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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2011

SENATE RESOLUTION

CONGRATULATING THE SOUTH SIDE COMMUNITY LAND TRUST ON THIRTY
YEARS OF SUPPORTING AND ENERGIZING PROVIDENCE'S URBAN AGRICULTURE
INITIATIVES

Introduced By: Senator Juan M. Pichardo

Date Introduced: June 21, 2011

Referred To: Recommended for Immediate Consideration

1 WHEREAS, In 1981, the Southside neighborhoods of Providence were characterized by
2 economic and environmental decay. Many homes were being foreclosed upon, city blocks were
3 filled with boarded up houses, and abandoned mills and factories left behind dangerous traces of
4 lead. The founders of Southside Community Land Trust (SCLT) recognized the need for safe,
5 open space to grow food in the neighborhood and saw an opportunity in the low cost of land.
6 They purchased a vacant lot suitable for a shared garden, engaged the support of neighbors, and
7 cleaned up the trash-strewn lot. Within a year, families were growing food together on their new
8 garden plots; and

9 WHEREAS, SCLT has preserved and transformed 55 acres of land into productive,
10 beautiful, and safe gardens and farms in Greater Providence while revitalizing surrounding
11 neighborhoods. The organization has built and sustained over 35 community gardens, has allowed
12 more than 750 low-income families to save money even as they eat healthier food, and has
13 introduced thousands of children to the wonder of growing and eating their own produce; and

14 WHEREAS, Today, the same lot that the founders of SCLT and those first community
15 gardeners transformed is SCLT's City Farm, a productive and inspiring example of bio-intensive,
16 sustainable food growing in the city. Each of SCLT's thirteen community gardens has similar
17 histories of urban neighbors joining together to improve their environment and increase access to
18 healthy food; and

19 WHEREAS, SCLT has created a sense of place in Providence's most needy

1 neighborhoods, where a diversity of nationalities, ages, and incomes flourishes. The organization
2 has grown to serve over 8,500 residents each year through community gardens, youth education
3 programs, workshops, farmland, community events such as the Plant Sale and City Fest, and city-
4 wide urban agriculture initiatives; now, therefore be it

5 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
6 hereby congratulates the Southside Community Land Trust on its thirty years of supporting and
7 energizing Providence’s urban agriculture movement, and we wish them many more years of
8 continued success; and be it further

9 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and he hereby is authorized and directed to
10 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to the Southside Community Land Trust.

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