



Civil Rights activist Rev. Jesse Jackson met with community members and local media Tuesday in the parking lot of the shuttered Kroger store on East McMillan Street in Walnut Hills to protest the closing of the store. To the left of Jackson is Dwight Tillery, president of Black Agenda Cincinnati and City Councilman Wendell Young.

Photos by Dan Yount

Jesse Jackson criticizes food desserts

By Andria Carter and Dan Yount
The Cincinnati Herald

Rev. Jesse Jackson Jr. called for a national boycott of the Cincinnati-based Kroger Company during rallies in Cincinnati Tuesday. The boycott is in response to the closure of two grocery stores in a predominantly Black neighborhood in Memphis, Tenn. Jackson visited Cincinnati to lead protests at the closed Kroger store in Walnut Hills and at

the downtown Kroger Co. headquarters, where he also met with Kroger officials, after accepting an invitation from the Rainbow Push Coalition local steering committee. To date, Kroger has closed stores in Peoria, Ill., Clarksdale, Miss. and Brownwood, Texas. In 2017, Kroger closed several grocery stores including the one in Walnut Hills, a predominantly-Black neighborhood. Over time, Kroger has closed at least six grocery stores all in

Black neighborhoods in Cincinnati. "We wrote a letter to the leadership of Kroger, and they did not respond to us," Jackson said. "This is a pattern across the country. There are enough mouths to be fed and people to be served for Kroger to stay in the community. They may want to leave, but there are people who want to buy." Kroger officials said the Walnut Hills store

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