



November 18, 2021

To: City of London Planning & Environment Committee
City Council

Re: Encouraging the Growing of Food in Urban Areas (File OZ-9332)

Dear City Council and Planning & Environment Committee,

The Middlesex London Food Policy Council (MLFPC) is very pleased to see this report and its recommendations being presented to the Planning and Environment Committee.

Along with the communities and agri-food sectors represented on MLFPC, we have shared the report through our networks and we hosted a public feedback session in August to gather input and insight from the many groups and individuals involved in urban agriculture in London. Based on this input, we support the recommendations presented in the report and encourage the PEC to recommend the amendments be approved by Council.

We believe the changes proposed in the report will eliminate some of the barriers currently posing obstacles to growing food in London's urban areas, and will provide helpful clarification. Identifying urban agriculture as a defined land use is an important recognition that it is an essential component of city life and the health and well-being of citizens. With increasing awareness of the impact of climate change on food production and food systems, it is becoming even more crucial for urban dwellers to be able to access local and appropriate food sources.

We also appreciate that the report clearly indicates that the recommended changes do not comprehensively address issues related to growing food within London. The "Additional Issues Identified Through Engagement" listed at the end of the report are extremely important to address if the city's urban agriculture vision is to be realized. With that in mind, MLFPC respectfully requests that these issues be studied as expeditiously as possible.

We look forward to working with you, community members, and the many advocates of urban agriculture throughout London in continuing to improve food security in the city.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jessica Cordes'.

Jessica Cordes
Chair, Middlesex London Food Policy Council
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