



The Philadelphia Food Policy Advisory Council connects Philadelphians and their local government to create a more just food system. We envision that all Philadelphians can access and afford healthy, sustainable, culturally appropriate, local, and fair food.

Testimony of Dwayne Wharton
Philadelphia Food Policy Advisory Council (FPAC)
Before the City Council Committee on Streets and Services
Hon. Mark Squilla, Chair

Bill No. 180555
June 11, 2018

Good morning Chairman Squilla, Councilman Green, and members of the Committee on Streets and Services. My name is Dwayne Wharton and I am an appointed member of the Philadelphia Food Policy Council (FPAC). Thank you for the opportunity to testify today on behalf of FPAC in support of Bill No. 180555, which would make it easier for storeowners to sell fresh fruits and vegetables outside of their stores.

Numerous studies have shown that large areas of Philadelphia have few supermarkets, and in many neighborhoods none exist. In fact Philadelphia has the second lowest number of supermarkets per capita of major cities in the nation. This shortage of supermarkets means that residents must travel outside of their neighborhoods to purchase food, or shop at more corner and convenience stores with limited selection of fruits and vegetables. And, as great as our farmers' markets are, Philadelphians cannot rely exclusively on them to fulfill all of our needs.

For many of our residents, especially people living in low-income communities of color, finding a fresh apple or produce simply to make a healthy meal for their families is not easy. In fact, according to the Philadelphia Department of Public Health, almost a quarter of all Philadelphians live in areas with high poverty and low-to-no walkable access to healthy food. This insufficient access to healthy food contributes to the high rates of diet-related health problems such as heart disease, cancer, and diabetes we see in our city.

The Philadelphia Food Policy Advisory Council's Food & Health Subcommittee is charged with advising the City on policies and practices that influence food and beverage choices with the aim of improving overall well-being and reducing health disparities for all Philadelphians.

With the passage of this legislation, many of these corner stores, along with traditional grocery stores and other food vendors, will be able to increase the volume of fruit and vegetable offered to communities. By displaying produce front and center on the sidewalks, we hope this increased exposure will also encourage more Philadelphians to make healthier choices.

We ask for your support in amending City of Philadelphia Code to make it easier for storeowners to sell produce on the sidewalk. Thank you again for the opportunity to testify today, and I'm happy to take any questions.



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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dwayne Wharton".

Dwayne Wharton
FPAC Appointed Member
Food & Health Subcommittee Chair

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Esteban Kelly".

Esteban Kelly
FPAC Appointed Co-Chair

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