



TARRANT COUNTY FOOD POLICY COUNCIL

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The Board of the Tarrant County Food Policy Council (the Council) stands with our community members both in Tarrant County and in the food movement around the country to say that Black lives matter and that food justice is racial justice. We stand with the weight of our responsibility for the crushing pain and suffering that black communities experience daily.

We cannot address the problems of a flawed food system without addressing the racism that is inherent in our nation's food system. Injustice in the food system heightens the devastation of diet-related diseases in communities of color. It has instituted [food apartheid](#) in neighborhoods across Tarrant County and across the Metroplex. This must change.

We recognize the contribution of the countless lives of Black and Latinx agricultural workers, from those enslaved whose labor built this country's wealth to those who now provide back-breaking labor in fields to harvest the food we, in our privilege, expect to see in our grocery stores. We recognize the [devastating loss of Black farmland](#) and the Black farmers who pioneered their own farmer co-ops and distribution entities of the style we now call food hubs as a means of survival. We recognize the racist structures that caused Black land loss.

While the Council works to address issues of healthy food access, and recognizes inequality in the food system, we as a Council, have not spoken out or taken action for these injustices. We can do better.

- We commit to critically and objectively evaluating our leadership structure, holding accountability for the consequences of our words and actions, and bringing black, indigenous, and people of color to conversations when developing community-focused policy and programs.
- We commit to educating ourselves on the racist history of agriculture in our country, especially post-civil war.
- We commit to raising the issues of food apartheid in Tarrant County.
- We commit to speaking out when we see racism and white privilege in our work.
- The members of the Council Board commit to self-reflection, training, study, and holding each other accountable.

We cannot succeed in the work of the Tarrant County Food Policy Council without committing to the change in our organization that we wish to see in the food system.

Respectfully,

The 2020 Board of Directors
Tarrant County Food Policy Council