



CITY OF HARTFORD ADVISORY COMMISSION ON FOOD POLICY

c/o Hartford Food System, 1 Congress St., Suite 302, Hartford, CT 06114
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PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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HARTFORD ADVISORY COMMISSION ON FOOD POLICY HOSTS COMMUNITY FOOD SECURITY AWARDS

The Hartford Advisory Commission on Food Policy hosted its annual Community Food Security Awards last Wednesday, March 15. Awards are presented in four categories: Youth Individual, Adult Individual, Business, and Nonprofit/Government Agency. The following groups and individuals received awards for their contributions to food security and sustainability: Sonsharae Owens in the Youth Individual category, Louisa Barton-Duguay in the Adult Individual category, Bear's BBQ and Smokehouse in the Business category, and the City of Hartford Planning and Zoning Commission in the Nonprofit/Government Agency category. Local artist Lindaluz Carrillo presented customized paintings to each winner. Each winner also received a proclamation from the Mayor's Office recognizing their hard work. The Kitchen at Billings Forge served hors d'oeuvres, the Farmer's Cow donated beverages, and Blue Earth Compost, Inc. composted food waste at the event. The ceremony was partly funded by the Betty Knox Foundation. In spite of the blizzard shutting down the City the day before, more than 80 people attended to show their appreciation for the awardees.

The goal of the Community Food Security Awards is to celebrate people who are making Hartford a more food secure city and to raise awareness about food security. Community food security means that all people in a community have reliable and adequate access to safe, healthy, and culturally appropriate food.

Youth award winner Sonsharae Owens is a program coordinator for Summer of Solutions Hartford, an organization that increases food access in Hartford by training young leaders to grow organic produce and teach gardening in public schools. She is a role model for young people in her community as she leads by example, following a plant-based diet and growing vegetables from her second story bedroom window.

Adult award winner Louisa Barton-Duguay is the Community Outreach Worker for Grace Lutheran Church at 46 Woodland St. She has helped to develop and coordinate countless programs including a monthly Friday night community dinner, serving 60 to 100 people. She helped found and serves on

2017 Food Policy Commissioners: Valerie Bryan, Hartford Resident; Mary Cockram, Frog Hollow Consulting; Angela G. Colantonio, Urban Alliance; Dawn Crayco, FoodCorps CT; Valentine Doyle, Hartford Resident; Brunella Ibarrola, Hartford Public Schools Food and Child Nutrition Services; Richard Lotstein, HPC Foodservice; Katie S. Martin University of St. Joseph; Andrew May, Hartford Resident; Martha Page, Hartford Food System; Ron Pitz, Knox Parks; Sarah Santora, Foodshare; Sofia Segura-Perez, Hispanic Health Council; Carol Steinke, Hartford Department of Health and Human Services; Cary Wheaton, Billings Forge Community Works



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the Board of Directors for a nonprofit business called Fresh Start that trains and employs community members to make beautiful furniture from upcycled skids.

Business award winner Bear's BBQ and Smokehouse shows a deep commitment to the wellbeing of their employees, with a starting wage of \$15 an hour. They are a statewide leader in Governor Malloy's Second Chance Initiative – anywhere from 25% to 50% of their staff have a previous criminal record that may deter other employers from hiring them. Proprietors Jamie and Cheryl McDonald set an example of sustainable and unique approaches to urban landscaping with plans to develop a teaching garden at their Arch Street location.

The nonprofit / government agency award winner is the City of Hartford Planning and Zoning Commission, a group of dedicated citizens who have contributed to food security through comprehensive changes to the City's zoning code, which impacts all Hartford residents. Thanks to their work, the new zoning codes now explicitly permit the practice of agriculture including community gardens, beekeeping, raising chickens, composting, and other farm practices on almost all land in the City. They also developed language to require new food and convenience stores to carry more healthy foods like fruits and vegetables.

Dr. Gary Rhule, Director of Health and Human Services in Hartford, gave a funny, personal, and enlightening keynote address. Mayor Luke Bronin made a surprise visit and spoke at the event, shaking hands and congratulating the winners himself after the ceremony.

The event was held on Wednesday, March 15, 2017 from 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM in the Hartford History Center on the third floor of the Hartford Public Library, main branch, at 500 Main Street.

About the Hartford Advisory Commission on Food Policy

The City of Hartford Advisory Commission on Food Policy was established in 1991 to implement the recommendations of the Mayor's Task Force on Hunger. Its purpose is to integrate all agencies in the city in a common effort to improve the availability of safe and nutritious food at reasonable prices for all residents. Hartford Food System provides staffing for the Commission and also serves as one of its members. As part of its advisory role to city officials, the Commission annually prepares a series of recommendations on food and nutrition issues.

The Commission meets monthly on the second Wednesday from 3:30 to 5:15, generally in the Green Room at City Hall. All meetings are open to the public. For questions or to get involved with the Commission, contact Meg Hourigan, Meg@HartfordFood.org.



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Event Photos

All photos courtesy of Food Policy Commissioner Mary Cockram.



1. Dr. Gary Rhule, Director of Health and Human Services, addresses the audience.



2. Mayor Luke Bronin congratulates the awardees.



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3. Commissioner Sarah Santora, Awardee Louisa Barton-Duguay, and Artist Lindaluz Carrillo.



4. Commissioner Valerie Bryan, Awardee Sonsharae Owens, and Artist Lindaluz Carrillo.



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5. Commissioner Ron Pitz, Bear's BBQ and Smokehouse Manager of Food Operations Tyler Burrell, and Artist Lindaluz Carrillo.



6. Planning and Zoning Commissioners Sandra Bobowski, Tony Koos, John Thomas, and Sara Bronin, and Artist Lindaluz Carrillo.

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