III. LOCAL FOOD POLICY GOALS AND ISSUES [F-3]

This section contains a number of examples of goal statements and ordinances from various communities. Also, there is some discussion of the types of policy issues found at the local level.

A. Goal statements and resolutions from Knoxville, TN, St. Paul, MN and Onondaga County, NY. [F-3]

1. Knoxville, TN. [F-3]
   b. "A Resolution of the Council of the City of Knoxville expressing its support of an effort to improve the quality, availability, and accessability of food delivery systems for all citizens, and designating the Community Action Committee's Food Supply Project as Coordinator of this effort." Resolution R-202-81. October 31, 1981.

2. St. Paul, MN. [F-3]
   a. Ordinance of the City of St. Paul, MN, establishing a Food and Nutrition Commission and providing for its powers and staffing, July 8, 1992

3. Onondaga County, NY [F-3]

B. Different organization approaches used by food policy councils. [F-4]


C. Examples of policy statements from St. Paul, and Toronto. [F-5]


FOOD POLICY COUNCIL of the City of Knoxville

MEMBERS OF THE FOOD POLICY COUNCIL

Thomas A. Short, Chairperson
Mary Nelle Traylor, Vice-Chairperson
Elizabeth J. Henry
D. Edward McMillan
Susan Rothchild
Sarah Scott
Ruth E. Staffney

MAYOR: Victor Ashe


FOOD POLICY COUNCIL GOALS FOR THE KNOXVILLE FOOD SYSTEM:
*Ensure that an adequate and nutritious food supply is available to all citizens.
*Strengthen the economic vitality of the private food industry.
*Improve the quality of food available to all citizens.
*Encourage citizens to accept and consume nutritious food,
*Minimize food-related activities which degrade the natural environment: limit wasteful use of scarce resources needed for future food production and distribution.

FOOD SYSTEM COMPONENTS
The Food Policy Council is interested in the entire network of activities by which food is supplied to the citizens of Knoxville primary focus is on activities located within the city. Most important, in terms of the quantity of food handled, is the food distribution industry itself -- wholesalers and retailers, food brokers, related transportation specialists, manufacturers and producers, etc. At the end of the distribution chain are businesses and non-profit institutions which prepare and serve. food to individuals -- restaurants, hospital food service facilities, nursing homes, college food service operations, public school lunch and breakfast programs, etc. A number of social service and charitable institutions also serve food to relatively large numbers of citizens in non-commercial settings.

Associated with that complex are professionals with various interests: dietitians and nutritionists, food technologists, food business executives and other management specialists, nutrition educators, professors, etc. Consumers themselves, sometimes organized into advocacy groups, are of course important.

HISTORY
An October 13, 1981 resolution of the Knoxville City Council recognized food as a matter for governmental concern and encouraged formation of a group to "continually monitor Knoxville's food supply system and to recommend appropriate actions to improve the system as needed." Resolution R-202-81 declared that "local government has a proper role to play in ensuring that all citizens have access to an adequate and nutritious food supply." Supported by this statement, Mayor Tyree on July 1, 1982 appointed the Food Policy Council after a proposal had been prepared by an interagency staff committee from the Community Action Committee, the Metropolitan Planning Commission, and the Department of Community and Economic Development.
Much of the initiative for those actions came from food and nutrition programs of the Knoxville-Knox County Community Action Committee, representing poorer residents who have had problems getting food. The proposal also drew on an earlier study by graduate students under Robert L. Wilson, then Associate Professor at the University of Tennessee, which described Knoxville's food system as a subject for local public policy.

**FOOD POLICY COUNCIL'S ROLE**
The Food Policy Council is advisory to the City Council, the Mayor, and the community in general. It may prepare reports directed to the Mayor, and/or City Council, prepare publications for general distribution, or communicate through the media. The Food Policy Council is expected to present annually a report on the status of the food system with suggestions for strengthening system performance.

The Food Policy Council has no authority to operate food distribution facilities, to regulate or control any aspect of the food system or to intervene in the operations of private businesses, non-profit organizations, or others involved in the food system. Implementing the Council's proposals depends on voluntary cooperation by other public agencies, by non-profit organizations, and by firms in the food industry.

**ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS**
* Successfully encouraged expansion of school breakfast programs in Knoxville schools.
* Studied locational relationships between bus routes and major food stores.
* Stimulated bus line extension by Knoxville Transportation Authority to reach a cluster of new supermarkets.
* Developed food distribution policies which have been included in Metropolitan Planning Commission's General Development Policy, subsequently adopted by City Council and County Commission.
* Initiated the development of a "grocery bus." Now CAC vans are available for regular shopping expeditions of inner city residents.
* Conducted public hearings at which food-related experts and food program advocates identified problems and proposed solutions. The hearings influenced the FPC's new comprehensive food policy recommendations.
* Encouraged the Knoxville School Board to make nutrition training one of the prerequisites for the top administrative position in school food services.
* Sponsors yearly "Calorie Conscious Consumer" awards to recognize food businesses which help consumers make low-calorie, nutritious food choices in restaurants, stores and institutions.
* Conducted an informal evaluation of inner-city food stores, including site visits to several facilities, and price comparisons.
* Stimulated Metropolitan Planning Commission to survey and consider geographic distribution of food businesses in land use planning.

**CURRENT PROJECTS**
* Stimulate development of a pilot "Urban Store" suitable for inner city locations.
* Understand problems of independent inner-city grocery store operators; identify kinds of help and improvements needed to create more viable operations.
* Continue "Calorie Conscious Consumer" awards program.
* Publish comprehensive food policy recommendations,

**REASONS FOR HAVING THE COUNCIL**
The complex system which supplies our food is fragmented. The Food Policy Council provides a local forum where, people from the food industry, food-oriented public agencies, concerned consumers, food-based professionals and academics can discuss common problems and interests.

Many people without resources for basic needs of life including food, must have help from the community. Problems associated with food needs can be articulated by the Food Policy Council. National programs to help supply food to economically deprived people have been severely reduced in scope. There has been an expectation that local governments and other local resources will step in to fill the resulting gap. The locally oriented Food Policy Council can help stimulate and coordinate that response where food is concerned.
Citizens, as well as health officials, have become especially concerned about the role of nutrition and diet in maintaining health, preventing disease, and achieving a desirable quality of life. There also has been increased public interest in issues such as additives in food, toxicity, adequate labeling, and freshness of food.

Public costs of medical care, hospitalization, education, and other social services are believed to be adversely affected by poor diet. Poor diet reflects the community's level of nutrition education as well as the quality of it, food supply; both are continuing concerns of the Food Policy Council.

About 18% of an average household's income goes for food. This rises to as much as 40% or more for low income households. Therefore the efficiency and productivity of the food system, which affects food costs, is of general public interest. The FPC can watch for ways in which municipal actions can influence efficiency and productivity.

The food industry is a major component of the Knoxville economy. About 21% of Knoxville's industrial, wholesale, and retail jobs are food-related. The FPC can focus community attention on the potential for economic development within the food industry.

COMPOSITION OF THE COUNCIL
Three broad criteria have guided the choice of members for the Food Policy Council: governmental ties, working knowledge of the food industry, and experience in advocating for neighborhood and consumer interests. Membership has included: City Council members, a nutrition professor, inner-city residents & neighborhood advocates, a Planning Commission member interested in agricultural issues, a vice-president of a grocery chain and president of a state retail grocer's association, a former president of a wholesale food company, owner-operators of catering, restaurant, and food manufacturing businesses.

ADVISORY COMMITTEES
The Food Policy Council creates advisory committees to assist in identifying and considering food issues and related policies. A nutrition and health committee was the first to begin functioning. Another, from the food industry, contributed to the development of transportation recommendations. An agriculture and land resource committee has recently been set up.

STAFF SUPPORT
Services are provided through an interagency task force from: The Knoxville-Knox County Community Action Committee, the Knoxville-Knox County Metropolitan Planning Commission, Knoxville's Community Development Corporation, and the Mayor's Office. The Community Action Committee is the lead agency.

