

Director's Letter

We believe in creating a just, healthy, equitable and sustainable food system for all District residents and visitors.

While we have many local food assets, from farmers' markets to Produce Plus and food business incubators, DC is a city that still has inequitable access to food resources and opportunities. One in 7 District households struggle with food insecurity, and only three full service grocery stores serve close to 150,000 residents in Wards 7 and 8. These are the tough facts that we must tackle through large-scale systemic change if we are to have a more equitable and just food system.

As we celebrate the completion of our first full year as a Food Policy Council, we reflect on several key policy victories achieved for positive change in the lives of DC residents.

Achievements

- Appointed our inaugural class of 13 diverse community-based members, from all wards of the city, and 10 DC government agency members to serve as our leadership.
- Developed, assessed, and approved the first Strategic Plan for the DC Food Policy Council in March 2017.
- Pushed to get the Cottage Food Act of 2014 regulations issued by providing public comment, oversight, and implementation assistance to the Department of Health.
- Submitted proposed amendments to the District's Comprehensive Plan twenty-year plan for land use and development.
- Secured \$200,000 in funding for a study of our local and regional food economy and began work with the local food business community.

Mission & Vision

- Updated food systems datasets and began developing a citywide food system assessment.
- Pushed for legislative amendments to the Urban Farming & Food Security Act of 2015 and implementation assistance.

None of this could be achieved without the hard work and collaboration of our many partners, supporters, and engaged community members. I deeply appreciate the 12 appointed community members and 10 agency members who serve on our board for their knowledge and insights. Thank you to our many volunteers this year.

As we move into our second year, we have no more urgent issue than helping to solve the problem of healthy food access in our low-income communities. **Our top priority for the coming year is grocery store access for all of East of the River**. Join us as we challenge the status quo and take innovative approaches to provide access to fresh, healthy, and affordable food for all.

Laine Cidlowski Food Policy Director, District of Columbia



The DC Food Policy Council (DCFPC) is a coalition of stakeholders and government representatives who have come together to identify regulatory burdens on the local food economy, collect and analyze data on the food economy and food equity, promote positive food policies, and guide organizations and individuals involved in the food economy. The DCFPC will promote healthy food access, food sustainability, and a local food economy in the District. The DCFPC will promote food policy in the District through accessible and diverse means, attract new participants to the local food economy, assist individuals already participating in the local food economy, and achieve the food goals identified in the Sustainable DC Plan.

Mayor's Commitments

\$3 Million in 2017 for Wards 7 & 8 Mixed-Use Grocery Projects

Mayor Bowser announced in 2017 that the Office of the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development (DMPED) will invest approximately \$3 million in two mixed-use development projects which will include grocery stores. \$2.1 million will go to the Penn Hill project, and \$880,000 will go to the South Capitol affordable housing project at Atlantic and South Capitol Streets, SW.

\$1 Million for Joyful Food Markets & Expanded Funding for Produce Plus & Produce RX

The Mayor put \$1 million towards the The Joyful Food Markets program that hosts pop-up grocery stores at elementary schools in Wards 7 and 8. Each student receives approximately 23 pounds of free groceries with activities to promote nutrition & healthy eating. The budget for Produce Plus and Produce Rx expanded by more than a third. Produce Plus is a farmers' market nutrition incentive program and Produce Rx to provide innovative fruit and vegetable prescriptions.

Organization

In 2016 the DCFPC started up operations and filled the thirteen Board positions on the Food Policy Council with community members who offer diverse perspectives from different geographic areas of the District and different sectors of the food system, and gained the participation of representatives from 10 DC government partner agencies. Members are recruited by the Mayor's Office of Talent and Appointments and must be confirmed by the DC Council.

DC Food Policy Council Members



Spike Mendelsohn Chair

. Owner, Good Stuff Eatery/Santa Rosa Taqueria/We, The Pizza/and more

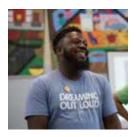
Spike developed a love for cooking at a young age while spending most of his childhood at his grandfather's restaurant in Montreal. The idea of family and food carried over into Spike's culinary career when he opened his first Good Stuff Eatery in Washington, D.C., alongside his family, in 2008. With overwhelming support from the D.C. community, Spike released a cookbook and also opened We, the Pizza. Not only a major player in the food industry, Spike also uses his platform to advocate for good food policy, which includes curbing food waste to feed hungry mouths and help the environment and the need for accessible, healthy school lunches nationwide. In addition to his role on the Food Policy Council, Spike serves as Chef Ambassador to CARE International and Chef Contributor to DC Central Kitchen.

