Reviewer 1

Overall, this paper addresses an important topic (existing landscape of food access in low income communities) and identifies potential solutions within communities that may help alleviate the problem of low access to nutritious foods. The data collected are robust and significant, from a representative geography of the metro area of study (Las Vegas), and using a replicable methodology. The results and discussion are clearly presented, and implications of the research are well stated.

More specific comments below:

- Not clear in Abstract how these findings are "increasing" access to healthy foods, when it seems the study is just investigating what resources are already in place in the community. To increase access, would need to change something, i.e. make more produce available in dollar discount stores than there currently is. Consider revising language here.

Thank you for the suggestion. We have revised the language to read "Findings indicate that dollar discount stores may be an existing community asset, and considering them as such may reveal that communities have increased access to healthy, affordable food."

- Text/grammar in Abstract: opening sentence in Abstract should read: "access to and affordability of healthy foods."

This has been corrected

- Line 31- should be more specific: existing literature indicates access to affordable nutritious food is lacking in certain communities, typically designated "food deserts," not just "lacking" in general.

Thank you for pointing this out. We have corrected this.

- Lines 54-57- wording should be revised in this paragraph; second two sentences in particular are vague and lack contribution to the main point. Could consolidate by removing second sentence entirely.

The second and third sentence have been modified and combined for clarity

- Figure 1: could be labeled/titled to indicated that it is the Las Vegas Metro Area.

This has been added

- In the Conclusion, could discuss the implications of considering dollar discount stores as bigger part of community food resources a bit further; i.e. not considering a neighborhood to be a "food desert" because it has a dollar store might not be a good thing, as it might detract from funding or other efforts to make improvements in the food landscape. Could elaborate that one way to strengthen community food systems would be to further integrate dollar discount stores into food improvement efforts by adding nutrition labeling, eliminating stigma associated with shopping and dollar stores, or integrating
dollar stores with urban ag scene to offer more locally produced foods from urban farms willing to partner/distribute foods there.

This is a great recommendation. We have added it and it now reads “It is important for practitioners to understand the local food environment completely in order to document all opportunities for healthy food options, and to consider these non-traditional food outlets when assessing community food environments, designing and implementing nutritional interventions, and providing information or nutritional advice to those who do not live near traditional grocery stores. Additionally, considering dollar discount stores in food improvement efforts would strengthen the overall food system, such as nutrition labeling efforts or incorporation of urban agriculture efforts to offer more locally produced foods.”