

Members of Council,

Thank you for the opportunity to address you today.

My name is Kate Flynn. I am a local farmer and a member of the Food Advisory Committee for the City of Hamilton, which I am representing today.

The Food Advisory Committee is a citizen advisory committee within the City of Hamilton. The purpose of the Committee is to advise city stakeholders – in particular, Members of Council and City staff – on food issues and support the implementation of Hamilton’s Food Strategy and its vision to create a Hamilton “with a sustainable food system where all people at all times have economic and physical access to enough safe, nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences.”

The Food Advisory Committee would like to convey our full support for the Food Strategy Implementation Process for Priority Action 1, Recommendation Report that is before you today. We believe that it helps satisfy Priority Action Number One of Hamilton’s Food Strategy to:

“Create a formal, transparent process for requests for municipal funding for community food programs as they arise at any City of Hamilton subcommittee meeting, or by Council via Council motions, delegations, or staff direction.”

The Food Advisory Committee believes that Food Strategy Implementation Process for Priority Action 1, Recommendation Report will help create a fair, flexible and impactful funding request process for food projects in our City. We also believe that it will better enable the transparent and efficient allocation of City resources.

It is our hope that Council will accept the Food Strategy Implementation Process for Priority Action 1, Recommendation Report as it is presented today in order to address the first priority action of the Food Strategy.

As a whole, the Food Advisory Committee is excited to move forward, in collaboration with City staff and Council Members, to address the remaining priorities in the Food Strategy to create a more food secure Hamilton together.

Thank you.