

**REPORT NO. 234** of the  
**ENVIRONMENT, TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC SAFETY**  
**STANDING COMMITTEE**  
of its meeting held October 22, 2014

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**Present:** Councillor J. Gignac  
Councillor R. Jones  
Councillor A. Halberstadt  
Councillor F. Valentinis, Chair

**Regrets:** Councillor H. Payne

That the following recommendations of the Environment, Transportation and Public Safety Standing Committee **BE APPROVED:**

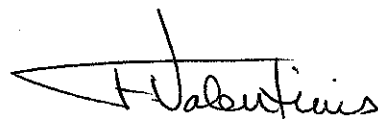
Moved by Councillor Jones, seconded by Councillor Gignac,

That the report authored by the Environment & Sustainability Coordinator dated October 2, 2014 entitled "The Good Food Charter of Windsor Essex County" **BE RECEIVED** for information.

Carried.

**LIVELINK # 17406, GM2014**

Clerk's Note: The administrative report authored by the Environment & Sustainability Coordinator dated October 2, 2014 entitled "*The Good Food Charter of Windsor Essex County*" is **attached** as background information.

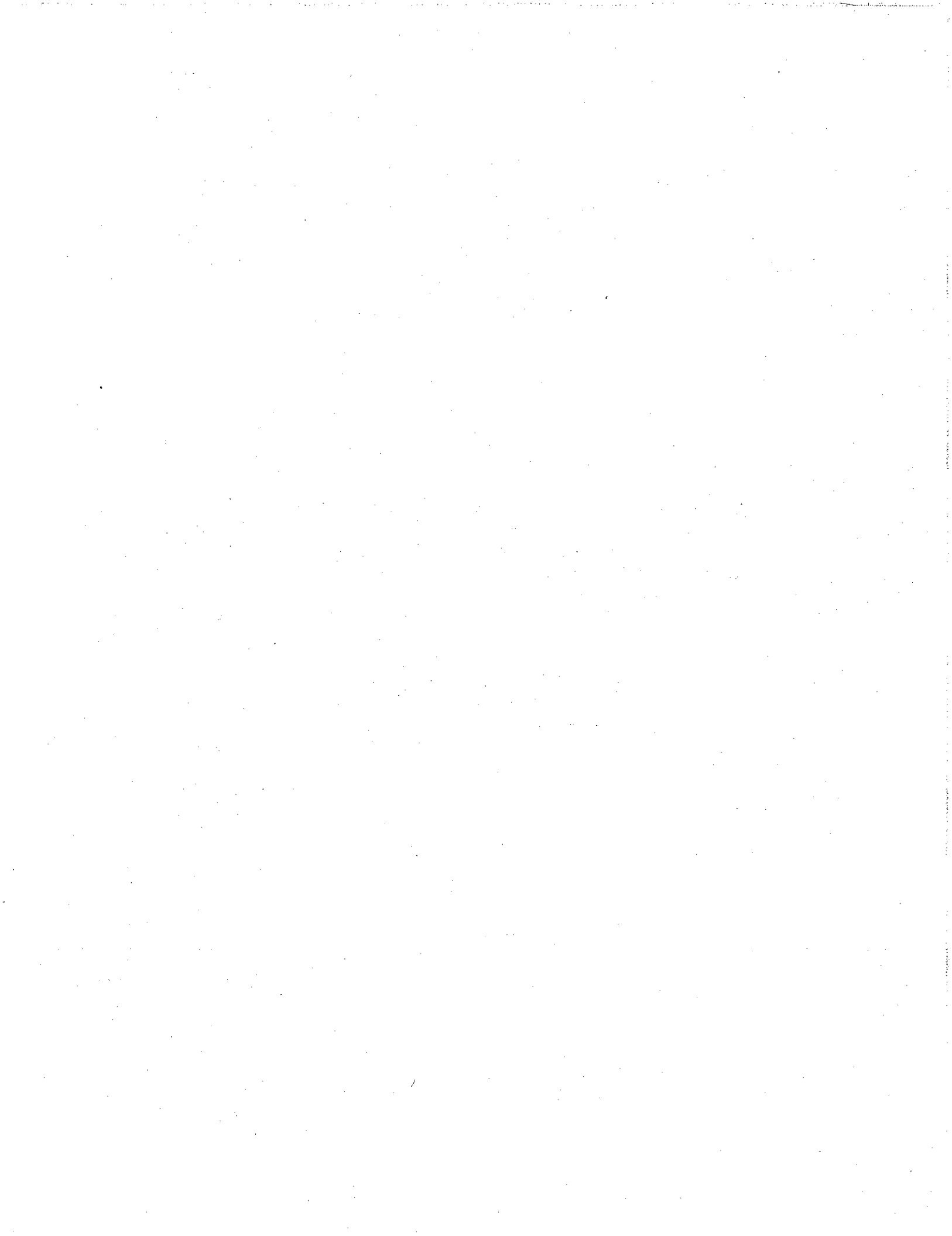


**CHAIRPERSON**



**DEPUTY CITY CLERK**

<b>NOTIFICATION:</b>	
<b>NAME</b>	<b>CONTACT INFORMATION</b>
Michele Leger	<a href="mailto:foodmatterswindsoressex@gmail.com">foodmatterswindsoressex@gmail.com</a>
Tara Galloro	<a href="mailto:tgalloro@wechu.org">tgalloro@wechu.org</a>



**THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF WINDSOR**  
**Environment, Transportation & Public Safety Standing Committee –**  
**Admin Report – Environment and Transportation**



**MISSION STATEMENT:**

*"Our City is built on relationships – between citizens and their government, businesses and public institutions, city and region – all interconnected, mutually supportive, and focused on the brightest future we can create together."*

<b>LiveLink REPORT #: 17406 GM2014</b>	<b>Report Date: October 2<sup>nd</sup> 2014</b>
<b>Author's Name: Averil Parent</b>	<b>Date to Standing Committee: October 22, 2014</b> #3934 jc-10/03/14:eb
<b>Author's Phone: 519 253 7111 ext. 3290</b>	<b>Classification #:</b>
<b>Author's E-mail: aparent@city.windsor.on.ca</b>	

**To: Environment, Transportation & Public Safety Standing Committee**

**Subject: The Good Food Charter of Windsor Essex County**

**1. RECOMMENDATION: City Wide: X Ward(s): \_\_\_\_\_**

**THAT** Council receive the information contained in this report on the development of the Good Food Charter of Windsor Essex County.

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

N/A

**2. BACKGROUND:**

In January 2012, Windsor's City Council passed M83-2012:

