



# SUSTAINABLE FOOD POLICY BOARD

**Paula J. McDermott**  
**Chairperson**  
801 Jessie Street  
Austin, TX 78704

**Philip Huang, M.D., M.P.H.**  
**Executive Liaison**  
Austin/Travis County HHSD  
P. O. Box 1088  
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July 23, 2012

Judge Samuel Biscoe,  
Travis County Commissioners  
314 West 11th Street  
Austin, Texas 78701

Dear Judge and County Commissioners,

By Resolution, you created the Sustainable Food Policy Board to assist and advise the commissioners court concerning the need to improve the availability of safe, nutritious, local, and sustainably-grown food at reasonable prices for all residents, particularly those in need, by coordinating the relevant activities of city and county government, as well as non-profit organizations, and food and farming businesses.

Further, your resolution set out our charge, indicating that the Board shall: (1) monitor the availability, price and quality of food throughout the Austin and Travis County area; (2) collect data on the food security (i.e., access to an affordable, diversified local food supply) and the nutritional status of city and county residents; (3) inform city and county policy makers, administrators, and the public at large about the status of the region's food system and food security; (4) monitor and analyze the administration of city and county food and nutrition programs; (5) explore new means for the city and county to improve the local food economy, the availability, sustainability, accessibility, and quality of food and our environment, and assist city and county departments in the coordination of their efforts; (6) review availability and recommend measures to promote the preservation of agricultural land in the City of Austin and Travis County; and (7) recommend to the city and county adoption of measures that will improve existing local food production and add new programs, incentives, projects, regulations, or services.

We respectfully request full consideration of the FY 2013 Budget Request of the Health and Human Services Department to have resources to employ a temporary employee, with specific performance goals, to assist us in meeting our annual work plan. We acknowledge and support the evaluation of this position annually to ensure that the position meets its intended goals.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Paula J. McDermott  
Chairperson  
Austin/Travis County  
Sustainable Food Policy Board

cc: Austin City Council Members  
Sherri Fleming, Executive Manager, Travis County HHS & Veteran Services