

NCO Gardens Project
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Fort Bragg Town Hall
363 N. Main St.

July 11, 2019

Dear City of Fort Bragg City Council,

On behalf of *North Coast Opportunities Gardens Project*, please accept this letter as our formal statement of support for The City of Fort Bragg to set a president by adopting the Garden Friendly Community Ordinance.

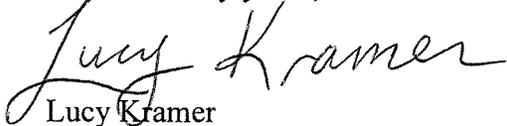
The Gardens Project of North Coast Opportunities empowers community, one garden at a time and has developed 55 community, agency, shared residential and school gardens throughout Lake and Mendocino County over the past 12 years. Gardens Project Staff have observed an expressed need for more community gardens in Fort Bragg and Victory Gardens for Peace's leadership, community outreach and research ensures that now is an optimal time for Fort Bragg to embrace being a Garden Friendly Community.

Shared food-producing greenspaces like community gardens benefit community in myriad ways including:

- Bolstering food security, thereby reducing individuals' needs for social services like EBT
- Fortifying neighborhood safety in localized areas and placemaking
- Stimulating relationships, thereby creating tight-knit communities
- Combatting climate change by:
 - Creating localized access to food and recreation, eliminating car trips
 - Cultivating Carbon-sequestering plants, thereby taking carbon out of the atmosphere and fixing it into the soil
 - Mitigating waste streams by providing accessible ways to compost biomass and green waste
- Providing space for wholesome physical activity for people of all ages and mobilities
- Supporting local leadership as gardeners step into garden management roles

We appreciate this opportunity to expand the health and wellness of our local community, and we look forward to Fort Bragg leading Mendocino County into a more just and resilient food system.

Horticulturally yours,



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