

Office of the Mayor

October 13, 2022

Honorable Salem City Council Salem City Hall Salem, Massachusetts 01970

Ladies and Gentlemen of the City Council:

I reappoint, subject to City Council confirmation, James Willis of 18 Pingree Street #1 to the Affordable Housing Trust Fund Board for a term of 1 year to expire October 28, 2023.

I recommend confirmation of this reappointment and ask that you join me in thanking Mr. Willis for his continued dedicated service and commitment to our community.

Sincerely,

Kimberley Driscoll

Mayor



Office of the Mayor

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Honorable Salem City Council Salem City Hall Salem, Massachusetts 01970

Ladies and Gentlemen of the City Council:

I am pleased to appoint the following Salem residents to serve as members of the City's new Race Equity Commission, each to a three-year term to expire October 13, 2025.

Kenzie Chin of 26 Columbus Avenue is Coordinator of Educator Preparation for the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, where, among other work, she is leading a redesign of the educator approval process to intentionally incorporate anti-racist frameworks into educator approval systems and to increase the diversity of the Commonwealth's educator workforce. She is also co-lead of DESE's DEI Professional Development Subcommittee. A teacher by training herself, Ms. Chin holds a Master's degree in Educational Leadership and Policy Studies from Boston University and a Master's degree in General and Special Education for Grades 1-6 from the Bank Street College of Education.

**Paola Miranda** of 35 Cedar Street #2 is a foundation fellow at the Hyams Foundation in Boston, which works to increase economic, racial, and social justice and power within low-income communities in Boston and Chelsea. Previous to that Attorney Miranda was the Director of Homelessness Prevention Programs for City Mission in Boston, an immigration attorney for the Children's Law Center of Massachusetts, a housing case manager at Lazarus House in Lawrence, and a legal advocate for HAWC here in Salem. Attorney Miranda earned her Master of Law degree from Boston University School of Law and a Master's degree in Criminal Justice from Salem State University.

Alexandra Ramos of 4 First Street #6306 is a special education paraprofessional at Salem Academy Charter School and prior to that was a program assistant at the Cotting School in Lexington and co-lead for a Pre-K classroom at the Shirat Hayam Center for Early Eduction in Swampscott. Before entering the educational field, Ms. Ramos worked in mental health services, as an intensive case manager for Eliot Community Human Services and a therapeutic mentor for

at-risk youth at JRI in Lynn. Ms. Ramos is pursuing her Bachelor's degree in Psychology from Salem State University and holds an Associate's degree from North Shore Community College.

Tara Dhanraj Roden of 8 Irving Street #1 currently works as a program associated for jail decarceration with the Vera Institute of Justice where she develops and leads community and site-based efforts to reduce racial and ethnic disparities within the criminal legal system. Prior to this she was a policy analyst with the Council of State Government's Justice Center and a senior associate for justice reform at the National League of Cities. Originally from Maryland, Ms. Roden had previously worked for the Maryland Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention as a program manager. She earned her Bachelor's degree in sociology from Towson University.

I strongly recommend confirmation of these four members of the Race Equity Commission. We are fortunate that they are each willing to serve our community in this important new role and to lend their dedication, expertise, time, and passion to the Commission and its work.

Sincerely,

Kimberley Driscoll

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Mayor



Office of the Mayor

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Ladies and Gentlemen of the City Council:

I am pleased to appoint the following Salem residents to serve as members of the Bicycling and Shared Path Advisory Committee.

Annie Wolf of 13 South Street is appointed to complete the remainder of an unexpired three-year term to conclude February 11, 2025. She will be filling the seat previously held by Mr. Michael Williamson, who has stepped down from the committee. Ms. Wolf the Vice President of Community Impact at Solar United Neighbors and an avid cyclist. Prior to her work with Solar United Neighbors Ms. Wolf was the senior corporate social responsibility associate at Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, volunteer coordinator and program manager for the Trustees of Reservations, and coordinator of the *live blue* program at the New England Aquarium. She volunteers locally with the Salem Pantry, where she has served on the planning committee for the organization's annual Ride for Food event. Ms. Wolf holds a Master's degree from the Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science at the University of Miami.

Catherine Seiferth of 18 Buffum Street is appointed to complete the remainder of an unexpired three-year term to conclude July 20, 2023. She will be filling the seat previously held by Ms. Jayne O'Leary, who has stepped down from the committee. Ms. Seiferth is the owner and manager of Habanero Bike, a business she founded to provide direct-to-consumer sales of custom bicycles and recreational products. Prior to that she was the Chief Technology Officer for Odyssey Systems in Wakefield and spent 14 years as an assistant professor at the University of Massachusetts. A U.S. Air Force veteran, Ms. Seiferth enlisted as a medical technician and spent time working in divisions related to sciences, program management, and communications. She holds graduate degrees in computer science from the University of New Mexico and business administration from Harvard University.

