

A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION

24-182

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

May 3, 2022

To celebrate the legacy and contributions of FRESHFARM to creating a more resilient, equitable, and sustainable food system in Washington, DC, over the last 25 years.

WHEREAS, 2022 marks the 25th anniversary of the founding of FRESHFARM, a nonprofit based in Washington, DC, that works to create a more resilient, equitable, and sustainable food future; develops innovative ways to solve critical problems across our regional food system; and connects people to their food through hands-on education, farmers markets, and food distribution programs;

WHEREAS, FRESHFARM operates the third largest network of farmers markets in the country and runs 14 markets in Washington, DC, across 6 wards;

WHEREAS, FRESHFARM's markets improve food access, incubate small businesses, stimulate the local economy, and enhance neighborhoods by creating inclusive community gathering spaces;

WHEREAS, farmers markets are essential businesses and vital food access points, and FRESHFARM has worked diligently to keep its markets open throughout the COVID-19 pandemic;

WHEREAS, FRESHFARM's markets promote economic development in the District, generating more than \$3 million in annual revenue for small District businesses and helping them thrive as they recover from the worst effects of the COVID-19 pandemic;

WHEREAS, in 2009, FRESHFARM was the first organization in Washington, DC, and among the first nationally, to offer an incentive match to SNAP/EBT shoppers at one of its farmers markets;

WHEREAS, FRESHFARM's Fresh Match is one of the most important healthy food access programs in the city, and in 2021 DC residents spent more than half a million dollars in nutrition benefits and incentive dollars at Washington, DC, markets;

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WHEREAS, FRESHFARM's Pop Up Food Hub, a hyperlocal food distribution model, supplies locally grown food at wholesale prices to 62 community-based organizations serving high-need populations, including early childhood education centers, senior centers, and community health clinics in Washington, DC;

WHEREAS, FRESHFARM's Pop Up Food Hub delivered food to more than 7,500 people, delivering more than 22,000 bags of produce and making more than 2,000 direct home deliveries;

WHEREAS, FRESHFARM's FoodPrints program provides experiential food education for thousands of DC Public School students and a standards-based curriculum available for educators everywhere;

WHEREAS, in the 2021-2022 school year, the FRESHFARM FoodPrints program operated in 19 DC Public Schools across 7 wards, reaching 7,000 students; and

WHEREAS, FRESHFARM will host a celebration of its 25th anniversary at the FRESHFARM Dupont Circle Market on July 3, 2022.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the "FRESHFARM 25th Anniversary Recognition Resolution of 2022".

Sec. 2. The Council of the District of Columbia hereby recognizes FRESHFARM on its 25th anniversary for its exceptional contributions to creating a more resilient, equitable, and sustainable food system in Washington, DC.

Sec. 3. This resolution shall take effect immediately.