



PROCLAMATION

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URBAN AGRICULTURE MONTH

WHEREAS, agriculture plays an important role in Arlington as growers produce food on rooftops, indoors and in gardens; and Arlington is a regional urban agriculture leader creating jobs and providing fresh local food; and

WHEREAS, Arlington supports community gardens and other design elements of biophilic cities, bringing an immersive experience in nature to create an appreciation of natural processes and the importance of a healthy ecosystem; and supports the health of the Chesapeake Bay watershed; and

WHEREAS, resiliency planning to address food insecurity resulting from the coronavirus pandemic impacts, natural disasters, extreme climate events, and manmade emergencies highlights the importance of sustainable food systems and addressing food security by a coordinated regional approach to growing, distributing, and accessing healthy food; and

WHEREAS, Arlington County has nine farmers markets that generate direct sales to up to 2,000 customers each market day, while expanding job opportunities for local producers and providing matching SNAP benefits; the County supports 378 community garden plots, including an ADA accessible space; the County collects yard waste and runs a pilot food composting digester program; County libraries support gardeners through their collection, educational programs and demonstration gardens; and school gardens provide learning opportunities for our youth; and

WHEREAS, Virginia Cooperative Extension (VCE) and its Master Gardener and Master Food Volunteer programs offer extensive public education programs promoting covering nutritious food; and

WHEREAS, community groups such as Friends of Urban Agriculture promoting a fair, healthy food system and advancing the urban agriculture sector and organizing its Victory Gardens 2020 project working with school gardens to grow produce for food pantries; Plot Against Hunger supporting gardeners in providing fresh produce to local food pantries; and Reevesland Learning Center's educational garden and work with school children;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Libby Garvey, Chair of the County Board of Arlington, Virginia, do hereby proclaim October 2020 as

URBAN AGRICULTURE MONTH

in Arlington County to promote and educate residents as to the benefit and importance of urban agriculture programs in our community to promote healthy and sustainable food systems.

Libby Garvey
Chair