Alexandra Ashbrook

Director of Special Projects & Initiatives, Food Research & Action Center

Alex, a native Washingtonian, is the Director of Special Projects and Initiatives at the Food Research & Action Center (FRAC), where she drives new nutrition and anti-hunger strategic initiatives. From 2007-2015, Alex served as the director of FRAC's D.C. Hunger Solutions, where she led efforts to create a hunger-free community and improve the nutrition, health, and economic security of low-income residents of the nation's capital. Alex chaired the Mayor's Healthy Youth and Schools Commission (2010-2015) and the Mayor's Commission on Food (2008-2010) and served as the co-chair of the City's Obesity Plan, Policy Committee (2009-2010) and of the steering committee of the Fair Budget Coalition (2008-2015).





Christopher Bradshaw

Founder & Executive Director, Dreaming Out Loud

Christopher Bradshaw is a social justice entrepreneur whose expertise is using social innovation through the food system to grow meaningful community economic development within marginalized communities. He is the founder and executive director of Dreaming Out Loud, Inc., a nonprofit social enterprise that is rebuilding an economically and environmentally sustainable, community-based food system in Washington, DC. Christopher was selected as a 2015 Ashoka-American Express Emerging Innovator, one of Food Tank's 20 Leaders Under 40 Who Are Shaping the Future of Our Food System, and one of 50 Under 50: Innovative Leaders Transforming Metro DC's Food System. He is a frequent speaker on social innovation, urban agriculture and regional food systems, and the food sovereignty movement.

Eric Kessler

Founder & Senior Managing Director, Arabella Advisors

Eric is the founder of Arabella Advisors, a philanthropy consulting firm that advises foundations and philanthropists on several billion dollars of giving and investing annually. Eric leads the firm's work with clients working to improve our food system through policies and business investments that promote nutritious, sustainable, and affordable food. Eric is a Trustee of the James Beard Foundation, where he created the foundation's Chefs Boot Camp for Policy and Change and co-founded the Chef Action Network. Eric has a personal private equity portfolio invested in businesses in DC and beyond at the forefront of improving our food system.





Caesar Layton

Founder & CEO, Cultivate Ventures

An executive and leader with a 17-year track record of managing and advising of businesses and start-ups globally. Currently Caesar runs Cultivate Ventures, a boutique food-focused investment and advisory firm he co-founded in 2014 after successful exits from two private online grocery investments he made and managed. Prior to his recent focus on investing, advising and building consumer-facing food and lifestyle companies, Caesar spent 12 years as a development economist with DAI and Counterpart International, managing a portfolio of private sector market development clients. Caesar received a BA from University of Delaware and an MA in from American University.

Jeremiah Lowery

Food Justice Advocate

Jeremiah Lowery is a food justice advocate and the director of the Universal Childcare NOW DC Coalition. Jeremiah, a DC native and graduate from the University of Maryland, has over 10 years experience working in under-served communities in the Washington, DC area, most extensively in the areas of food equity policy, environmental justice, early childhood education, community empowerment, and small cooperative business development. Currently he is focusing on projects ranging from writing business plans for community co-op development centers, and writing grants with AARP to bring attention to inter-generational approaches that end senior hunger. He was named one of Elevation D.C. Magazine's 50 under 50 Food Heroes.





Alexander Moore

Chief Development Officer, DC Central Kitchen

Alexander Justice Moore is the Chief Development Officer at DC Central Kitchen, a nationally acclaimed nonprofit that fights food waste, provides culinary training to adults with high barriers to employment, and serves 3 million nutritious meals to low-income children, adults, and families each year. His book, The Food Fighters, chronicles DC Central Kitchen's first twenty-five years on the front lines of hunger and poverty. He was named a DC Food Hero by ElevationDC in 2015. Moore holds a bachelor's degree from Ithaca College and an M.A. from the Georgetown University School of Foreign Service.

