

Knoxville-Knox County



April 8, 2015

Dear Metropolitan Planning Committee members,

The Knoxville/Knox County Food Policy Council (KKCFPC) would like to express our full support for the recommendations laid out in the February 2015 City of Knoxville document entitled, Urban Agriculture Zoning Ordinance: Recommendations to Enhance Urban Food Systems. At our April 8th meeting, the KKCFPC unanimously voted in favor of the recommendations.

These recommendations will enable our citizens to better access healthy foods through home, community, and business agricultural activities. Additionally, the recommendations will allow for entrepreneurial opportunities in food production for citizens located in food deserts (and non-food deserts alike). Increased access of healthy food and job creation is particularly important in light of the fact that about 11% of Knoxville's households live in food deserts. Food deserts are places without adequately access to healthy foods, and where obesity, diabetes, and heart disease are common among residents.

We urge you to support the recommendations laid out by the City of Knoxville and to work to make them a reality.

Sincerely,



Chad Hellwinckel, PhD

Chair

Knoxville/Knox County Food Policy Council