

# Urban Roots London

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Chair and Members

Community and Protective Services Committee Meeting, City of London  
300 Dufferin Avenue, London, ON, N6B 1Z2

Friday, February 25, 2022

Regarding: Licencing Agreement for the Creation of a Food Hub in Cavendish Park

Dear Chair and Members of the Community and Protective Services Committee,

On behalf of the Board of Urban Roots London, I am writing to convey our support for the proposed Licencing Agreement for the Creation of a Food Hub in Cavendish Park on the agenda for the Community and Protective Services Committee meeting on March 1, 2022. Urban Roots London is a non-profit organization that revitalizes underused land in London, ON, for urban agriculture.

With COVID-19 only increasing food insecurity, the need for better access to healthy, fresh, high-quality produce has never been greater. The development of urban agricultural sites, such as the proposed Food Hub, is also integral to community-building and placemaking. In addition, Urban Roots London applauds the efforts of this project not only to increase access to fresh food within the community but also to focus on training and educational opportunities. Too often, the labour and skill required for food production are undervalued, and Urban Roots London supports the opportunity to provide adults of all abilities to develop transferable employment skills and access paid opportunities in the local food system.

As an organization in London committed to urban agriculture to improve food security, we are heartened to see a project like the Food Hub in Cavendish Park move forward. The collaboration between the City of London, Hutton House and the Kensington Neighbourhood to establish the Cavendish Park Food Hub will provide critical insights for this model to be applied in neighbourhoods across the city, especially those with high levels of food insecurity and inequitable access.

We are encouraged to see the City of London continuing to embrace urban agriculture and anticipate this as a precedent-setting agreement between the City and local organizations to utilize city-owned land for urban agriculture. Urban Roots London looks forward to the development of a transparent and equitable process to ensure other organizations and community groups can bid to license and use city land in other areas of the city for non-profit urban agriculture, so together, we can all work to improve food security.

If you have any questions about Urban Roots London or our support for the Licencing Agreement for the Creation of a Food Hub in Cavendish Park, please contact us at [admin@urbanrootslondon.ca](mailto:admin@urbanrootslondon.ca).

Sincerely,



Laura Thorne, Director of Organizational Development