Paula Reichel

Chief of Staff, Partnership for a Healthier America

Paula Reichel currently serves as Chief of Staff at Partnership for a Healthier America (PHA), a nationwide non-profit that leverages the power of the private sector to bring lasting systemic changes that improve the food supply, increase physical activity, and contribute to a culture of health. Prior to joining PHA, Reichel served as Chief of Staff at the Capital Area Food Bank and in the Office of Food & Nutrition Services at DC Public Schools, where she designed and implemented innovative programs and campaigns while advancing progressive food policy on a statewide and regional basis. Reichel received her MPA from Cornell University and BS from Butler University.





Joelle Robinson

Community Organizer

Joelle is co-chair of DCFPC's Urban Agriculture and Food Systems Education Workgroup. She is a national fellow of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's Culture of Health Leaders program, the Beautification Committee Chair for her neighborhood civic organization, an Anacostia Watershed Society Watershed Steward, and a Senior Fellow of the Environmental Leadership Program. Joelle is implementing community participatory action research to inform the development and transformation of policies rooted in a holistic definition of wellness. Joelle belongs to several collectives of black farmers and organizers and has a passion for promoting health and wellness, community service, and social equity, diversity and inclusion.

Philip Sambol

Executive Director, Oasis Community Partners

Philip Sambol is Executive Director of Oasis Community Partners, a DC-based 501c3 that creates social enterprise business models within the sustainable food system. Since 2014, through the Good Food Markets fresh format grocery concept, Oasis has been creating a replicable model to show how the neighborhood grocery can act as a platform for social impact. Retail, foodservice, distribution and urban agriculture create opportunities for youth education, professional development and service to at-risk populations. Before founding Oasis, Philip was an apprentice at the Center for Environmental Farming Systems (CEFS), and developed the HECK OF A Neighborhood Grocery concept in New Orleans, LA.





Jonas Singer

Chief Executive Officer, Blind Dog Café & Union Kitchen

Jonas Singer has worked with dozens of businesses in developing their brand, messaging, sales and operations infrastructure, strategy, and fundraising. Jonas serves as an appointee to the DC Food Policy Council, has been awarded the White House Champions of Change Award, and has been recognized a number of times as a leading social entrepreneur. In his prior work, Jonas has worked to enable consumers to access healthy and affordable products within the existing food sales and distribution systems. Jonas is the founder and former CEO of Union Kitchen, served as the Executive Director of the Community Financial Education Foundation, and was Director of the Reviving Baseball in Inner Cities program.

> Tambra Raye Stevenson Founder & CEO, WANDA

Featured in Forbes, Tambra is on a mission to lead a movement to develop a new generation of women and girls in agriculture and nutrition as the founder and CEO of WANDA: Women Advancing Nutrition, Dietetics and Agriculture. Named the 2016 Champion for Children's Wellbeing by ASHOKA and Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, she is the author and creator of the "Where's Wanda?" quality nutrition edutainment, empowering products and programming for children and families. Through WANDA she has participated, curated and convened spaces for women's voices and on African food ways at high-level forums at the U.S. Library of Congress, U.S. Department of Agriculture, United Nations, African Union and World Bank.



DC Food Policy Council Staff



Laine Cidlowski, AICP

Food Policy Director, DC Office of Planning (OP) & DCFPC

Laine Cidlowski is the Food Policy Director with the District of Columbia Office of Planning and the District of Columbia Food Policy Council. She was previously the Lead Urban Sustainability Planner for the Office of Planning where she was the project manager for the Office of Planning for the Sustainable DC initiative to make the city the healthiest, greenest, and most livable city in the United States. It is a citywide initiative crafted for and by the District's diverse community with the ultimate goal of making DC more socially equitable, environmentally responsive, and economically prosperous. Laine holds a Master's Degree in City and Regional Planning and a Certificate in Urban Design from the University of Pennsylvania and B.A. from the University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill in Environmental Studies. She is a member of the American Inst tute of Certified Planners, and co-chairs the American Planning Association's Food Systems Interest Group.

