

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RESOLUTION TO INCREASE FRESH FOOD ACCESS COMES TO EAST CLEVELAND  
CITY COUNCIL

Location: East Cleveland City Hall, 14340 Euclid, East Cleveland, OH 44112

Date/Time: July 20, 2010, 6:30 PM

East Cleveland City Council will take action on a resolution to support healthy, sustainably, and locally grown foods, community gardens and other forms of urban agriculture that increase the production and consumption of fresh produce in the city.

Having less than optimal access to healthy foods, like fresh fruit and vegetables, can negatively impact health outcomes for East Cleveland residents. A growing body of research recognizes that the choices people make are strongly influenced by the choices they have in their neighborhood.

The resolution is a result of the *Growing Green Initiative* in East Cleveland that has coordinated residents, local non-profits and organizations to identify needs and set priorities regarding fresh food access and nutrition. The initiative is the result of a multi-year process aimed at providing healthier choices and reducing chronic disease by improving the physical food landscape of East Cleveland.

“Community gardens promote important access to healthy food choices, encourage physical activity and provide essential opportunities for neighborhood interaction. They can also catalyze economic opportunity. The City of East Cleveland’s declaration of their strong support for the community garden initiative sends an important message, as we all work to create the conditions in which people can be healthy” –as stated by Terry Allan, RS, MPH, Health Commissioner at the Cuyahoga County Board of Health.

The resolution includes developing a set of specific recommendations for supporting greater access to fresh, local foods in East Cleveland through the *Growing Green Initiative* including increasing access to vacant land for urban agriculture.

Successes to date include the development of nine community and school gardens with the support of staff from Ohio State University Extension and Cuyahoga County Board of Health and funding provided through the Ohio Department of Health’s Creating Healthy Communities grant.

Support for this current local food initiative in East Cleveland is provided by many entities including Ohio State University Extension of Cuyahoga County, Cuyahoga County Board of Health, Cuyahoga County Planning Commission, community gardeners, market gardeners, Coit Road Farmers' Market and City Fresh managers, and enthusiastic local-food consumers.

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