*THAT City Council SUPPORT in principal the development of a Food Charter for Windsor-Essex County that will guide decision-making about the food system in our region; with the understanding that the final Food Charter will be presented to Council for endorsement at a future date.*

In March 2012 at the Growing Food Partnerships community event, it was determined that a food advocacy and policy council should be formed to create a collaborative approach to address food system issues in Windsor-Essex County. As a result, Food Matters Windsor Essex County (FMWEC) was formed. An Ontario Trillium Foundation grant, applied for through the United Way/Centraide Windsor Essex, Pathway to Potential and the Windsor Essex Food Bank Association currently funds the FMWEC coordinator position, which has been integral to the groups' formation and success in advancing community food system work in Windsor-Essex County.

FMWEC is made up of a diverse group of people who support a healthy, thriving and sustainable food system and unites all sectors to work toward the health and well-being of the community. FMWEC aims to represent producers, processors, distributors, retailers, consumers and waste managers. The group also requests expert knowledge from resource members of the community as needed.

The role of FMWEC is to help identify current and emerging food issues that impact our community, and through action, policy and advocacy, promote real local solutions. FMWEC aims to advise the Municipal, Provincial and Federal governments, as well as the community, about matters of our local food system.

Since 2009, a Food Charter was identified as a tool to make great impact in the community, particularly around the issue of food security. A Food Charter outlines a community's shared values, vision and principles for their local food system.

FMWEC has taken the lead to develop a Food Charter for Windsor-Essex County. During preliminary stages of development the group received support from Windsor City Council as well as County Council.

### **3. DISCUSSION:**

FMWEC has worked extensively with key stakeholders to research and develop a draft of the Good Food Charter of Windsor-Essex County. The Windsor-Essex County Health Unit (WECHU) has become a strong partner in the development and promotion of the Food Charter, dedicating staff time to these tasks.

Once a draft Food Charter was created by FMWEC, community input was a necessary next step to ensure it truly reflected our community values and priorities surrounding the local food system. Multiple information sessions were conducted and an online survey was used to gain community input on the Food Charter priorities. The data collected was analysed by the WECHU and changes to the Good Food Charter were made based on this feedback as necessary.