David Guyott

Food Policy Apprentice, DC Office of Planning (OP) & DCFPC

David is a second-year student in the Masters in Public Policy & Management, D.C. Track (MSPPM-DC) program at Carnegie Mellon University's Heinz College. As part of this executive-style education program, David works full-time for OP and DCFPC in the role of Food Policy Apprentice while finishing his degree through evening and Friday classes. His responsibilities at OP/DCFPC are varied, and include data gathering, mapping, layout and design, research, policy development, and administrative support. He has previous government experience at the U.S. Government Accountability Office and the Pittsburgh Department of City Planning, and was formerly a teacher, including a year spent teaching English in Argentina. He holds a B.A. in English and Spanish from Millsaps College in Jackson, MS.

DC Food Policy Council Support

Eric Shaw

Director, DC Office of Planning

Ashley Stephens

Staff Assistant, DC Office of Planning

Partner Agencies



Working Group Accomplishments

The DCFPC facilitates four working groups who met bi-monthly from summer 2016 to November 2017 to advance the goals of the Council. Co-chairs set agendas, invited presenters, and served in either a volunteer capacity or with the support of their home institution. Our thanks go out to everyone who participated in these more in-depth conversations about our food challenges and opportunities this year.

Food Equity, Access, and Health & Nutrition Education

GOAL:

Ensure universal access to secure, nutritious, and affordable food supplies.

TARGET:

By 2032, ensure 75% of residents live within 1/4 mile of a community garden, farmers' market, and/or healthy corner store.

MEMBERS:

Alex Ashbrook (Co-Chair) Paula Reichel (Co-Chair) Tambra Raye Stevenson (Member)

SUCCESSES:

East End Grocery and Retail Incentive Program Tax Abatement Act of 2017

Created a Community Action Guide to help community members testify at a May 2017 hearing in support of the bill, which would create incentives to bring large anchor grocery stores to Wards 7 and 8, and wrote a letter to DC Councilmembers expressing support for the bill's intentions and suggesting changes to improve its overall effectiveness.

FEED-DC Act of 2010 Implementation/Amendment

Provided input into the implementation and potential amendment of the legislation. This included holding a roundtable for local grocers on the Food, Environmental, and Economic Development (FEED) DC Act, which is intended to attract grocery stores to and renovate grocery stores in low-income areas of the District, as well as meeting with the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development and the Deputy Mayor for Greater Economic Opportunity.

SUCCESSES:

Chicken Regulations





September 12, 2017

Urban Agriculture & Food System Education

GOAL:

Increase agricultural land uses within the District.

TARGET:

By 2032, put 20 additional acres of land under cultivation for growing food.

MEMBERS:

Chris Bradshaw (Co-Chair) Joelle Robinson (Co-Chair) Philip Sambol (Member)

The Department of Energy and Environment was tasked with amending the city's regulations and permits around chickens. The Food Policy Council weighed in on a 2017 meeting on guidance for how to allow chickens within the city with some protections for healthy standards.

Urban Farming and Food Security Act of 2015 Implementation/Amendment

Provided input and feedback on amendments to the Urban Farming and Food Security Amendment Act of 2015, and coordinated with the Department of Parks and Recreation, Department of Transportation, and Department of General Services on the implementation of the act.

Working Group Accomplishments

Local Food Business & Labor Development

GOAL:

Develop the food industry into a strong and viable economic sector.

TARGET:

By 2032, produce or obtain 25% of food within a 100-mile radius.

MEMBERS:

Eric Kessler (Co-Chair) Caesar Layton (Co-Chair) Jonas Singer (Member)

SUCCESSES:

Food Economy Study

Sought and received funding for a study of the District's food economy, consulted with local food businesses, and provided input into the scope of work and outcomes of the ongoing study. Collaborated with regional partners like the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments on regional food system organizations and trends.

Cottage Food Act of 2013 Regulations

Provided input and feedback on the draft regulations for the Cottage Food Act of 2013, which allows DC homeowners to produce foods in a residential kitchen for sale at farmers' markets and public venues, and assisted with the passage of these regulations together with the Department of Health and the Occupational and Professional Licensing Administration, leading to the release of the final regulations in September 2017.



Sustainable Food Procurement

SUCCESSES:

Healthy Students Amendment Act of 2017

Local Food Business & Labor Development Breakout Group August 3, 2016

Created a Community Action Guide to help community members testify at a November 2017 hearing in support of and suggesting changes to the bill, which would update food, health, and nutrition programs and education at schools, including subsidies for school breakfast, new education guidelines, and a requirement to engage with the standards of the Good Food Purchasing Program (GFPP).

