

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: MAY 18, 2024

Press Contact: Bryce Stockslager, Indianapolis Liberation Center Organizer 602-920-5224 (cell) info@indyliberationcenter.org

The Indianapolis Community Food Coalition Finally Formed After Four Years of Inaction

Indianapolis, IN— The city of Indianapolis established the <u>Division of Community Nutrition and</u> <u>Food Policy</u> through <u>Ordinance 337</u> in 2021. That Division, however, never created the independent coalition. On May 16, Indianapolis community members concerned with food insecurity in Indianapolis took matters into their own hands and officially <u>formed the coalition</u>.

After <u>Engaging Solutions, LLC</u> cancelled their first meeting without notifying registrants, the second meeting was held at Watkins Park Community Center without a representative from Indy Food Advisory Commission (IndyFAC). The stakeholders present on May 16 established the coalition and elected its inaugural President, Vice-President, Treasurer, and Secretary.

CFAC's first official meeting is on May 22 at the Indianapolis Liberation Center at 6:00 pm. Adhering to the ordinance, the Coalition will form a board with its own by-laws, mission statement, and membership basis and, per the ordinance, recommend four people to the Mayor to serve on IndyFAC.

Those present were excited about the possibilities presented by the newly formed CFAC, but they also made it clear that this was simply the first step in a process. The May 22 meeting is open to community members and stakeholders as set out in the Ordinance, although registration is required.

Inaugural President Sierra Nuckols, founder of <u>Community Food Box Project</u> and longtime leader with deep roots in the struggle against food apartheid, expressed excitement about the meeting, stating she is "excited to get all of us in the room to start organizing this and move forward on actions. I think the formation of our new coalition will finally allow a platform for BIPOC growers, community members, and those who are actually affected by hunger."

For interviews and information, contact: Bryce Stockslager, Indianapolis Liberation Center Organizer; (602) 920-5224; info@indyliberationcenter.org