

# Proclamation in Support of Collaboration on Regional Food Policy

**WHEREAS,** issues including food production, processing, distribution, and access, significantly affect the public health, land use, economy and quality of life of the Colorado Springs and El Paso County region; and

**WHEREAS,** all residents of the City of Colorado Springs and El Paso County should have access to nutritious, affordable and responsibly grown food; and

**WHEREAS,** there is no existing organization or body dedicated to addressing the implications of local government policy, programs, operations, and land use related to the food system and its corresponding impacts on the community; and

**WHEREAS,** a group of local community members has worked for the past year to assess issues related to our local food system, to include hosting community meetings, attending Local Food Week events, partnering with existing work groups and coalitions, and working with El Paso County Health Dept. and the CSU Extension, to identify opportunities for the improvement of our local food system including:

- building awareness among residents regarding nutrition, food skills and the source of their food,
- addressing high rates of hunger and barriers preventing access to affordable, nutritious food for local residents, regardless of income-level or geographic location,
- reviewing urban land use policies and regulatory issues for their impact on the viability of food production, processing, distribution, or access,
- establishing a collaborative body to serve as a forum for responding to the needs of the community as it relates to the food system; and

**WHEREAS,** community members have expressed overwhelming support for the creation of a Community Advisory Board on Food Policy to provide ongoing analysis and recommendations to local governments regarding policies, programs, operations and land use regulations affecting local food issues; and

**WHEREAS,** the food sector is important to the economy of El Paso County, and a vibrant and resilient local food system protects our natural resources and contributes significantly to the environmental and economic well-being of the region; and

**NOW, THEREFORE,** the Board of El Paso County Commissioners supports the formation of a Community Advisory Board on Food Policy to be overseen by both the City of Colorado Springs and El Paso County. This board will be an advisory body that promotes policy and regulation changes that support sound land use policy and economic development related to local food production through common sense, free market recommendations and discussions.

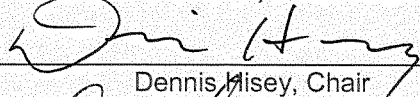
**FURTHERMORE,** the El Paso County Commissioners will work with the Colorado Springs City Council to compose the membership of the Community Advisory Board on Food Policy representing the diversity of the local community and providing a wide range of expertise on local food issues including hunger relief; nutrition; food business and industrial practices; local farming; community education and institutional food purchasing and practices; and

**FURTHERMORE,** the Community Advisory Board on Food Policy shall regularly communicate with and actively solicit participation and engagement from interested members of the general public.

**DONE THIS** 15<sup>th</sup> day of January 2015 at Colorado Springs, Colorado.



## THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF EL PASO COUNTY, COLORADO

  
Dennis Wisey, Chair

  
Amy Lathen, Vice Chair

  
Sallie Clark, Member

  
Darryl Glenn, Member

  
Peggy Littleton, Member

**ATTEST:**

  
Chuck Broerman  
County Clerk and Recorder