

# ARLINGTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA

## *Proclamation*

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### URBAN AGRICULTURE MONTH

**WHEREAS**, agriculture plays an important role in Arlington, producing fresh local food on rooftops, indoors, and in gardens; and Arlington is a regional urban agriculture leader creating jobs; 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**, Arlington resiliency planning addresses food insecurity resulting from the coronavirus pandemic impacts, natural disasters, extreme climate events, and manmade emergencies, highlighting 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 ten farmers' markets that generate direct sales to up to 2,000 customers each market day while expanding job opportunities for local producers and providing gleaning for donation and matching SNAP benefits; the County supports 391 community garden plots, including an ADA accessible space; the County collects yard and food waste for composting; County libraries support gardeners through their collection, educational programs and demonstration gardens; and school gardens provide outdoor learning opportunities for our youth; and

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

**WHEREAS**, Friends of Urban Agriculture promotes a fair, healthy food system and advances the urban agriculture sector, including supporting school gardens and local gardeners, and gleaning opportunities at area farms to promote fresh produce for individuals and for local food pantries through the Plot Against Hunger program, and developing demonstration urban gardens in partnership with the County and local civic associations;

**NOW, THEREFORE, I**, Matt de Ferranti, Chair of the County Board of Arlington, Virginia, do hereby proclaim October 2021 as

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



Matt de Ferranti  
Chair