The final version of the Good Food Charter is currently being promoted throughout the community to educate residents and receive community endorsements. The WECHU and the FMWEC Coordinator have been hosting many public information sessions throughout the fall of 2014 to encourage residents to "live" the Food Charter. Individuals and families can sign the Good Food Charter and pledge to "live" the Charter through daily actions such as purchasing local food or sharing a meal with a neighbour.

On Thursday October 23<sup>rd</sup> at 5:30pm at Tecumseh Recreation Complex and Arena, the Good Food Charter of Windsor Essex County will officially launch at a free public event. The evening will include free food from local chefs and producers, a guide to help you "Live the Good Food Charter" as well as activities for kids and information displays about some of the great work happening to strengthen our local food system.

Moving forward the Good Food Charter will be brought to businesses and organizations, as well as all Windsor-Essex County municipalities for adoption in 2015.

**4. RISK ANALYSIS:**

- Resource Risk – Administration is currently participating as a resource and no additional resources have been allocated to the development of the Good Food Charter. This risk is considered unlikely to occur and of low impact.
- Timing Risk – There is no urgent timeline for the development and adoption of the Good Food Charter. This risk is considered unlikely to occur and of low impact.
- Cross-Corporate Impact Risk – At this point no other departments are involved with the development of the Food Charter, although in the future there may be opportunities for others to participate. This risk is considered unlikely to occur and of low impact.
- Community Impact Risk - By supporting the development of the Good Food Charter it is hoped that community involvement, poverty reduction, economic stimulation and beautification will occur. This risk is considered unlikely to occur and of low impact.

**5. FINANCIAL MATTERS:**

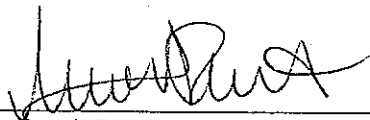
N/A

**6. CONSULTATIONS:**

Michele Legere – Food Matters Windsor Essex County Coordinator  
Tara Galloro – Public Health Nutritionist, Windsor-Essex County Health Unit

**7. CONCLUSION:**

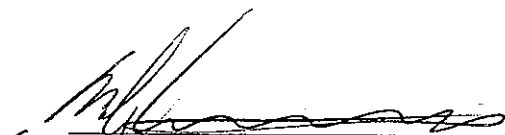
In conclusion, this update is meant to inform Council of the ongoing development of the Good Food Charter of Windsor-Essex County. It is the intention of Food Matters Windsor Essex County to bring the final version of the Charter forward to all Windsor Essex County municipalities for adoption.



**Averil Parent**  
Environment and Sustainability Coordinator



**Chris Manzon**  
Senior Manager, Pollution Control



**Mario Sonogo**  
City Engineer and Corporate Leader  
Environmental Protection and Transportation



**Helga Reifel**  
Chief Administrative Officer

**APPENDICES:****Appendix A – The Good Food Charter of Windsor Essex County****DEPARTMENTS/OTHERS CONSULTED:****Name:****Phone #: 519                      ext.****NOTIFICATION :**

Name	Address	Email Address	Telephone	FAX
Michele Leger		<a href="mailto:foodmatterswindsoressex@gmail.com">foodmatterswindsoressex@gmail.com</a>		
Tara Galloro		<a href="mailto:tgalloro@wechu.org">tgalloro@wechu.org</a>		

*Food Matters Windsor Essex County* aims to represent all sectors of our local food system: producers, processors, distributors, consumers and food waste managers.

**FOOD**

A Food Charter outlines a community's shared values, vision and principles for their local food system. The Good Food Charter of Windsor Essex County has been created with the help of the community. It can be put into practice by everyone including: individuals, families, businesses, organizations and municipalities.

Good food matters to everyone! All who live, play, learn and work in WEC have the right to the best health and well-being that a strong food system provides. The Good Food Charter of Windsor Essex County is based on four guiding principles:

- » CELEBRATION OF FOOD
- » ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY
- » SOCIAL JUSTICE
- » SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

**WHAT IS LOCAL FOOD**

Food Matters Windsor Essex County defines local food as that which is grown close to home. Usually this refers to food grown in Essex County; can include Southwestern Ontario, or even the rest of the Province.



**HEALTH AND WELL-BEING**

We value health and well-being as the primary goal driving the Good Food Charter of Windsor Essex County (WEC). Healthy eating contributes to physical, mental, spiritual, emotional and cultural well-being. Healthy eating is a cost-effective form of disease prevention.

