based threats to community, school and home gardens. I would also explore the Council's capabilities in providing resources to communities for the development of community-based urban agriculture and assist with any facilitation or provision of resources necessary for urban agriculture to flourish in Detroit. As an urban gardener, this is an issue that I am very passionate about.

Access to Land

Q. The equitable distribution of land is critical to improving community food security and strengthening the local food system. Among other benefits, access to land for Detroit-based gardeners and farmers would greatly increase food production in the city. What would you do to ensure that city residents have equitable access to land owned by the city of Detroit?

A. In order to ensure that city residents have equitable access to Detroit city owned land, I would work to make the land acquisition process as transparent, accessible and consistent as possible. I would support and promote the collaboration of communities seeking to purchase land for community gardens or farms by providing access to information and resources that help these groups cut through the red tape.

Business Development

Q. Supporting local food businesses and food entrepreneurs is a critical component of strengthening our local food system in Detroit. However, the cost of doing business in the city is higher than that in surrounding communities. For example, food entrepreneurs in the city experience cumbersome and expensive licensing and permitting, higher insurance rates and lower access to capital. What would you do to ensure that the City of Detroit supports small business development process that is streamlined, equitable and is competitive with other cities?

A. As an entrepreneur myself, I understand some of the challenges that small businesses face. One of my priorities would be to help residents understand the current system. In addition, I would promote a restructuring of system to make the licensing and permit processes more efficient, ensuring that excessive paperwork and procedures does not stand in the way of positive and beneficial growth in Detroit. I would also support partnerships between local organizations, existing businesses and local government to mentor new entrepreneurs to help ensure that these new businesses are poised for success before. I would also explore the creation of programs that would incentivize food entrepreneurs, particularly Detroit entrepreneurs, to bring and keep their business in Detroit.

Federal Nutrition Programs

Q. Federal nutrition programs such as WIC, SNAP, school lunch and breakfast programs, and Summer Food Service Program are important food security resources in our community. They also have an economic impact on retailers and food producers. What will you do to ensure that these programs continue to benefit Detroiters? What would you do to make sure every Detroiters who is eligible participates in these programs?

A. In conjunction with organizations that already provide education and resources about these programs, I would support and explore other methods of outreach that promote participation in federal nutrition programs. I support the increased participation of local retailers and food producers in order to ensure that revenue generated is benefiting Detroit producers as well as its residents.

DETROIT CITY COUNCIL
COUNCIL DISTRICT 6 CANDIDATE
WILLIAM ISAAC ROBINSON
*CANDIDATE DID NOT RESPOND TO SURVEY

DETROIT CITY COUNCIL
COUNCIL DISTRICT 7 CANDIDATE
JOHN BENNETT

City of Detroit Food Security Policy

Q. In 2008, the Detroit City Council adopted a Food Security Policy for the city of Detroit. Have you read the Food Security Policy?

A. YES

Implementation of the City's Food Security Policy

Q. What will you do to implement the City's Food Security Policy and what do you feel are the priorities within the policy?

A. To have the guided input from a group so targeted on an issue, food security, Detroit Food Policy Council Schools should be supported in efforts to fund a position of gardener/teacher. Students can learn more than how to read write and socialize in school - they can learn how to eat healthy as well as have the opportunity to participate in the garden something to work towards together is drawing direct sponsorship from foundation and business community to support farm. Important to team with local universities to guide implementation/orchestration of programs - pairing local universities to communities - Oakland studying dental - health care providers - detection and education pairing - all heavy on expertise need to have job component in community/neighborhood.

Food Access

Q. Many neighborhoods in Detroit suffer from lack of food outlets that offer healthy food options. As a consequence, Detroiters suffer from poor health outcomes related to food and nutrition. All of these factors contribute to a lack of community food security. What would you do to ensure community food security and strengthen Detroit's local food system? What would be your priorities?

