


## COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

	Number:	<b>25-436</b>	Meeting:	<b>November 17, 2025</b>
	Agenda Item:	<b>14</b>	Roll Call:	<b>25-1530</b>
	Submitted by:	<b>Malcolm A. Hankins, Assistant City Manager</b>		

### AGENDA HEADING:

Authorization of the Food Sustainability Advisory Committee (FSAC).

### SYNOPSIS:

The City of Des Moines has had two (2) previous iterations of a Food Security Task Force, which focused on providing information and resources to residents to help them grow their own food, as well as ordinance changes to support urban agriculture. This new Committee will build on the work of the previous two (2) Task Forces, focusing on ways that the City can promote a sustainable food system through land use, ordinances/policies, and partnerships with urban agriculture organizations.

### FISCAL IMPACT: NONE

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- Upon dissolution of the Sustainability Office in January 2025, the City Manager's Office focused on identifying initiatives to continue and distribute the Office's work into other Department/ Division operations.
- The City Manager's Office had a strong desire to see the work of the Food Security Task Force continue as a way to meet goals outlined within ADAPT DSM, the City's climate action plan, and continue to grow a sustainable food system in the face of a changing climate and continued growth in uncertainty related to food access.
- Office of Economic Development staff have been identified as ideal to carry forward work relating to developing a sustainable food system. These staff often answer questions related to land use and entrepreneurship involving food production, have a positive working relationship with various community organizations focused on sustainable food production, and facilitated the City's Drake Park Orchard Planting Project executed in fall 2025.
- Office of Economic Development staff will serve as the City staff liaisons for this new Committee, which will run indefinitely. Committee members will be selected based on subject matter expertise.
- This Committee will meet monthly and will work with City staff to bring forward recommendations to the City Manager's Office and/or City Council for policies and actions that the City can develop or adapt to promote food production and a sustainable food system. The Committee will initially

focus on the utilization of City assets and resources that could strengthen the local food system – land access/City land use, promotion of food production into existing City operations/policies, and communications platforms/programming.

- The Committee will be supplemented by an internal City staff working group on food sustainability that will serve as an implementation arm of the external-facing Committee.

#### **PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S):**

Date: January 8, 2024

Roll Call Number: [24-0041](#)

Action: [Approving](#) Appointments to the Food Security Task Force. ([Council Communication No. 24-20](#)). Moved by Gatto to adopt. Second by Voss. Motion carried 6-0.

Date: February 8, 2021

Roll Call Number: [21-0186](#)

Action: [Recommendation](#) from Mayor and City Council on Appointments to the Food Security Task Force. Moved by Gatto to adopt. Motion carried 7-0.

Date: December 21, 2020

Roll Call Number: [20-2138](#)

Action: [Creating](#) the Food Security Task Force. Moved by Voss to adopt. Motion carried 7-0.

#### **BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S): NONE**

#### **ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS:**

- The Committee will work with various City staff on developing food sustainability initiatives and aligning the City's work related to food sustainability with ADAPT DSM. The Committee will also occasionally bring forward recommendations to the City Council for policy, ordinances, programs, initiatives, and other actions in support of food sustainability goals and alignment with ADAPT DSM.

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](mailto:cityclerk@dmgov.org).