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## Food Apartheid in Indianapolis

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Dear Audience,

I believe that food should be a right. More specifically, nutritious and culturally relevant food should be a right. People deserve the ability to feed and nourish themselves without wondering where or how they will get their food. For many residents of Indianapolis, this right is still a way off from being achieved. Last reports find that 208,000 people in Indianapolis live in a food desert. This number is disproportionately dominated by communities with high levels of poverty and black communities (Andres et al. 2019).

The first resource I have created is a [Story Map](#) that first outlines the difference between food deserts and food apartheid, and then highlights key findings on food apartheid in Indianapolis. My goal with this media is to lay out why food apartheid is an issue in Indianapolis, introduce some of its causes, and help people to understand why it is an environmental justice issue. This map is meant to communicate information in an easily digestible and more interactive manner.

My second set of media is two drawings, one [political cartoon](#) and an informational [art piece](#). I hope to communicate the root causes of food apartheid in my first art piece, depicting that the causes are much deeper than a simple lack of store or lack of access to food. Food apartheid is a deliberate phenomenon that is rooted in social justice and historical issues. I additionally have attempted to communicate the influence supermarkets have in choosing their locations in my political cartoon. This cartoon is meant to reflect supermarket redlining and how stores choose a location based on demographics and who they want to be their customer base. It additionally is meant to communicate that although communities have access to food, it is not healthy and fresh food.

The [pamphlet](#) I have created is a resource for citizens of the city to utilize to combat food deserts. Numerous organizations are addressing food insecurity within the city, and I highlighted some key ones. Additionally, legislation has previously been passed to address food insecurity in the city, but nothing of significance has been addressed since 2019. Mayor Hogsett had a food insecurity plan that passed in 2019, Representative Carson has introduced a new bill, and the city has restructured to create the Division of Community Nutrition and Food Policy (Bartner 2019, Sheridan 2021, “Press” 2020). However, food insecurity is still threatened by bills such as Senate Bill 141 that aims to cut funding for public transportation (Dixon 2021). I hope that this resource encourages people to contact their legislators within the city and make them understand that food deserts and food apartheid are an issue that needs to be taken seriously.

Overall, I hope that my media outline why people should care about food apartheid in the city and provides them with resources to encourage governmental and local organizational change.

Sincerely,

Anna Watson

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