Persons most directly involved are:

DIXIE LEA PETREY, Nutrition Project Director, Community Action Committee
(Chairperson of FPC staff) (615-546-3500)
BETSY CHILD, Director of Policy Development, Office of the Mayor (615-521-2104)

EWING M. JOHNSON, Long Range Planning Supervisor, Metropolitan Planning Commission
(615-521-2500)
WILLIAM V. POWELL, JR., Human Resources Director,
Knoxville's Community Development Corporation (615-521-8726)
ROBERT L. WILSON, Urban Food Planning Services, Consultant to the Food Policy Council
(615-588-7168)
RESOLUTION

A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF KNOXVILLE
EXPRESSING ITS SUPPORT OF
AN EFFORT TO IMPROVE THE
QUALITY, AVAILABILITY, AND
ACCESSIBILITY OF FOOD
delivery systems for all
Citizens, and Designating
The Community Action
Committee's Food Supply
Project as Coordinator
of this effort.

RESOLUTION NO: R-202-81
APPROVED ON 1ST READING:
10-13-81
MINUTE BOOK: 45 PAGE

WHEREAS, the availability of nutritious food for all citizens is essential to the health and well-being of the community, and
WHEREAS, local government has a proper role to play in ensuring that all citizens have access to an adequate and nutritious food supply, and
WHEREAS, rapidly increasing demands for emergency food offered through charitable organizations is now exceeding resources, as evidenced by the reports of fifteen (15) sources which distribute over $144,000.00 worth of emergency food, and
WHEREAS, the cost of necessary food items is generally higher in the inner-city than in outlying areas, and
WHEREAS, a large number of inner-city residents lack necessary transportation for regular access to a quality food supply.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KNOXVILLE:

SECTION 1: That we recognize the availability of food for all citizens as a matter of public concern.

SECTION 2: That the Knoxville-Knox County Community Action Committee's Food Supply Project be directed to prepare a strategy for improving the inner-city food supply.

SECTION 3: That the Metropolitan Planning Commission, the Department of Community and Economic Development, the Knoxville Transportation Authority, and other appropriate government departments participate in the preparation of this strategy.

SECTION 4: That the private food industry, which constitutes 20% of our local economy and the general public, be encouraged to participate in developing this food supply strategy.

SECTION 5: That this strategy will be directed toward the following goals:
1) Ensuring that an adequate and nutritious food supply is equally available to all citizens.
2) Strengthening the economic vitality of the private food industry.
3) Improving the quality of food available to all citizens.
4) Encouraging citizens to accept and consume nutritional food.

SECTION 6: That we will lend support and encouragement to the formation of a community-wide Food Policy Council, with broad representation from private and public interests, to continually monitor Knoxville's food supply system, recommend appropriate actions to improve the system as needed.

SECTION 7: This Resolution shall take effect from and after its passage.
ORDINANCE #17934
CITY OF SAINT PAUL, MINNESOTA

Administrative ordinance amending the Administrative Code of the City of Saint Paul by adding a new chapter thereto to establish a Saint Paul Food and Nutrition Commission for the City of Saint Paul and providing for its powers and staffing.

THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SAINT PAUL DOES ORDAIN:

Section 1

That the Saint Paul Administrative Code is hereby amended by adding a new chanter to the Saint Paul Administrative Code to read as follows:

.O1 Purpose and Future Intent. The Saint Paul City Council desires to establish a Saint Paul Food and Nutrition Commission (hereinafter referred as the Commission) to serve as an advisory body to the Mayor and City Council on food and nutrition matters relating to the planning for, promotion or, access to and education regarding safe, affordable nutritious food and the operation and evaluation of existing food delivery systems.

The Commission is responsible for creation of policy recommendations to governmental units.

The City Council, in recognition of the fact that local governmental efforts in the area of food and nutrition matters, are best addressed in our geographic area as coordinated project with Ramsey County, does hereby express its intent to make a further and expanded effort in these matters via a city-county food and nutrition commission formed via a joint powers agreement.

.O2 Saint Paul Food and Nutrition Commission.

Subd. 1. Saint Paul Food and Nutrition Commission established. There is hereby established a Saint Paul Food and Nutrition Commission consisting of eleven at-large members appointed by the Mayor of Saint Paul and ratified by the City Council through the open appointments process.

Subd. 2. Terms. Of the members first appointed, three shall be appointed for a term of one year, three for a term of two years, and the remainder (5) for a term of three years. Thereafter, the term of each member shall be three years.

Subd. 3. vacancies for removals. vacancies on the commission for whatever cause shall be filled by the Mayor through the open appointment process for the unexpired term. If a member misses three consecutive regular meetings without having a sufficient excuse, that member may be removed from the Commission by the sole action of the Mayor, and the vacancy shall be filled by the Mayor through the open appointment process for the unexpired portion of the term.

Subd. 4. Qualifications. All members shall be residents of the City of Saint Paul or be interested in and knowledgeable of the Saint Paul food and nutrition concerns.


Subd. 1. Staff The Commission shall be staffed by a representative from the Division of Public Health. The responsibilities of the Division of Public Health's representative include: 1) serving as staff person and recording secretary to the Commission, 2) informing the Commission of the progress and conditions in the area of nutrition and food access, 3) advising the Commission on matters pertaining to food and
nutrition when requested, 4) cooperating with the Commission in such matters as may be requested, 5) administrating the Commission's budget and 6) providing additional support services as needed.

In the development and review of the food and nutrition element of the City's comprehensive plan, the Commission shall also be provided staff support as necessary through the Division of Public Health.

Subd. 2. Budget-- For the operations of the Commission, an annual proposed budget shall be submitted to the appropriate officials for suggested inclusion *in the City's budget.

.04. Meetings. The Commission shall establish a regular time and place of meeting and shall meet at least: quarterly. Special meetings of the Commission may be called at any time by the chairperson, or by any four or more members of the Commission. All meetings shall be conducted in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order Revised and notice of all meetings shall be published in accordance with proper notice procedures. A majority of all qualified commissioners shall constitute a quorum and all business may be transacted by a majority vote of such quorum. The Commission may adopt and from time to time amend rules of procedures. Unless otherwise provided, any action taken by the Commission shall be by the affirmative vote of a majority of its members. The Commission shall keep a public records of its meetings. Copies of all minutes, motions, resolutions, findings and reports shall be available to the public upon request.

.05. Powers and Duties. The Commission shall act in an advisory capacity to the Mayor and City Council in all policy matters pertaining to planning for, promotion of access to, and education regarding safe, affordable nutritious food and the operation and evaluation of existing food delivery systems through activities such as the following:

1. Review and recommend as provided in Section .06 the proposed food and nutrition element of the City's Comprehensive Plan, or amendments thereto, and the food and nutrition element of the City's 10 year program for capital improvements.

2. Review and comment on the pertinent portions of the proposed Annual operating and biannual capital budgets of the Division of Public Health, Department of Planning and Economic Development and others as appropriate.

3. Participate in the review and comment on any project or decision involving Saint Paul citizens' access to safe, affordable, and nutritious food.

4. Participate in the review and comment on any project affecting the region's capacity to supply safe, nutritious and affordable food.

5. Advise and comment on the coordination of programs between governmental agencies.

6. Hold joint meetings with other groups of similar interest.

7. Prepare and present an annual State of Food Access and Nutrition Statue Report to the Mayor and City Council.

8. Conduct all business in such a manner as to encourage and utilize maximum citizen participation.

9. Perform other duties relative to food and nutrition issues.

.06. Plan and Program Funding Review.
Subd. 1. Public Hearings. Prior to the Commission's recommendation concerning comprehensive plans or master plans to the Mayor and City Council, the commission shall hold a public hearing and seek recommendations from all concerned citizens. Prior to such hearing the Commission shall publish a newspaper, of general circulation, notice of said hearing at least 20 days prior to day or hearing.

Section 2.

This ordinance shall be effective and be in force 30 days from its passage, approval and publication.

Adopted by the Council: Date July 2, 1992

Approved by the Mayor: Date July 8, 1992
The Mission of the Saint Paul-Ramsey County Food and Nutrition Commission is to serve as an advisory body to the Ramsey County Board of Commissioners and to the Saint Paul Mayor and City Council on food and nutrition policy matters relating to education, planning, promotion, and access to safe, affordable nutritious food and the operation and evaluation of existing food delivery systems.

Among the purposes of the Saint Paul-Ramsey County Food and Nutrition Commission are:

* To encourage the Saint Paul City Council and Mayor and Ramsey County Board of Commissioners to work cooperatively with its citizens, voluntary associations, regional farmers, the private food business sector, county and regional governments and government units concerned with the local resource base to implement the Saint Paul-Ramsey County Food Policy.

* To encourage incentives for government, individuals, organizations and institutions to take actions that contribute to realizing the goals of the Saint Paul-Ramsey County Food Policy.

* To assure that the Saint Paul-Ramsey County Food Policy goals are periodically reviewed and updated as goals are achieved or as needs change.

The Saint Paul-Ramsey County Food and Nutrition Commission urges the Ramsey County Board of Commissioners and the Saint Paul City Council to support and fund initiatives that relate to the following Food Policy:

**SAINT PAUL-RAMSEY COUNTY FOOD POLICY**

**ECONOMIC ACCESS AND FOOD AFFORDABILITY**

Goals:

* Create and support economic opportunities for low-income Ramsey County residents, enabling them to afford to pay for basic needs such as food, shelter and clothing, resulting in less dependence on emergency services and food shelves.

* Promote full utilization of available food programs such as Food Stamps, WIC, Meals on Wheels, Fare Share, etc.

* Encourage interagency cooperation to maximize existing resources and programs, resulting in less dependence on food shelves.

**GEOGRAPHIC ACCESS TO FOOD**

Goals:

* Pursue and support government initiatives that protect and enhance the capacity of its citizens to produce a portion of their own food supply, and of regional farmers to produce food for consumption throughout the County.
* Advocate access to direct or wholesale buying for low income and limited mobility citizens.

* Promote opportunities for lower income and disabled City and County citizens without access to private transportation to purchase groceries without leaving their homes.

* Increase the number of neighborhood-based, small businesses related to the production, processing and/or marketing of nutritious, safe, affordable food throughout the County.

* Increase the accessibility of competitively priced full service grocery stores to low income and disabled City and County citizens who do not have access to such stores close to home.

* Increase the number and variety of outlets for locally-grown food throughout the County and increase the number of regional and state farmers selling locally grown food within the County.

* Encourage dedication of county and city land for citizens to raise a portion of their own food supply.

* Increase the availability of appropriate equipment and knowledge regarding processing and storage of home-grown foods, as well as proper disposal of food waste.

FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL SYSTEM

Goals

* Promote understanding of the food system through information and educational programs about the system of production, processing and marketing that supplies food to the City/County area, in order to influence food policy.

* Increase elementary/secondary students' exposure to information about the structure and process of the food and agriculture system through school curricula and work/study opportunities.

NUTRITION AND HEALTH

Goals:

* Assure that all Ramsey County citizens will have their basic nutritional needs met without persistent dependence on the emergency food system.

* Encourage knowledgeable use of food resources.

* Improve the nutritional status of Ramsey County citizens with the goal of reducing the incidence and prevalence of diseases which are related to diet.

FOOD SAFETY

Goals:

* Encourage appropriate government policies to reduce citizens' exposure to potentially hazardous substances employed in the production, processing and preservation of food.

* Increase consumer awareness of known and potentially harmful practices used in the production, processing, preservation and handling of foods sold throughout the County.
* Encourage government policies to protect and strengthen the region's capacity to supply a safe food supply.

* Encourage elimination of procedures that may produce surface and ground water pollution in the County and in the Metropolitan area.

* Encourage research and information available to Ramsey County farmers and food processors on sustainable production and processing techniques.

* Provide information to Ramsey County citizens on sustainable methods to maintain healthy yards and gardens.

* Encourage reduction of the use of non-recyclable food packaging materials in the County and increase the percent of recyclable food packaging that is actually recycled.

* Seek opportunities to expand the composting of yard waste and other materials generated in the County that would make appropriate farm inputs.
WHY HAVE A FOOD SYSTEM COUNCIL?
Over the last decade there has been a growing interest in food - its production, processing, delivery and availability. Concerns about hunger, farm closings, company mergers and the safety/quality/cost of food have emerged as major issues on the national and local levels. Although food is critical to the health of all citizens and local economies, most areas lack an agency or organization that looks at the various parts of the food system from production through consumption. In fact, the system that brings food from farm to table is composed of many distinct yet interdependent components:

Natural Resources - Agricultural Inputs - Farmers - Food Processing - Technology and Distribution - Restaurants - Wholesale/Retail Marketing - Commercial & Institutional Food Service - Consumers - Government (Policies, Programs, Regulations, etc. - Society/Culture.

In 1984, under the initiative of concerned local citizens and the Planning, Research and Development Committee of the Onondaga County Legislature, the Onondaga Food System Council was created. The Council was designed to serve as a forum in which representatives from various parts of the food system could communicate with one another and address shared issues and concerns.

WHAT IS THE ONONDAGA FOOD SYSTEM COUNCIL?
The Council is a not-for-profit organization comprised of representatives from the public and private sectors who have diverse backgrounds in areas associated with the County's food system. The Council consists of a Board of eleven voting Directors and a group of seven Special Advisors. The Directors represent local producers, processors, distributors, marketers, consumers, community organizations and institutions. The seven special advisors represent the County Department of Health, Planning, and Social Services, the County Legislature, the City of Syracuse and Cornell Cooperative Extension. The Council meets on a monthly basis through the auspices of Cornell Cooperative Extension's Education Center in Syracuse.

WHAT IS THE COUNCIL’S MISSION?
The Council's Mission is to aid the legislative and executive branches of local government, as well as leaders of public and private agencies and organizations, in local food system planning and policy formation, and to assist residents in gaining a used understanding of the food system and food policy issues within Onondaga County and Central New York. To accomplish this mission the Council seeks to:
-foster better communication, understanding and cooperation among the various people and organizations involved with the food system of Onondaga County and Central New York;

-facilitate research on specific aspects of the local food system;

-promote better understanding of food system and food policy issues among Council members and local residents;

-serve as a repository of information on food system and food policy issues;

-prepare recommendations regarding key local food system issues and problems for the legislative and executive branches of government, other agencies and organizations, and the general public.

**WHAT HAS THE COUNCIL DONE?**

In its early years the Council undertook specific activities that were designed to educate its members and other interested groups about the local food system. Specifically, the Council:

*sponsored and conducted local tours that focused on four major areas of the food system: food production, food processing, food wholesaling/retailing/distribution and emergency food programs;

*produced a Directory of Informational Sources that provides information for community leaders about agencies, organizations and business involved with our local food system;

*provided a forum for the discussion of local food system topics such as the economic and environmental aspects of farming, agricultural districts, farmers markets, hunger issues, food policy during emergencies and food safety;

*developed and prepared a flow chart of the emergency feeding system and a graphic display of emergency food sites and retail outlets;

*assisted the Onondaga Citizens League In its 1988 study "Role of the Food Industry in the Economy of Onondaga County";

*began an inquiry (as part of a city task force) Into Inner city and rural retailing problems and options; planned and conducted a "Food System Dinner".

In 1992, the Council received a grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation to hire a part time staff person and Initiate a project to preserve agriculture in Onondaga County and improve food accessibility for local consumers. At the same time, the Council continues to provide a forum for communication, discussion and debate among individuals involved with our local food system and helps keep our local government informed about local food system issues and concerns.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

The Council welcomes Involvement from community members who are interested In these issues. For Information about this or any facet of the Council's activities call (315) 424-9485.