

RESOLUTION NO. ____-2019

RESOLUTION OF THE FORT BRAGG CITY COUNCIL SUPPORTING FORT BRAGG, CALIFORNIA AS A GARDEN FRIENDLY CITY AND ENCOURAGING THE COMMUNITY TO ORGANIZE A GARDEN FRIENDLY COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

WHEREAS, the mission of a Garden Friendly Community is to strengthen communities through sustainable home and community gardening to increase the health of residents, economies and ecologies in an equitable and just manner; and

WHEREAS, gardens play a major role in providing sustenance for families and are an important component of strong and sustainable food systems; and

WHEREAS, gardens increase the health and happiness of populations through exercise, outdoor activity and consumption of healthy foods; and

WHEREAS, gardens bring communities together through the sharing of food, seeds, flowers and the revitalization of neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, a community rich in gardens:

- Significantly localizes food production;
- Creates jobs, increases economic opportunities and enhances ecologies;
- Efficiently provides high quality, sustainable produce to the community;
- Develops in its citizenry a shared sense of investment in local resources and community;
- Enhances the beauty and increases the desirability of neighborhoods;
- Uses resources wisely, promotes composting, water conservation and sustainable techniques;
- Promotes physical activity and nutrition, placing less burden on the medical system; and
- Provides therapeutic and rehabilitation opportunities and reduces stress and incidences of violence in communities.

WHEREAS, communities with a strong gardening culture are more resilient and food secure during times of prosperity and emergency; and

WHEREAS, gardens bring numerous additional ecosystem benefits including habitat for rare/endangered species and pollinators, increased soil health, carbon sequestration, water and resource conservation; and

WHEREAS, Fort Bragg, California should be declared a Garden Friendly Community because:

- The City has a long history of gardening and self-sufficiency;

- The community is rich in gardeners, programs for gardening and service-oriented organizations which help to feed people, provide jobs and promote sustainability; and
- The risk of emergencies and natural disasters to our rural community is buffered by a strong, local food system.

WHEREAS, there is no possibility that the adoption of this Resolution will have a significant impact on the environment and therefore, the adoption of this ordinance is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (“CEQA”), pursuant to Section 15061(b)(3) of the CEQA Guidelines. Further, any minor impacts resulting from the adoption of this Resolution will enhance the environment through encouraging sustainable gardening in the community; and

WHEREAS, no funds were appropriated in the FY 2019/20 budget for this activity.

WHEREAS, based on all the evidence presented, the City Council finds as follows:

Fort Bragg, California should be considered a Garden Friendly Community because:

1. The City has a long history of gardening and self-sufficiency;
2. The community is rich in gardeners, programs for gardening and service-oriented organizations which help to feed people, provide jobs and promote sustainability; and
3. The risk of emergencies and natural disasters to our rural community is buffered by a strong, local food system.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of Fort Bragg does hereby support Fort Bragg’s garden community and encourages community and home gardening. The City Council directs staff to work with the Garden Friendly Community Committee to assist in establishing a Community Garden; identify other potential spaces for Community Gardens; to endorse a plan to implement and encourage sustainable gardening; provide links to educational documents and a link to the national Garden Friendly Community website from the City’s website; and provide Town Hall once a year without charge to the Garden Friendly Community Committee for an educational event.

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council of Fort Bragg does hereby declare Fort Bragg as the first Garden Friendly Community in the world.

The above and foregoing Resolution was introduced by Councilmember _____, seconded by Councilmember _____, and passed and adopted at a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Fort Bragg held on the 9th day of September, 2019, by the following vote:

AYES:
NOES:
ABSENT:
ABSTAIN:

RECUSED:

WILLIAM V. LEE
Mayor

ATTEST:

June Lemos, CMC
City Clerk