

**Using Urban Agriculture to Improve Health Outcomes and Economic Development**

**COMMITTEE: Agriculture (AGR) RESOLUTION AGR-19-01**

1. **WHEREAS,** food deserts are prevalent in urban cities across the country and having a
2. detrimental impact on the overall public health of blacks in America.
3. **WHEREAS,** black people have a lower life expectancy and suffer from preventable diet
4. related diseases at rates higher than whites or any other ethnic or racial group because
5. they lack access to healthy fruits and vegetables in urban areas.
6. **WHEREAS,** the lack of healthy food in food deserts across the country is coupled by an
7. overabundance of corner stores that stock unhealthy, overprocessed and many times
8. overpriced food that has led to bad eating habits and diets high in sugar, salt and fats.
9. **WHEREAS,** food is medicine and all people deserve access to healthy produce, grocery
10. stores, farmer’s markets, restaurants and other healthy food retailers that nourish their
11. bodies.
12. **WHEREAS,** urban agriculture is one of the many solutions to improving our food
13. security, it will help eradicate food deserts by increasing access to fresh fruits and
14. vegetables, turning vacant unused land into productive land while creating and sustaining
15. businesses and jobs in some of our most vulnerable communities in America.
16. **WHEREAS,** the further expansion and support for urban agriculture will create
17. opportunities in the new green economy, help communities and cities create and sustain
18. urban farms and healthy food related enterprises and bring jobs to areas that need them
19. most.
20. **WHEREAS,** the industry of urban agriculture includes many different business and
21. career opportunities that our communities suffering from high rates of unemployment can
22. benefit from. There are many jobs along the food system chain and in urban agriculture
23. that could employ people with multiple barriers to employment including returning
24. citizens, people with records and those that may have no job experience at all.
25. **WHEREAS,** the creation of educational opportunities, workforce development
26. programs, youth job opportunities, business incubators and training centers will help to
27. inspire and direct people towards careers and entrepreneurship related to urban
28. agriculture for current and future generations.
29. **WHEREAS,** urban agriculture can have a profound effect on the way our most
30. vulnerable communities engage their residents and increase civic participation. Urban
31. farms and community gardens not only provide fresh food but offer safe spaces where
32. residents can gather, promote intergenerational dialogue, learn about nutrition, wellness
33. and community building.
34. **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** NOBEL Women seeks to promote and
35. expand opportunities and investments in healthy food access, urban agriculture, as a way
36. to create local healthy food systems that will in turn prove better health outcomes for
37. black people, put our vacant land back to productive use and help to revive economically
38. depressed areas of the country where black people live.
39. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NOBEL Women recommends that the USDA and
40. state agriculture departments work to increase capital investments, subsidies, grants for
41. urban agriculture and food systems work in food deserts across the country as well as
42. work harder to disseminate the information to farmers of color.
43. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NOBEL Women wishes for advocates, legislators,
44. agencies and community members work together to address food insecurity, attract
45. healthy food retailers but most importantly use and promote urban agriculture as a way to
46. bring business and industry to economic depressed areas of the country.
47. **BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that a copy of this resolution be transmitted to the
48. President of the United States, Vice President of the United States, Secretary of
49. Agriculture, members of the United States House of Representatives and the United
50. States Senate, and other federal and state government officials as appropriate.

Rep. Sonya Harper

Rep Sharon Beasley Teague

Sen. Anastasia Pittman

Del. Angela Angel