



October 17, 2014

**Dear Mayor Amyx and Lawrence City Commission:**

On behalf of the Douglas County Food Policy Council, I am writing to thank you for past support of the Lawrence Farmers Market and encourage your support through the upcoming challenges facing the market at their 8<sup>th</sup> and New Hampshire location.

The Food Policy Council believes that the Lawrence Farmers Market provides critical access to fresh, healthy foods for our community, and serves a real need for citizens living in the East Lawrence “food desert.” Through your support of the Market Match SNAP-matching program at the market this year, we have been able to help meet some of the need of low-income members of our community, but more work remains to meet the healthy food needs of our community.

Supporting the Lawrence Farmers Market also supports the 80+ small businesses that operate at the market. The Market provides local economic development and entrepreneurship opportunities for seasoned and beginning farmers.

We urge the City Commission to work with the Lawrence Farmers Market through the process of construction adjacent to their site, and to consider the needs of the vendors and customers who shop at the market. We encourage the Commission to ensure that the Market maintains the accessibility and visibility it needs to best serve the community.

As always, the Food Policy Council stands ready to assist the Commission if there is a way for us to be of assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

Jill Elmers, Chair  
Douglas County Food Policy Council