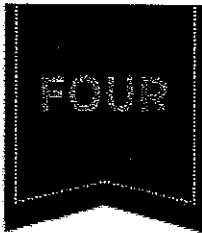
**Therefore residents of WEC support:**

- Access to nutritious food for all
- Access to quality food skills and education initiatives
- Availability of healthy food choices in schools, workplaces and public spaces
- Public policies that protect the health and well-being of the community

**GOOD FOOD MATTERS TO EVERYONE!**

[www.goodfoodcharterwec.ca](http://www.goodfoodcharterwec.ca)





## » CELEBRATION OF FOOD

**Food brings us together to celebrate the history, culture and diversity of our community. Therefore residents of WEC support:**

- Sharing of food as a community experience
- Linking rural and urban communities
- First Nation and Metis communities in the traditional belief that all land is sacred
- Food celebrations, festivals and activities that highlight our diverse cultures.

## » ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

**Environmental practices and policies conserve our natural resources and provide a healthy food system now and for future generations. Therefore residents of WEC support:**

- Protecting the environment with clean air, land and water
- Reducing food waste and food packaging
- Composting programs that turn food waste into a resource
- Community gardens and home gardening as a way to connect people to their natural environments and food sources
- Best practices of traditional and new responsible farming approaches that protect the environment



## » SOCIAL JUSTICE

**Everyone has the right to access sufficient, affordable, healthy, safe and culturally appropriate food with dignity. Therefore residents of WEC support:**

- Opportunities for people to take charge of where, when and how they get food
- Fair wages that allow workers to provide for themselves and their families
- Safe and respectful work environments for all in farming and food businesses
- Food that is ethically raised, produced, distributed and sold
- Protection of farm land for current and future generations
- Protection and growth of family farming

## » SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

**Farming and food related businesses contribute to economic growth, employment opportunities and a sustainable local food system. Therefore residents of WEC support:**

- Growing, processing, distributing and consuming local food
- Availability of local food products year round
- New partnerships that bring together our local food system with government, health, tourism, education and hospitality sectors
- Growing foods that historically grew in our area
- Growing foods that meet the needs of our culturally diverse community



## GLOSSARY OF TERMS

For the purpose of the Good Food Charter of Windsor and Essex County, the following terms mean:

### ACCESS

The ability to purchase, use and consume food without barriers. Examples of barriers to access: location, transportation, cost and knowledge.

### SUSTAINABLE or SUSTAINABILITY

A way that does not cause negative environmental, economic or human impact but works to preserve our food system for the future.

### FOOD SKILLS

Growing food; budgeting and meal planning; reading labels; food safety; grocery shopping; following recipes and knowing how to chop, cut and prepare.

### ETHICAL

Food that is produced, processed or sold without causing intentional harm to land, air, water, animals or people.

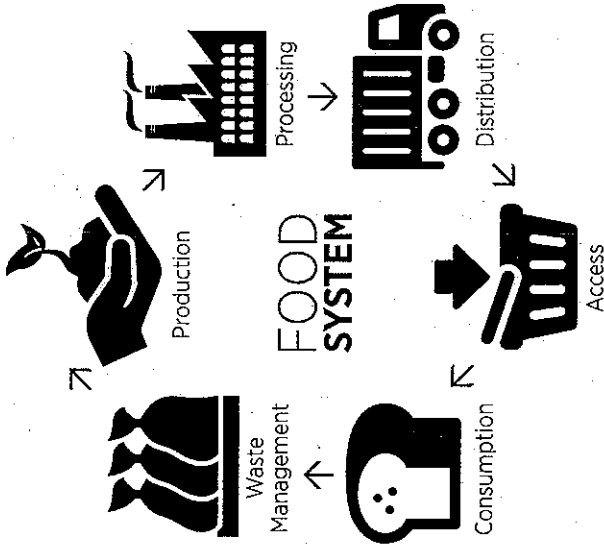
### THANKS FOR THE HELPING HAND

- Food Matters Windsor Essex County
- Ontario Student Nutrition Program
- Pathway to Potential
- Pentiful Harvest
- Real's Whole Foods
- United Way/Centraide Windsor-Essex County
- Windsor-Essex County Health Unit
- Windsor Essex Food Bank Association
- Windsor Essex Local Immigration Partnership
- VON



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