

May 13, 2022

Attn:

Land Use, Housing, & Transportation Committee

Council members:

Andreas Addison

Katherine Jordan

Michael Jones

President Ellen Robertson

On behalf of all sixteen operating Richmond Community Gardens, we would like to extend this letter of support in favor of the proposed changes in Ord. No. 2022-128 (or the use of public grounds & parks for community gardens). Since the program's origination in 2011, there has been a growth in the number of sites and participants of the program. This time has also allowed for us to understand the unique needs of the garden sites and what city policies and program investments can promote communal buy-in and foster food justice.

The suggested city code revisions captured in the ordinance will be complemented by improvements that Parks & Recreation is making to the programmatic rules and site infrastructure. We briefly highlight the ways that the proposed changes will benefit our communities below.

- Allowing the sale of garden products provides a variety of opportunities that can enhance garden programming and support program sustainability, such as
 - covering annual operational costs, such as water, seeds, soil, etc.
 - support low-income families where cost of participation may be a barrier
 - offering youth entrepreneurial endeavors to develop basic business skills
 - and additional investments in garden infrastructure.
- Allowing for multi-year permits reduces annual paperwork, creating program efficiencies and encouraging community commitment.
- Defining due notice as a minimum of 60 days provides basic protections for the seasonal nature of the program and the organizational investments over time.

With these changes, the Richmond Grows Gardens Community Garden Program will create more accessible spaces to promote health and provide spaces for resiliency within the communities they serve.

We are excited to see the positive community changes that this ordinance revision will bring and would like to recommend that Ord. No.2022-128 move forward when it comes up to a vote.

Sincerely,

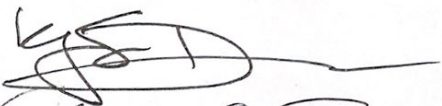
Richmond Garden Stewards

(See attached PDF of all signatures)

Signatures of Support from active Richmond Grows Gardens Stewards

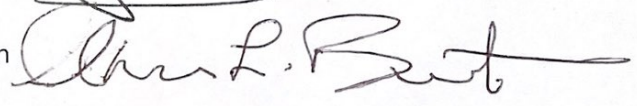
1st District

Humphrey Calder Community Garden



3rd District

Charles S. Gilpin Community Garden



5th District

McDonough Community Garden

Doris Morgan Doris Morgan

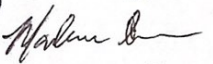
Fonticello Food Forest

LANGY SULLIVAN

Owl Orchard

JAMES McDONALD

Uptown Community Garden



Randolph Community Center Garden

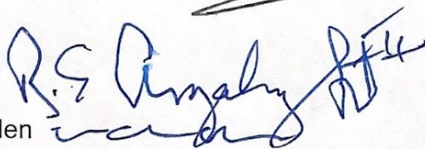
Dan Abel

Maymont Community Garden

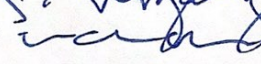
B. O'KEEFE

6th District

Bellemeade Youth Garden

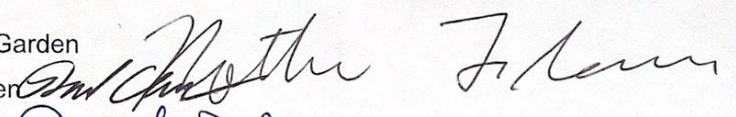


Alice Fitz Community Garden



7th District

Roots of Woodville Community Garden



Powhatan Hill Community Garden

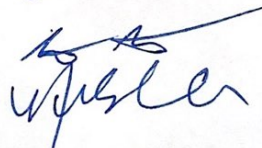


Chimborazo Playground Garden

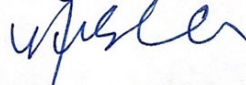
Jennifer Dodge ORC

8th District

Broad Rock Community Garden

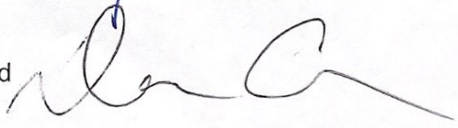


Stockton Community Garden



9th District

Sankofa Community Orchard



There are currently no community garden parcels in 2nd or 4th district