A. The work of the DFPC is and has been essential in helping guide best practices in the city - the annual food report and documents like it make a councilperson's job that much easier in advocating for the interests of the people. Without a citizen driven approach the vision of District 7 put forth by groups like Detroit Future City will not be able to come to fruition as the tough decisions about where to convert area to urban green as well as manage and maintain the resulting land cry out for a coalition of leadership - from myself in representing the district on the city council to leaders on the DFPC and those in the community. My priority would be to empower the people within my district to determine the best urban agriculture plan for the district as well as make sure that I have their best interests in my heart as the city council engages in negotiations with the business and foundation community.

Urban Agriculture

Q. The City of Detroit recently passed an ordinance to allow urban agriculture in the city. As an elected official, what would you do to ensure the implementation of the urban agriculture ordinance and related policies to support neighborhood-based urban agriculture?

A. As it falls on the city council to approve and/or pass on plans to the City Planning Commission the council should be well versed in the ordinance as well as ready to rule quickly on urban agriculture projects as long as they can demonstrate being tied. The bar should be lower for community based plans that can show both support from said community as well as attachment to other programs/entities within the community - a urban agriculture project that will augment school lunches in a neighborhood school should have a higher priority then a straight for-profit operation

Access to Land

Q. The equitable distribution of land is critical to improving community food security and strengthening the local food system. Among other benefits, access to land for Detroit-based gardeners and farmers would greatly increase food production in the city. What would you do to ensure that city residents have equitable access to land owned by the city of Detroit?

A. The city of Detroit has at least 60,000 vacant parcels of land within its 124 square miles. This land need to be developed and farming is one option.

Business Development

Q. Supporting local food businesses and food entrepreneurs is a critical component of strengthening our local food system in Detroit. However, the cost of doing business in the city is higher than that in surrounding communities. For example, food entrepreneurs in the city experience cumbersome and expensive licensing and permitting, higher insurance rates and lower access to capital. What would you do to ensure that the City of Detroit supports small business development process that is streamlined, equitable and is competitive with other cities?

A. By streamlining the licensing and permitting process food entrepreneurs can be helped start their businesses as well as being able to have access to cheap or even free real estate to off-set the higher insurance rates and lower access to capital. Downtown businesses should/could pay into a fund to support business development in cores throughout the city.

Federal Nutrition Programs

Q. Federal nutrition programs such as WIC, SNAP, school lunch and breakfast programs, and Summer Food Service Program are important food security resources in our community. They also have an economic impact on retailers and food producers. What will you do to ensure that these programs continue to benefit Detroiters? What would you do to make sure every Detroiters who is eligible participates in these programs?

A. Sponsor activities that lead to jobs within food economy - small scale distribution, entrepreneurial development Education to retailers and producers about programs - feature items, feature deals - local produce double point systems - food education, tracking.

DETROIT CITY COUNCIL
COUNCIL DISTRICT 7 CANDIDATE
GABE LELAND

City of Detroit Food Security Policy

Q. In 2008, the Detroit City Council adopted a Food Security Policy for the city of Detroit. Have you read the Food Security Policy?

A. YES

Implementation of the City's Food Security Policy

Q. What will you do to implement the City's Food Security Policy and what do you feel are the priorities within the policy?

A. If elected to the City Council I will do everything within my power to work with the DFPC to implement the City's Food Security Policy. I believe the most important priority is to focus on better food and health education in every Detroit school. Education is tantamount to tackling many of the City's problems.

Food Access

Q. Many neighborhoods in Detroit suffer from lack of food outlets that offer healthy food options. As a consequence, Detroiters suffer from poor health outcomes related to food and nutrition. All of these factors contribute to a lack of community food security. What would you do to ensure community food security and strengthen Detroit's local food system? What would be your priorities?

A. The lack of access to reasonably priced and higher quality food is the issue here. The city should establish creative funding mechanisms through its partners in Higher Education and Southeastern Michigan foundations to ensure that foods that meet nutritious standards are readily available in this city and are affordable. Stores should be given incentives to act. Gas stations, liquor stores or just plain grocery stores that participate in specialized training in nutrition and food handling and who also increase counter space/refrigeration for fresh affordable food could be selected to obtain certain tax credits or discounts on energy bills for offering such healthier food options.

