

City of Cincinnati



200900315

Y. Laketa Cole
President Pro Tem

City Hall, Room 351
801 Plum Street
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202-1979
Phone (513) 352-3466
Fax (513) 352-3957
E-Mail: laketa.cole@cincinnati-oh.gov

COMMITTEES

Chair
Vibrant Neighborhoods, Environment
and Public Services Committee

Member
Education, Health and
Recreation Committee

Rules and Government
Operations Committee

Arts, Culture, Tourism
and Marketing Committee

Finance Committee

March 18, 2008

MOTION

WE MOVE that Cincinnati City Council initiate the formation of a Food Access Task Force to address community barriers to accessing healthy, quality and affordable foods within the lower income communities of Cincinnati.

WE FURTHER MOVE that the Food Access Task Force function as a pilot program, focusing on the communities of Avondale and Walnut Hills in its initial year of implementation. The Task Force will be comprised members of Cincinnati City Council to co-chair, as well as representatives of relevant community organizations and stakeholders. It will have three major objectives and will report its findings back to the community and to City Council.

STATEMENT

Purpose of Task Force:

The purpose of the Food Access Task Force is to address the disparity that exists between lower income communities and higher income communities regarding access to quality and healthy food supplies. Specifically, the Task Force is needed to locate innovative solutions and national best practices that have been used to eliminate this disparity. The Task Force is further needed to recommend those practices that can be replicated with success in Cincinnati's communities.

This problem of inadequate access, or the "grocery gap" as it has been called, is a national problem. There is documentation to support the existence a grocery gap in cities as diverse as Philadelphia, Louisville, New Orleans and Troy, as well as in communities across California (see enclosed document).

The need for food security or food justice, however, is not simply a national problem. It is Cincinnati's problem as well. Locally, this trend of food insecurity in lower income areas was demonstrated by the announcement in the Fall of 2007 that the Aldi in Avondale – one of few remaining full-service grocery stores in that community – was closing, and revisited again when the Walnut Hills Kroger contacted

Councilmember's with the possibility of closing if an agreement is not met with the leaseholder. Given the pervasive and growing threat that obesity and its related health conditions presents to Cincinnati's inner city and lower income communities, it is obvious why we need to broaden access to quality and affordable food sources. The Food Access Task Force will respond to the demand for leadership to close this access gap.


Participating Organizations:

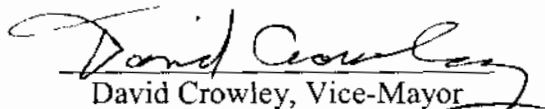
The Food Access Task Force will have Vice-Mayor David Crowley and Councilmember Laketa Cole acting as honorary co-chairs. We further request that the lead organization for the Task Force be the Center for Closing the Health Gap in Greater Cincinnati. Along with the above parties, the following organizations could be invited to participate as members of the Food Access Task Force pilot in Avondale and Walnut Hills.

- Avondale Community Council
- Avondale Business Association
- Avondale Town Center – Avondale Coalition of Churches
- African American Chamber of Commerce
- Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center
- Greater Cincinnati Chamber of Commerce
- Kroger Company
- University Hospital
- Uptown Consortium
- Walnut Hills Community Council

Objectives for Task Force:

In accordance with national best practices, the Task Force should focus on three objectives for each community in which it operates: **developing new grocery stores, improving existing small stores, starting and sustaining farmer's markets.** The Task Force should tailor its research, discussions, recommendations and reporting to satisfy these objectives.


Y. Laketa Cole, President Pro Tem


David Crowley, Vice-Mayor