I strongly recommend confirmation of these members of the Bicycling and Shared Path Advisory Committee. We are fortunate that they are willing to serve our community in role and lend their dedication, expertise, and time, to the Committee and its work.

Sincerely,

Kimberley Driscoll

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Mayor



Office of the Mayor

October 13, 2022

Honorable Salem City Council Salem City Hall Salem, Massachusetts 01970

Ladies and Gentlemen of the City Council:

In the fall of 2016 the City convened an informal working group of community stakeholders to identify barriers – and solutions – for Salem residents accessing safe, healthy, culturally appropriate, and affordable foods. The group, called the Food Policy Council, has consisted of City and school staff, representatives of SSU, emergency food providers, members of our urban agriculture community, representatives of nonprofit and faith-based organizations, and dedicated resident volunteers.

Since that time the group has met bimonthly to discuss food and nutrition-related issues facing Salem and identify community resources and services that can help improve access to food. They are responsible for the City's Community Food Assessment, popular programs like the Salem Eats community meals, and supporting the work of the COA farmers market and the Mack Park Food Farm. During the height of the COVID pandemic the Council proved incredible valuable as a rapid-response and communication structure for our food security providers, providing a readybuilt network to facilitate quick turnaround and response to residents in crisis.

Now, the group has requested that the City formalize their existence as an official committee of the City, staffed by the Health Department and assigned a City Council liaison. The proposed structure consists of up to 11 members, appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by the City Council, serving three-year terms, which is relatively standard for our committees of this nature.

The consensus of the Council is that becoming a public body would give the Food Policy Council enhanced legitimacy as a group that works on public policy, help make them eligible for grants and other funding opportunities, and, lastly, increase public awareness of the group and their important work.

In my time as Mayor we have established many similar committees to help guide, shape, and advocate for City efforts on a variety of matters, including the Beautification Committee, the Recycling Committee, the Bicycling and Shared Use Path Committee, the Sustainability, Resiliency and Energy Committee, the Tree Committee, the Youth Commission, and the Race Equity Commission. I am excited to now add the Food Policy Council to that list, as another mechanism by which we are leveraging the dedication and expertise of our community members to improve the lives of more people here in Salem.

The current membership of the Food Policy Council is below and, if the City Council adopts the enclosed Order, it is my intention to submit appointments for them to join the new official committee.

- Johan Arango-Quiroga, Northeastern PhD student in sustainability
- Robyn Burns, Executive Director of the Salem Pantry
- Allison Caffrey, Executive Director of Root
- Floria Cordealoni, Salem resident
- Celia Grant, Engagement & Programs Director for The Daily Table
- Sara Moore, SSU Professor of Sociology and member of the Board of Health
- Claudia Paraschiv, artist and architect with Studioful Design
- Irvelt Perrin, Food & Nutrition Services Director for Salem Public Schools
- Julie Pottier-Brown, Director of the Farm Direct Co-op
- Joel Simonson, Asst Director of Major Gifts for Project Bread

Salem Food for All assesses the City's food landscape by identifying how and where residents are able to access nutritious and affordable food and makes evidence-based recommendations to promote food justice and health equity in the Salem community. I strongly recommend adoption of the enclosed Order and invite you to contact my Chief of Staff, Dominick Pangallo, or the City's Health and Wellness Coordinator Kerry Murphy, should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Kimberley Driscoll

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Mayor



## CITY OF SALEM

In City Council, October 13, 2022

Ordered: There is hereby established within the City of Salem a Food Policy Council consisting of 11 members appointed by the Mayor, subject to confirmation by the City Council. Four members shall serve for a term of one year; four members shall serve for a term of two years; and three members shall serve for a term of three years. Thereafter and upon expiration of the term of each such member, the mayor shall appoint members of the Food Policy Council to succeed such appointees whose terms expire and each member so appointed shall hold office for a term of three years. The City Council President may appoint a City Councilor to serve as a liaison to the Food Policy Council. The Food Policy Council shall assess the City's food landscape by identifying how and where residents are able to access nutritious and affordable food, and make evidence-based recommendations to the Mayor to promote food justice and health equity in the Salem community.



October 11, 2022

Attn: Mayor Kimberley Driscoll 93 Washington Street Salem, MA 01970

Dear Mayor Driscoll,

On behalf of Salem Food for All, we respectfully request to transition Salem's food policy council from an independent coalition to an Advisory Council to the Mayor. We feel this change will allow us to work more closely with our elected officials to raise awareness of the challenges many of our residents face in accessing healthy, affordable foods. It will also help advance our mission to make evidence-based recommendations on policies that promote food justice and health equity for Salem residents.

Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

Sincerely,

Kerry Murphy, RDN

Chair, Salem Food for All

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