# COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

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| CITY OF DES MOINES CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE | Number: | **25-440** | Meeting: | **December 8, 2025** |
| | Agenda Item: | **18** | Roll Call: | **25-1594** |
| | Submitted by: | **Matthew A. Anderson, Deputy City Manager** | | |

**AGENDA HEADING:**

Appointment of initial members to the Food Sustainability Advisory Committee (FSAC).

**SYNOPSIS:**

Approval is requested for the appointment of the initial members to the FSAC, a standing advisory body that will guide City efforts related to food sustainability, access, production, and policy. The Committee succeeds two (2) iterations of the Food Security Task Force and includes an expansion in scope to encompass broader issues of land use, urban agriculture, food rescue, and coordination with community and institutional partners.

The FSAC will provide ongoing recommendations to the City Manager and City Council on strategies that align with ADAPT DSM, the City's climate action and resilience plan. Future appointments and vacancies will be filled administratively by the City Manager's Office.

**FISCAL IMPACT: NONE**

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

- The FSAC consists of up to 11 members serving two (2)-year terms, representing a range of perspectives within the local food system as outlined in the Committee's bylaws.
- The Committee will be supported by staff liaisons from the Office of Economic Development and supplemented by an internal City staff working group focused on implementation.
- Proposed Initial Appointments:
    - **Hailey Boudreau** – Community Health Consultant, Iowa Department of Health and Human Services. Brings expertise in public health nutrition and statewide healthy eating programs. *Served on the second Food Security Task Force.*
    - **Katie Das** – State Coordinator, Sustainable Iowa Land Trust (SILT). Focused on farmland preservation and sustainable agriculture outreach.
    - **Paul Gibbins** – Regional Director, Iowa State University (ISU) Extension and Outreach. Provides leadership in community education, youth development, and agricultural programming.

- **Amy Joens** – Community Garden Specialist, Lutheran Services in Iowa (Global Greens). Leads refugee farmer and community gardening programs.
- **Sheila Knoploh-Odole** – Attorney and sustainability consultant, Knoploh Law & Consulting. Former SILT director and *served on both prior Food Security Task Force iterations.*
- **Alejandro Murguia-Ortiz** – Food Rescue Logistics Manager, Eat Greater Des Moines. Coordinates large-scale food recovery and redistribution efforts. *Served on the second Food Security Task Force.*
- **Adam Shriver** – Director of Wellness and Nutrition, Harkin Institute for Public Policy. Experienced food and environmental researcher with a focus on public engagement.
- **Vannessa Silva** – Produce Manager, Gateway Market. Experienced in food retail operations and *served on the second Food Security Task Force.*
- **Kathy Underhill** – Chief Executive Officer, Des Moines Area Religious Council (DMARC). Leads Central Iowa's largest food pantry network and brings national anti-hunger leadership experience.

- These appointments reflect a cross-section of professional expertise across urban agriculture, food production, public health, food policy, food distribution, and nonprofit leadership, ensuring a well-rounded foundation for the Committee's launch.

**PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S):**

Date: November 17, 2025

Roll Call Number: 25-1530

Action: Establishing Food Sustainability Advisory Committee. (Council Communication No. 25-436). Moved by Voss to adopt. Second by Coleman. Motion carried 7-0.

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.

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

**ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE OMMITMENTS:**

- The FSAC will meet monthly and bring forward recommendations to the City Manager and City Council regarding policies, programs, and initiatives that advance a resilient local food system in alignment with ADAPT DSM and other City plans.

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.