



CITY OF COLUMBIA, MISSOURI FOOD COUNCIL

To: Mayor Buffalo and the Honorable Members of the Columbia City Council

From: Adam Saunders, Chair

Food Council

Date: May 21, 2025

Re: Adding two Boone County seats

On the behalf of the Food Council, I am writing to express our collective interest in adding two county seats to the council's current body. The Food Council has nine members, all of whom carry invaluable knowledge of Columbia's food system. While all members have experience that may stretch beyond Columbia proper, we feel that the addition of formal county representatives would contribute to a more well-rounded board of commissioners.

Food Council has been a formal board of commissioners since September of 2024. In this time, they have provided crucial guidance to Columbia/Boone County Public Health and Human Services as they conduct a county-wide Community Food System Assessment (CFSA). The CFSA has since adopted a new name, *Our Food Boone County* (OFBC). OFBC aims to provide a better understanding of Boone County's entire *food system* or the complex series of processes and connections that bring food to any table in Boone County. Such knowledge would provide the information needed to address issues of inaccessibility or inequity in our food system.

The request for county seats is born out of conversation with Food Council members and the Boone County Commission who both support broader representation. It is difficult to assign boundaries to any food system, even a local one. Food systems are inherently far-reaching due to the simple nature of modern food consumption. Two county seats would not only provide more knowledge from broader Boone County, but beyond as well, a necessity to fully understand the way food makes its way to every person in Boone County.

Should you have questions, I would be more than happy to speak with you and can be reached via email at adam@columbiaurbanag.org.

Thank you for your time and the important work you are doing for the City of Columbia. We sincerely hope you will consider granting this request.