

2022 SESSION

INTRODUCED

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 369

Offered March 4, 2022

Commending Hampton Roads Urban Agriculture.

Patron—Price

WHEREAS, the nonprofit organization Hampton Roads Urban Agriculture strives to empower the members of food insecure communities by providing accessible, equitable, and affordable healthy food; and

WHEREAS, Hampton Roads Urban Agriculture was established by Mallenia Renee Foster, a United States Navy veteran, information technology professional, and avid gardener who attended the Sustainable Urban Agriculture Certificate Program at Virginia State University in pursuit of a creative way to enhance the quality of life in her community; and

WHEREAS, with years of experience in project management, recruiting, and motivating volunteers, Mallenia Foster has led countless volunteers, many of whom are fellow veterans, to address a wide variety of challenges in underserved communities throughout Hampton Roads, and Hampton Roads Urban Agriculture is just one of her many successes; and

WHEREAS, in 2020, Hampton Roads Urban Agriculture grew more than 2,200 pounds of produce on a small lot in Newport News; the following year, the organization produced another bountiful harvest, including 835 pounds of sweet potatoes, and opened an onsite farmers' market that accepts Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) payments; and

WHEREAS, in addition to its urban gardening plots, Hampton Roads Urban Agriculture seeks to develop a sustainable community food system through educational programming, including information on healthy eating and lifestyle choices; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend Hampton Roads Urban Agriculture for its work to create self-sufficient, resilient communities by addressing hunger through the creation of urban gardens; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Mallenia Renee Foster, founder and president of Hampton Roads Urban Agriculture, as an expression of the General Assembly's admiration for the organization's achievements.

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