



12/16/2024

Community Development Housing / General Government Committee

Dear City Council Members,

The Urban Food Policy Council (UFPC) commends the Department of Sustainability for its diligent work in producing the Food Resilience Report (FRR). This report reflects a thoughtful and inclusive approach, including defining food resilience, conducting a baseline assessment of food accessibility, and engaging a wide range of stakeholders to develop actionable recommendations for improvement.

In developing the report, the staff engaged a breadth of perspectives including residents, community partner organizations, and local experts. The UFPC witnessed the outreach process firsthand by dedicating our July meeting to participating in a focus group with residents.

The report is commendable given the limited time and resources allotted. The UFPC would like to see continued partnership with staff and a greater opportunity to participate in the development of future surveys or tools used by the city.

In light of this report, the UFPC calls for increased resources from the City of Winston-Salem to support food resilience. In particular, the UFPC calls on staff to implement the recommendations related to urban agriculture, the provision of more prepared, hot foods, nutrition education to prevent chronic disease, and enrollment support related to federal food assistance programs such as SNAP and SUN Meals. Additionally, the UFPC encourages greater funding support for small organizations with demonstrated capacity to provide sufficient, appropriate, and accessible food to members of the community.

Implementing the findings of the FRR will not only benefit residents who lack consistent access to nutritious foods, but also contribute to a more resilient food system for all residents of Winston-Salem. The UFPC encourages the city council to consider the positive impact that improved food resilience will have on our residents and dedicate additional resources to support this work.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "ShLanda Burton". The signature is written in a cursive style.

ShLanda Burton, Urban Food Policy Council Chair

Christopher Jahdai Jeffords, Urban Food Policy Council Vice Chair

Brad Shugoll

Basir Razzuk

Justin Wilson

Lynette Addison

Michael Banner

Torry Reynolds