

## A Proclamation

Whereas, Massachusetts is one of the leading states to support urban agriculture in the country; and

Whereas, Urban agriculture beautifies once neglected and blighted areas in cities turning them into productive growing spaces; and

Whereas, Urban farming practitioners contribute to the health and wellbeing of low-to-moderate income communities by providing innovative farmland solutions in Massachusetts; and

Whereas, Massachusetts urban agriculture includes hundreds of community gardens and green spaces which produce crops that feed thousands of families each year; and

Whereas, Massachusetts urban agriculture practitioners partner with rural farmers to ensure many varieties of produce reach inner city communities, benefiting residents of the Commonwealth; and

Whereas, Urban agriculture provides many opportunities to grow cultural crops for a wide range of our diverse population who come from many different countries; and

Whereas, Massachusetts urban agriculture trains hundreds of youths, enlists thousands of volunteers and contributes hundreds of thousands of dollars to the local economies of gateway cities across the Commonwealth each year,

**N**ow, Therefore, I, Maura T. Healey, Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, do hereby proclaim August 11<sup>th</sup> through 17<sup>th</sup> 2024, to be,

## MASSACHUSETTS URBAN AGRICULTURE WEEK

And urge all residents of the Commonwealth to take cognizance of this event and participate fittingly in its observance.

Given at the Executive Chamber in Boston, this first day of August, in the year two thousand and twenty-four, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the two hundred and forty-eighth.

BY HER EXCELLENCY

MAURA T. HEALEY

GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH

KIMBERLEY DRISCOLL

WILLIAM FRANCIS GALVIN
SECRETARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH