

1 10-5-11 B. Miller Revised Draft Letter - PC Food Security
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5 September 21, 2011
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7 To: Jefferson County Board of County Commissioner
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9 From: Jefferson County Planning Commission
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11 Subject: Land Use as an Issue Affecting Food Resiliency in Jefferson County
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14 Gentlemen,
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16 *On April 18, 2011 the presentation on Ag in Jefferson County* by L. Katherine Baril was
17 one of the best attended Planning Commissioner (PC) meeting and it promoted a
18 remarkable attitude of unity within the audience. That attitude, of shared purpose, has
19 continued at each subsequent PC meeting and has brought forth discussion on
20 several aspects of this subject. Some of them are:
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- 22 ▲ the food system of Jefferson County is influenced by elements of the
23 Jefferson County Code and areas of planning that include housing,
24 transportation and infrastructure development
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- 26 ▲ within the Community Vision Statements of the Jefferson County
27 Comprehensive Plan are the support and encouragement of economic
28 opportunities and the protection and conservation of agricultural resource
29 lands
30
- 31 ▲ a fuller understanding of our food system can provide data to support
32 priorities of the 2010 Jefferson County Strategic Plan for strengthening the
33 efficiency and quality of a county-wide food security program
34
- 35 ▲ assuring a robust local food system is essential for emergency preparedness
36 and important for our day-to-day local self-reliance
37
- 38 ▲ The planning commission, as part of its periodic assessment, is required to
39 review and if necessary recommend revisions to the Comprehensive Plan
40 and Development Regulations prepared under the provisions of the Growth
41 Management Act using the process described in Jefferson County Code
42 18.45.050(4)
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- 46 ▲ the American Planning Association Board of Directors, on April 15, 2007,
47 adopted a Policy Guide on Community and Regional Food Planning that
48 recommended the inclusion of food policies in local and regional plans and
49 the American Public Health Association, on November 6, 2007, adopted a
50 policy entitled "Toward a Healthy, Sustainable Food System", recommending
51 a food system approach as key to better human health and environmental
52 quality and in June of 2010 the American Dietetic Association, American
53 Nurses Association, American Planning Association and American Public
54 Health Association initiated a collaborative process to develop a set of
55 shared food system principles and those principles have been published as
56 "Principles of a Healthy, Sustainable Food System
57
- 58 ▲ food policy councils have been established in more than one hundred fifty
59 (150) cities and regions throughout the United States for developing policy
60 guidance in support of their communities' interest in food system economy
61 and security
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64 The points noted above and listening to public comments at each of our meetings, for
65 the past several months, has led the Planning Commission to suggest this wide
66 spread interest, by informed individuals and groups, be encouraged to initiate a
67 community-led collaboration to fully identify the food system situation in Jefferson
68 County and to offer proposals leading to legislative decisions that could make our
69 local food system more secure.
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71 In this vein, the Jefferson County Planning Commission would welcome those
72 participating in the community-led efforts be given the opportunity to schedule public
73 presentations regarding their progress as an agenda item at at least one PC
74 meeting each month.
75

76 Let the process begin.
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78 Jefferson County Planning Commissioner
79 Chair
80 Vice Chair
81 District #1 Representatives
82 District #2 Representatives
83 District #3 Representatives
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