

**PROCLAMATION**

WHEREAS, since Colonial times, agriculture has been an important part of the Commonwealth's economy with early colonists and their families working on the land to raise food for themselves and their livestock; and

WHEREAS, although the City, the Commonwealth, and the nation have become increasingly suburban and urban, agriculture continues to play an important role in Virginia's economy and in Falls Church, with farmers' markets, community gardens, and other urban agriculture education and awareness programs; and

WHEREAS, the increasing challenges of hunger and obesity show the need for a more coordinated approach to growing, distributing, and accessing healthy food; and

WHEREAS, urban agriculture helps strengthen sustainable community food systems both locally and regionally; enhances education and learning; and bolsters food security while providing entrepreneurs with new opportunities; and

WHEREAS, the Virginia Cooperative Extension has reported that if every family in Virginia spent \$10 a week on fresh, local food and farm-based Virginia products, more than \$1.65 billion in economic impact would be generated to strengthen more localized food production; and

WHEREAS, the General Assembly designated October as Urban Agriculture Month in Virginia to provide the opportunity to promote and educate Virginians about the benefit and importance of urban agriculture programs to local communities;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, David Tarter, Mayor of the City of Falls Church, Virginia, do hereby proclaim October 2021 as

**URBAN AGRICULTURE MONTH**

in the City of Falls Church to promote and educate residents about the benefit and importance of urban agriculture programs in our community.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Falls Church, Virginia, to be affixed this 18<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2021.

  
David Tarter, Mayor

