



SUSTAINABLE FOOD POLICY BOARD

Marla Camp, Chairperson
1415 Newning Avenue
Austin, TX 78704

Vince Cobalis, Executive Liaison
Austin/Travis County HHSD
P. O. Box 1088
Austin, TX 78767



February 22, 2010

Mr. Marc A. Ott
City Manager
City of Austin
P. O. Box 1088
Austin, Texas 78767

Dear Mr. Ott:

In response to your call for input regarding the profile of the Sustainability Officer position, the members of the Sustainable Food Policy Board (SFPB) collectively appeal for this position's profile to include responsibilities directly related to the creation, development and support of a sustainable food system for Austin. In addition, we request that this position align with the values and expectations outlined in ordinance 20081120-058 (attached) and that candidates be required to have had prior professional experience with sustainable food systems.

As a newly-formed board, our experience over the past 12 months indicates that the creation, development and support of a sustainable food system is not only a complex undertaking but one that often involves multiple departments within the City and County. We recommend that the Sustainability Officer be considered as a possible single point of contact for the Sustainable Food Policy Board, facilitating strategic and effective interdepartmental collaboration.

Concern for a safe, nutritious, and sustainable food supply has risen to a level of unprecedented prominence. In addition, emissions are produced throughout every step of the food chain—from farming, processing, storing, distributing, and preparing food to the disposal of food waste. Our City and County has a distinct opportunity to demonstrate leadership in sustainable food systems and how this relates to broader sustainability objectives, such as those related to climate change and carbon sequestration.

We applaud continued efforts by the City of Austin to embrace sustainability in its many forms. As citizen leaders we stress the importance of sustainable food systems in the development of this position profile.

We stand ready and willing to assist in any manner deemed appropriate by the City of Austin.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marla Camp".

Chair, Sustainable Food Policy Board

cc: H.G. (Bert) Lumbreras, Assistant City Manager
David Lurie, Director, Austin/Travis County HHSD
Vince Cobalis, Asst. Director HHSD, Executive Liaison
Edna Santos, Human Resources Consultant