

Amy Harvey

From: Jeanette Coffin
Sent: Wednesday, January 30, 2019 4:11 PM
To: Lacko, Allison Maria
Cc: Allen Buansi; Donna Bell; Hongbin Gu; Info - CAPA; Jeanne Brown; Jess Anderson; Karen Stegman; Lindsey Bineau; Michael Parker; Nancy Oates; Pam Hemminger; Rachel Schaevitz; Town Council; Amy Harvey; Carolyn Worsley; Catherine Lazorko; Flo Miller; Laura Selmer; Mary Jane Nirdlinger; Maurice Jones; Rae Buckley; Ralph Karpinos; Ross Tompkins; Sabrina Oliver
Subject: email..RE: Food Council MOU - Message of support

Thank you for your correspondence with the Town of Chapel Hill. The Mayor and Town Council are interested in what you have to say. By way of this email, I am forwarding your message to the Mayor and each of the Council Members, as well as to the appropriate staff person who may be able to assist in providing additional information or otherwise addressing your concerns.

If your email is related to a development application or a particular issue being addressed by the Council, your comments will be made part of the record. If applicable, we encourage you to attend any public meetings related to the items addressed in your email.

Again, thank you for your message.

Sincerely,

Jeanette Coffin



Jeanette Coffin
Office Assistant
[Town of Chapel Hill Manager's Office](#)
[405 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.](#)
[Chapel Hill, NC 27514](#)
(o) 919-968-2743 | (f) 919-969-2063

From: Lacko, Allison Maria [mailto:amlacko@live.unc.edu]
Sent: Wednesday, January 30, 2019 2:58 PM
To: Town Council <mayorandcouncil@townofchapelhill.org>
Subject: Food Council MOU - Message of support

Hello,

I hope this email finds you well. My name is Allison, I am a graduate student at UNC and a resident of Chapel Hill. For the past year, I have been volunteering with the Orange County Food Council's Food Access workgroup. Through the workgroup's monthly meetings, different participating stakeholders (individuals and organizations) who are dedicated to improving access to healthy food for all Chapel Hill residents have built relationships and found opportunities to collaborate. For example, the workgroup put together a resource guide inventorying all of the food assistance programs that Chapel Hill residents have access to. This coming year, we will address food security in Chapel Hill through access to higher wages as well as improving farm to school initiatives.

I understand that today the Chapel Hill Town Council will be bringing up the Food Council's MOU. Unfortunately, I will not be able to make it to the meeting in person, so I am writing to express my support for funding full-time coordinator position for the Food Council. The Food Access workgroup has ambitious goals for 2019, as do the other two workgroups (local food economy and food waste) and the Food Council as a whole. While I am happy to volunteer my time, I can only do so for one of the projects in my workgroup. The Food Council has many volunteers like myself who are passionate about building a more equitable and sustainable food system here in Chapel Hill. However, we require someone who is able to dedicate their full attention to coordinating our efforts – as volunteers, we lack the time to manage our projects as part of a larger effort. The ability to maintain relationships with and connections between a diverse group of stakeholders and volunteers – or the ability to be an organizer - requires tremendous time and a flexible schedule. Furthermore, the ability to coordinate multiple projects and network and learn from other food councils in North Carolina requires an individual who is highly motivated, organized, and knowledgeable about food systems. As a former Peace Corps Volunteer (read: community organizer), I know that a volunteer, or even a part time coordinator, cannot be expected to fulfill these responsibilities. As a former outreach worker at a community health center who served on a council with diverse stakeholders, I have also seen a successful community collaboration flounder when the fully-funded coordinator position was eliminated.

The food system doesn't just affect farmers. One of my favorite parts of having moved to Chapel Hill is the connection I feel to our local farming community, which makes me a healthier and more conscientious consumer. Supporting local farmers and businesses that source from local farmers keeps the money I earn at UNC within Chapel Hill and Orange County. As a volunteer at the Interfaith Council's Community Kitchen, I've also seen how a systems approach to food waste and food access impact this community's most vulnerable.

Supporting the Food Council will strengthen our local food system, contributing to the growth and resilience of our local economy, reduce our impact on our environment and ensure that our residents have access to affordable and healthy food. I hope you will strongly consider agreeing to the MOU to fund a full time coordinator position. Our community will be stronger for it.

Best,
Allison

Allison Maria Lacko
Doctoral Student, Department of Nutrition
CPC Predoctoral Trainee
Global Food Research Program
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Amy Harvey

From: Jeanette Coffin
Sent: Wednesday, January 30, 2019 4:12 PM
To: Maria Hitt
Cc: Allen Buansi; Donna Bell; Hongbin Gu; Info - CAPA; Jeanne Brown; Jess Anderson; Karen Stegman; Lindsey Bineau; Michael Parker; Nancy Oates; Pam Hemminger; Rachel Schaevitz; Town Council; Amy Harvey; Carolyn Worsley; Catherine Lazorko; Flo Miller; Laura Selmer; Mary Jane Nirdlinger; Maurice Jones; Rae Buckley; Ralph Karpinos; Ross Tompkins; Sabrina Oliver
Subject: RE: Please Support the Orange County Food Council

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From: Maria Hitt [mailto:mhitt@orangesmartstart.org]
Sent: Wednesday, January 30, 2019 3:18 PM
To: Town Council <mayorandcouncil@townofchapelhill.org>
Subject: Please Support the Orange County Food Council

To Mayor Pam Hemminger and the members of the Chapel Hill Town Council:

I am writing today to ask that you support the creation of the position of Coordinator for the Orange County Food Council to be co-sponsored by all of the incorporated entities within Orange County. While we live in an area that strongly supports local food and food economies, farms and farmers, at the same time, we have many residents that are food insecure and living in food deserts. The creation of a position, funded by the towns and county, to oversee the work of our local food council seems like a win-win arrangement for all concerned. The establishment of this position gives credence and power to the work of the food council and also allows for better oversight by all the parties involved. Providing consistent and stable leadership through a funded position will help Orange County create even more effective and inclusive local food initiatives that will serve all of our residents.

The work that I am involved in with the Partnership for Children includes promoting fresh and local foods in child care through farm to early care and education and helping young children learn where their food comes from. We also recognize that 18% of the children in Orange County are living in a food insecure household. I support the food councils efforts to bring various sectors of the local food scene together at one table to address multiple needs in a complex community. Making a position for the coordinator seems a logical next step in the continuation of the food council and the creation of a local food system that will be a model for the state going forward. I hope you will move forward on this initiative so that the work of the food council can continue with the strong leadership of a steady coordinator and support from all elected bodies in Orange county.

Thank you for your consideration
Sincerely,

Maria Hitt

Project Manager

Growing Up Healthy

Orange County Partnership for Young Children

120 Providence Rd. Suite 101

Chapel Hill, NC 27514

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919-967-9091 ext. 217

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www.orangesmartstart.org

Orange County Partnership for Young Children is an approved member of the State Employees Combined Campaign. Our contribution code is 3512. We welcome and appreciate any contributions that allow us to continue to serve the children of Orange County.