Save Good Food Amendment Act of 2017

Created a Community Action Guide to help community members testify at a March 2017 hearing in support of the bill, which would support food waste reduction in the District by making it easier, safer, and more affordable for small businesses to donate excess food rather than throwing it away.

Residential Composting Incentives Amendment Act (RCIAA) of 2017

The proposed RCIAA would create a Home Composting Incentive Program (consisting of rebates and training) to encourage the purchase and installation of home composting systems at District residences. The DCFPC created a community action alert about the legislation and encouraged community members to testify at a public hearing of the DC Council.

GOAL:

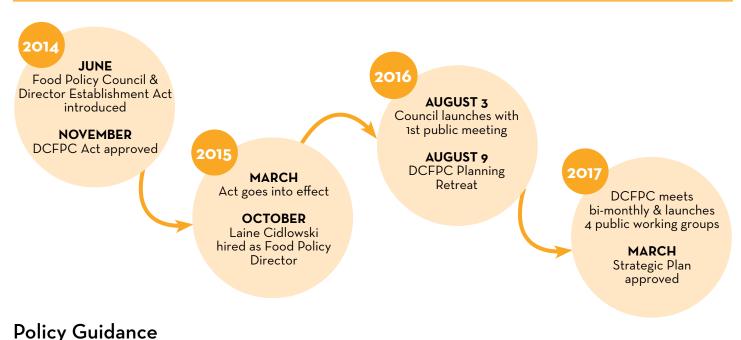
Support sustainable local food purchasing by the District government and large institutions.

MEMBERS:

Spike Mendelsohn (Co-Chair) Alex Moore (Co-Chair) Jeremiah Lowery (Member)

DC Food Policy Council Accomplishments

Timeline



DCFPC Strategic Plan

Developed this guiding document to outline the vision, goals, and short- and long-term priorities of the DC Food Policy Council and its four working groups. This was voted on and adopted by the DCFPC in March 2017.

Sustainable DC 2.0 Input

The DCFPC reviewed the goals and actions of the Sustainable DC Plan and provided input both directly and through their Food and Health working group to update the citywide sustainability plan.

Comprehensive Plan Food Amendments

Drafted, reviewed, voted to approve, and submitted to the District's 20-year Comprehensive Plan more than 30 amendments around food systems, urban gardening, healthy food access, and food businesses.

Community Engagement



DC Food Policy Council Accomplishments

Research and Information Sharing

Studies in Progress

Food Economy Study

DCFPC received funding for and initiated a study of the District's food economy. This study, conducted with a consulting team at ICF International, will define the District's food industry clusters, quantify their impact on the District's economy, analyze changes and trends in food businesses over time, identify gaps and opportunities for food policy action, and create recommendations for a strategy to support and grow the local food economy. This study advances two of DCFPC's primary goals: monitoring regulatory barriers to the development of a local food economy, and collecting and analyzing data on the local food economy. The data and recommendations produced will be used to guide DCFPC's work moving forward.

As of January 2018, Tasks 1 & 2 of the study (collection of District-wide food economy data through NAICS codes) have been largely completed, and Task 3 (surveys of and interviews with food businesses) is underway. The remaining tasks will entail analysis and synthesis of the data collected, to include an in-depth description, with a graphic map, of the District's food industry cluster. Completion of the study is anticipated for June 2018, at which point a final report will be presented to the Mayor and the Council of the District of Columbia.





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Food System Assessment

In line with its legislative mandate, DCFPC conducts ongoing research in support of a comprehensive assessment of the state of the local food economy and food access in the District. Initial findings were used to justify funding the Food Economy Study, which represents a deeper dive into the District's food economy and businesses.

Recently, DCFPC has been in the process of producing a series of eight two-pager handouts, summarizing the state of the food system in each of the District's wards, which can be used for education, engagement, and advocacy. This process has also resulted in new and updated Office of Planning GIS and tracking files for:

- Community Gardens
- CSAs and Food Delivery Services
- DC WIC Locations
- DPW Food Waste Drop-off Locations
- Farmers' Markets
- Grocery Stores
- Healthy Corner Stores
- Joyful Food Markets
- Low Food Access Areas (and food insecurity statistics)
- School Gardens
- Urban Agriculture

DC Food Policy Council Accomplishments

Research and Information Sharing

DCFPC shared important food-related information and developments with the community by hosting guest speakers and presenters at full council and working group meetings.





