



April 6, 2022

Re: EC28.15 Updating Toronto's Food Charter for All

Dear City Council, Mayor Tory, and Council Clerk

Jane Finch Action Against Poverty (JFAAP) is submitting this letter in full support of agenda item EC28.15 calling for an update to Toronto's Food Charter.

JFAAP is a resident-led grassroots movement of community residents, activists, workers and organizations working to eliminate poverty in our community and in the world.

Food insecurity is deeply tied to poverty and income security. A food system that prioritized corporate profits over our inherent right to food has created a food system that is profoundly racist, colonial, violent and unjust.

Policies and programs coming from the City must start with the fundamental understanding that we have the right to food. We have the right to feed ourselves, our loved one and our communities with dignity.

The current Toronto Food Charter is inadequate. It does not name the systems of oppression that shape access to both food and power in our food system. The charter needs a re-write and it must be written by the community members that are most impacted by food insecurity. Black people, racialized people, Indigenous people, workers, renters, newcomers, people with disabilities - these are the people who need to be at the front shaping and guiding policies at the City.

This motion puts forward a path for centering these people in the update of the Toronto Food Charter, and as such, we support this motion. We also call on the City council to do more. Food insecurity, poverty, surveillance and policing is a crisis in our city, and in our neighborhood. Now is the time to act.

Sincerely,

Butterfly Sabrina GoPaul on behalf of Jane Finch Action Against Poverty