

RESOLUTION NO. 54-10

A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF HEALTHY, SUSTAINABLY PRODUCED AND LOCALLY GROWN FOODS, COMMUNITY GARDENS AND OTHER FORMS OF URBAN AGRICULTURE AND PROMOTING THE PRODUCTION, DISTRIBUTION, AND CONSUMPTION OF SUCH FOODS BY AND FOR THE RESIDENTS OF THE CITY OF EAST CLEVELAND AND ITS REGIONAL NEIGHBORS.

Requested By: Councilwoman Barbara J. Thomas

Sponsored By: Councilwoman Barbara J. Thomas

First Reading on July 20, 2010

Passed Second Reading on August 3, 2010 at Special Council Meeting

WHEREAS, the growing local food movement has increased demand among East Cleveland residents and Greater Clevelanders for healthy, sustainably produced, locally grown foods and strengthened interest in developing local food policies that encourage community gardens and other forms of urban agriculture within city limits, as well as better relationships with small farmers in our region; and

WHEREAS, a local food system can support urban and regional small farms and local jobs, create business opportunities and encourage the re-circulation of capital within the Northeast Ohio Region; and

WHEREAS, successful models for intensive, sustainable food production in urban spaces are being demonstrated throughout Northeast Ohio, including in East Cleveland at the Coit Road Market site; and

WHEREAS, nine community and school gardens in East Cleveland have engaged dozens of community residents across generations; and

WHEREAS, community gardens increase the quality and variety of healthy foods available to East Cleveland residents who otherwise have easier access to fast food rather than fresh, whole foods; and

WHEREAS, community gardens are an important strategy for East Cleveland residents who are disproportionately affected by preventable, nutrition-related diseases such as obesity, diabetes and heart disease to improve nutrition; and

WHEREAS, national and local surveys prove that community gardeners consume significantly higher amounts of fruits and vegetables than average, which can lead to lower rates of obesity and related chronic conditions and better health; and

WHEREAS, the ability to grow, sell, and easily obtain a consistent, adequate supply of fresh, local foods increases food security and empowers families and communities to be more healthy and self-sufficient; and

WHEREAS, community gardens and urban agriculture are viable, beneficial, and productive uses of vacant and underutilized land, providing personal and community benefits including greater resiliency and increased life satisfaction; and

WHEREAS, buying local food helps fight climate change and improves air quality by reducing the transport, packaging and fossil fuel-derived inputs required to bring food from farm to table; and

WHEREAS, the current local food initiative in East Cleveland, led by community gardeners, market gardeners, Coit Road Farmers' Market and City Fresh (a Community Supported Agriculture model) managers, local farm vendors and enthusiastic local-food consumers, has engaged viable stakeholders from multiple perspectives – the Cuyahoga County Board of Health, the Ohio State University Extension of Cuyahoga County, the Cuyahoga County Planning Commission, Huron Hospital, East Cleveland City Schools, the McGregor Home, the Helen S. Brown Senior Center, academics from Case Western Reserve University and Cleveland State University, and the Bridges of Hope Coalition-to form the *Growing Green Initiative* in East Cleveland and developing a set of specific recommendations for supporting greater access to fresh, local foods in East Cleveland.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council of East Cleveland, Ohio, three-fifths (3/5ths) concurring that:

SECTION 1. The City of East Cleveland will promote cooperation amongst its departments and agencies to maintain, create, and enhance opportunities for community gardens and other forms of urban agriculture.

SECTION 2. The City of East Cleveland will promote opportunities for education, outreach, and awareness related to local food production and local food systems, as well as opportunities for participation in community gardens and other forms of urban agriculture through its website and other public media resources.

SECTION 3. The City of East Cleveland, its Water Department, and the *Growing Green Initiative* will work together to develop an affordable water rate and permit process to provide water access for urban agriculture projects in East Cleveland.

SECTION 4. The City of East Cleveland in partnership with the Cuyahoga County Land Reutilization Corp. will increase accessibility of publicly owned, vacant land for use as a community garden/market garden by providing a clear process for acquiring its use and the option of multi-year leases.

SECTION 5. Appointed Representatives of each branch of East Cleveland City

Government will meet twice yearly with Representatives of the *Growing Green Initiative* to discuss progress on the aforementioned recommendations and provide updates on current and future urban agriculture projects in the City.

SECTION 6. It is hereby found and determined that all formal actions of this Council concerning and relating to the passage of this resolution were adopted in an open meeting of this Council, and that all deliberations of this Council and of any of its committees that resulted in such formal action were in meetings open to the public in compliance with all legal requirements.

SECTION 7. This Resolution shall take effect and be in force from and after the earliest period allowed by law.

PASSED:



PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL
JOY A. JORDAN

ATTEST:



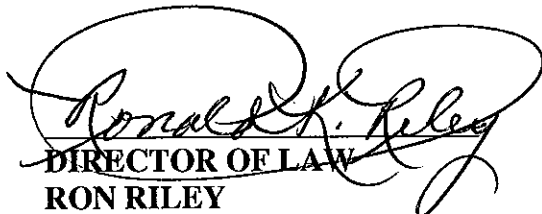
CLERK OF COUNCIL
MELVIN DAVIS

APPROVED:



MAYOR
GARY NORTON, JR.

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



DIRECTOR OF LAW
RON RILEY

VETO: YES _____ NO _____

First Reading
Date 7/20/10

Second Reading
Date 8/3/10

Councilor Barbara J. Thomas
Councilor Nathaniel Martin
Councilor Chantelle C. Lewis
Councilor Mildred Brewer
Councilor Joy A. Jordan

Yea	Nay
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_____	_____
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Yea	Nay
<u> X </u>	_____
<u> X </u>	_____
<u> X </u>	_____
<u>absent</u>	_____
<u> X </u>	_____