



Mayoral Proclamation

40th Anniversary of the Takoma Park Farmers Market

WHEREAS, the Takoma Park Farmers Market started in 1983 with only six vendors on Laurel Avenue and became the DC area's first Sunday market and an early pioneer in the producers-only movement; and

WHEREAS, three family farms have been part of the Takoma Park Farmers Market since the beginning and still participate today - Potomac Vegetable Farms (40 years), Twin Springs Fruit Farm (40 years), and Black Rock Orchard (39 years); and

WHEREAS, the market was first organized by the City of Takoma Park to bring fresh healthy food to residents and then in 1997, the farmers formed a corporation and became the first major farmers market in the DC region to be self-governing; and

WHEREAS, the market now hosts 24 weekly vendors plus a rotating line up of pop up vendors providing seasonal produce, pasture-raised meats and eggs, baked goods, dairy products and more to over 2,000 customers each Sunday; and

WHEREAS, the market believes in increasing access to fresh, healthy food and participates in Federal Benefit Programs including Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP); Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Program; and Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Assistance Program (Senior FMNP); and

WHEREAS, the market regularly provides additional shopping dollars to those participating in Federal Benefit Programs, which doubled eligible shoppers' buying power during the pandemic, and these additional shopping dollars come from grants and money raised at its annual Takoma Park Farmers Market Pie Contest; and

WHEREAS, the Takoma Park Farmers Market has a long tradition of donating perishable food at the close of the market to local organizations that serve those in need and current gleaning partners are Shepherd's Table and Small Things Matter; and

WHEREAS, the market has employed hundreds of Takoma Park residents over the years, including many teens who had their first job at the market; and

WHEREAS, the Takoma Park Farmers Market is a Takoma Park institution that is a lively, weekly shopping destination for residents and visitors and a favorite meeting place for neighbors

NOW, THEREFORE, I, TALISHA SEARCY, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND, hereby thank the Takoma Park Farmers Market for its 40 years of service to the Takoma Park community and wish the market well on many more years in Takoma Park.

Date this 12th day of April 2023.

Talisha Searcy
Mayor