

PROCLAMATION



City and County of Denver

Proclamation 44, Series of 2009

Celebrating Denver's Grow Local Campaign and Culture

WHEREAS, Denver strives to be a Green City that promotes ecological sustainability through growing local food as evidenced by its support for nearly seventy five urban gardens around the City, numerous farmers' markets, a vegetable garden in Civic Center Park, a community-supported agricultural plot at Denver Botanic Gardens at Chatfield, a plethora of private gardens, and Mayor John Hickenlooper's spring declaration of a Grow Local Day; and

WHEREAS, hunger, food insecurity, and poor nutrition are pressing health issues, and access to safe, nutritious, and culturally acceptable food is essential to both human health and ecological sustainability; and

WHEREAS, there are communities in Denver that are considered "food deserts," with a lack of fresh, affordable, accessible, and healthy food, when access to healthy food reduces diet-related illnesses, such as diabetes, obesity and heart disease; and

WHEREAS, currently less than .2% of Metropolitan Denver's food needs are produced within the state of Colorado, and the strengthening of the local food shed is paramount to the health, security and sustainability of the community; and

WHEREAS, conventional food and farming operations use pesticides and other chemicals that research indicates have environmental and health concerns and current systems of mass producing and transporting food use large amounts of finite natural resources, including water, oil and natural gas; and

WHEREAS, developing a local food system has the potential to build health, wealth and resiliency in our communities and cultivating local farm and food businesses creates new green industry jobs, reduces health care costs, and contributes to long-term economic prosperity by keeping wealth circulating within the Denver community.

NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF DENVER:

Section 1. That Denverites, civic associations, businesses, community-based organizations and neighborhoods are encouraged to support locally-produced healthy food including community gardens, greenhouses for food production and aquaculture, farmers' markets, urban farms, orchards, home gardens, Community and Neighborhood Supported Agriculture (CSAs and NSAs), edible landscaping, rooftop gardens, agricultural incubator projects, and school gardens.

Section 2. That the Clerk of the City and County of Denver shall attest and affix the seal of the City and County of Denver to this proclamation and that a copy be transmitted to Dana Miller, Director, Grow Local Colorado Campaign.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL _____ 2009

PRESIDENT