Bright Start Child Care and Preschool Howard University Department of Nutritional Sciences Office of Councilmember Mary Cheh

Director's Accomplishments

Fundraising

Research

Received \$200,000 in general operating funds to conduct a study on the local food economy. This study directly advances two of DCFPC's main goals: to monitor regulatory barriers to the development of a local food economy, and to collect and analyze data on the local food economy. It will inform DCFPC's strategy development process and provide recommendations to support and grow the local food economy.

Staff

Funding for an additional FTE to be assigned to work on food policy in the Office of Planning was received in FY18 after a request from the Food Policy Director and the Office of Planning for additional staff support for the DC Food Policy Council and office. The additional staff will be hired in winter 2017-18 and will spend 60% of their work on food policy issues.

Grant Writing

Director Cidlowski co-submitted a grant to USDA with the Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE) to convene a group conference around a central kitchen facility included in the Healthy Students Amendment Act/Healthy Schools Act. The proposal was not funded.

Partnerships

Provided Letters of Partnership to:



Worked with Pineapple D.C. to host 10 women-owned local food businesses for a sample fair at the February 2017 council meeting.

Federal & Regional Policy

funders, and governments.

Federal Farm Bill

DCFPC provided guidance to the Mayor's office on the local food system impact of the upcoming 2018 Farm Bill and related legislation. DCFPC is in support of funding and national programs that bolster local initiatives in urban agriculture, local food production, SNAP and other fresh healthy food benefits, wholesalers and distribution hubs, and strong community nutrition programs. In the coming year, DCFPC will begin visit to Capitol Hill to share the needs of their local food community and food policy councils around the country.

Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOG) Regional Collaboration

Participated in collaboration and coordination with MWCOG's local and regional food distribution working group and coordinated with surrounding Food Policy Councils in Montgomery, Prince George's, and Fairfax Counties.

US Conference of Mayors (USCM)

Mayor Bowser serves as the co-chair of the USCM Food Policy Task Force, consulting with Mayors around the country on their local food issues. DCFPC provides guidance and input to the Mayor on local food access, agriculture, procurement, and food business priorities.

Milan Urban Food Policy Pact (MUFPP)

The Mayor will sign the District of Columbia on to the MUFPP in January 2018 at a meeting of the US Conference of Mayors. The pact is an international commitment to work towards diverse goals and targets around sustainable city food systems. The pact goal areas include: governance; sustainable diets and nutrition; social and economic equity; food production; food supply and distribution; and food waste.

C40 Food Systems Group

The Food Policy Director participates as a member of the food systems network of the world's megacities committed to addressing climate change. C40 supports cities to collaborate effectively, share knowledge, and drive meaningful, measurable, and sustainable action on climate change. The food task force shares best practices to create and implement comprehensive solutions to reduce carbon emissions and increase resilience throughout the food system.

Leadership Contact Information

DC Food Policy Council 1100 4th St, SW, Suite E650 Washington, DC 20024

dcfoodpolicy@dc.gov

www.dcfoodpolicy.org

(202) 442-7600

f www.facebook.com/dcfoodpolicycouncil

🔰 @DCFoodPolicy

Staff

Laine Cidlowski - Food Policy Director laine.cidlowski@dc.gov

Councilmembers

Spike Mendelsohn - Chair spike.mendelsohn@dcbc.dc.gov

Alexandra Ashbrook alexandra.ashbrook@dcbc.dc.gov

Christopher Bradshaw christopher.bradshaw@dcbc.dc.gov

Eric Kessler eric.kessler@dcbc.dc.gov

Caesar Layton caesar.layton@dcbc.dc.gov

Jeremiah Lowery jeremiah.lowery@dcbc.dc.gov David Guyott - Food Policy Apprentice david.guyott@dc.gov

Alexander Moore alexander.moore@dcbc.dc.gov

Paula Reichel paula.reichel@dcbc.dc.gov

Joelle Robinson joelle.robinson@dcbc.dc.gov

Philip Sambol philip.sambol@dcbc.dc.gov

Jonas Singer jonas.singer@dcbc.dc.gov

Tambra Raye Stevenson tambraraye.stevenson@dcbc.dc.gov









