

Advocacy Letter: Food Insecurity

LaQuandra Z. Gooden

Alliance University

STATE SENATOR
The Honorable Jabari Brisport
55 Hanson Place
The Shirley Chisholm State Office Building, Suite 702
Brooklyn, NY 11217

Dear Senator Brisport,

I am writing you to discuss the issue of the food deserts that are located within my neighborhood. My name is LaQuandra Gooden, and currently, I am a social work student at Alliance University formerly known as Nyack College. I live in the Ocean Hill area of Brooklyn, NY. Living in a neighborhood considered a food desert is one factor of food insecurity. In addition, there are other social ills food deserts can cause including unhealthy diets, obesity, shortened life expectancy, and other diet-related health issues. Within a five-block radius, five Delis/Bodegas primarily sell food that is not nutrient-dense such as chips, candy, cookies, and sandwiches that are high in calories and saturated fats. My community is predominantly Black and Brown, and unfortunately, food deserts have negatively affected us. According to Data2GO, 41 % of adults in the Ocean Hill & Brownsillve community are obese (Data2GO, n.d.). As someone embarking on a new lifestyle change regarding fitness and food, it is very hard for me to find nutritional food for my family and me. When I purchase food for my household, I have to travel 30 minutes to downtown Brooklyn, and 30 minutes back, because the supermarkets in the Downtown Brooklyn area have better supermarkets that provide healthy food. Aside from Delis/Bodegas, there are fast food restaurants that are located in the neighboring area from me via the Crown Heights & Weeksville area. I want the people in my neighborhood to have access to high-quality and nutritious food. I don't want my neighbors, nor my family and I to struggle with obesity, heart-related issues, and experience early death because of food insecurity. My question to you is, *"Is there a way you can help advocate for good-quality supermarkets to be planted in*

disadvantaged neighborhoods?” And “Is there a way you can help reduce or eradicate food deserts in low-income neighborhoods?”

Senator Brisport, I believe you have a heart for marginalized communities that suffer from systemic injustices. You advocate for those who are denied basic necessities and are concerned about their well-being. I Thank you for your service to the district 25 community and thank you for advocating for marginalized populations.

Once again my name is LaQuandra Gooden, and my contact information is ms.gooden@gmail.com

Sincerely,

LaQuandra Gooden

References

Data2GO. (n.d.). -. - - Wikipedia. Retrieved March 12, 2023, from
[https://data2go.nyc/map/?id=316*36047015900*obesity_cd!undefined!ns*!
other_pop_cd_506~ahdi_puma_1~sch_enrol_cd_112~age_pyramid_male_85_plus_cd_2
0~median_household_income_puma_397~median_personal_earnings_puma_400~dis_y_
perc_puma_102~poverty_ceo_cd_417~unem](https://data2go.nyc/map/?id=316*36047015900*obesity_cd!undefined!ns*!other_pop_cd_506~ahdi_puma_1~sch_enrol_cd_112~age_pyramid_male_85_plus_cd_20~median_household_income_puma_397~median_personal_earnings_puma_400~dis_y_perc_puma_102~poverty_ceo_cd_417~unem)