Urban Agriculture

Q. The City of Detroit recently passed an ordinance to allow urban agriculture in the city. As an elected official, what would you do to ensure the implementation of the urban agriculture ordinance and related policies to support neighborhood-based urban agriculture?

A. It's important for neighborhood organizations and others to realize the benefits of urban agriculture and understand the ordinances that dictate it. I foresee my office educating residents on the process, and additionally, helping communities cut through some of the red tape.

Access to Land

Q. The equitable distribution of land is critical to improving community food security and strengthening the local food system. Among other benefits, access to land for Detroit-based gardeners and farmers would greatly increase food production in the city. What would you do to ensure that city residents have equitable access to land owned by the city of Detroit?

A. When it comes to Land, the city can no longer afford to maintain what it currently owns. Hundreds of vacant parcels throughout Detroit are severely overgrown and trash littered. If a credible entity (organization, individual, etc.) can produce a viable site plan for urban agriculture, it deserves a fair and open hearing. In dealing with very small plots of land (half acre or less) the process of transferring title could be expedited.

Business Development

Q. Supporting local food businesses and food entrepreneurs is a critical component of strengthening our local food system in Detroit. However, the cost of doing business in the city is higher than that in surrounding communities. For example, food entrepreneurs in the city experience cumbersome and expensive licensing and permitting, higher insurance rates and lower access to capital. What would you do to ensure that the City of Detroit supports small business development process that is streamlined, equitable and is competitive with other cities?

A. Nationally, the largest number of new jobs will come from small business. There is a significant opportunity to grow jobs in this arena here in Detroit. As a city, we need to wrap our arms around these food industries and do what we can to financially support them. That means cutting down on fees where possible, and finding micro loans and seed money to help these food entrepreneurs in the early stages of their business. I will commit to working with my friends at the MEDC and other state and local partners to carve out a funding stream for this niche market.

Federal Nutrition Programs

Q. Federal nutrition programs such as WIC, SNAP, school lunch and breakfast programs, and Summer Food Service Program are important food security resources in our community. They also have an economic impact on retailers and food producers. What will you do to ensure that these programs continue to benefit Detroiters? What would you do to make sure every Detroiters who is eligible participates in these programs?

A. Federal, state and community programs must be enhanced and continued. As a councilman, I would work as closely as possible with our members of Congress and State government to bring every nutritional benefit to our residents. I expect my experience as a State Representative will help me greatly. To make sure everyone who is eligible participates, I will work to better inform the residents of my district through community groups, churches, schools, health professionals.



Who We Are

The Detroit Food Policy Council (DFPC) was established in 2009 by unanimous approval of the Detroit City Council, following a City Council resolution in 2008 to adopt a Food Security Policy.

The DFPC is an implementation, monitoring and advisory body and consists of twenty-one members, including twelve representatives from various sectors of the Food System, six “at-large” representatives and representatives from the Mayor’s Office, City Council and The Department of Health and Wellness Promotion.

Mission

DFPC is committed to nurturing the development and maintenance of a sustainable, localized food system and a food-secure City of Detroit in which all of its residents are hunger-free, healthy, and benefit economically from the food system that impacts their lives.

Vision

We envision a city of Detroit with a healthy, vibrant, hunger-free populace that has easy access to fresh produce and other healthy food choices; a city in which the residents are educated about healthy food choices, and understand their relationship to the food system; a city in which urban agriculture, composting and other sustainable practices contribute to its economic vitality; and a city in which all of its residents, workers, guests and visitors are treated with respect, justice and dignity by those from whom they obtain food.

Values

The Detroit Food Policy Council is committed to assessing information and developing solutions for the benefit of, and with accountability to, the people of Detroit. We respect the past and are focused on forward movement, seeing beyond the immediate or short term impact of our actions. We use a consensus decision making model whereby all voices are heard and all those making decisions are willing to fully support implementation of decisions made. With this in mind, the DFPC has adopted the following values to guide our work.

- Justice
- Respect
- Integrity
- Inclusion
- Transparency

Detroit Food Policy Council

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