

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

**RESOLUTION NO. 09-044**

Authorizing a Multnomah County "Hope Garden" to Encourage the Production of Community-Grown Food and Urge Multnomah County and City of Portland Residents to Assist Hunger Relief and Nutrition Efforts by Supporting the "Plant a Row for the Hungry" Campaign

**The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Finds:**

- a. Multnomah County recognizes that our local food system has a significant impact on the economy, health, and environment of our community; and that urban agriculture is an integral component to a sustainable and vibrant local food system.
- b. Multnomah County and the City of Portland created the Portland/Multnomah Food Policy Council in 2002 to "support an economically viable and environmentally and socially sustainable food system".
- c. The cost of food has arisen 45 percent worldwide in the past two years.
- d. The United States Department of Agriculture ranked Oregon third among states experiencing very low food security and an estimated 36,000 people in Multnomah County require emergency food boxes every month as they struggle to afford nutritious, affordable and culturally appropriate food.
- e. Over 50 percent of our community members are overweight or obese, and eating fresh, nutritious food combined with exercise are healthy habits.
- f. Locally grown, organic food is nutritious and healthy for our community members and our environment as it eliminates adverse chemicals and reduces shipping-related greenhouse gas emissions.
- g. The production of locally grown food increases accountability and awareness of sustainable agricultural practices.
- h. Growing a portion of one's food can save money and help our county be more food secure.
- i. Growing food is an opportunity for individuals and neighborhoods to build community and assist hungry families.

**The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Resolves:**

1. To partner with the City of Portland in establishing organic vegetable gardens at the Multnomah County headquarters building and City Hall lawn to recognize the growing community interest in local food systems and to inspire residents to plant their own edible gardens.
2. To request that the County's Green Team maintain the Hope Garden as one of their community projects and to donate the harvest from these gardens to hunger relief efforts.
3. To encourage County and City residents to plant an extra row in their gardens to be donated to those in need.

ADOPTED this 23rd day of April 2009.



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

  
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Ted Wheeler, Chair

REVIEWED:

AGNES SOWLE, COUNTY ATTORNEY  
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

By

  
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Agnes Sowle, County Attorney

SUBMITTED BY:

Jeff Cogen, Commissioner, District 2  
Judy Shiprack, Commissioner, District 3  
Sustainability Program  
Department of Health