

OFFERED BY COUNCILOR ANDREA J. CAMPBELL, Bok, Arroyo, Baker, Breadon,
Edwards, Essaibi-George, Flaherty, Flynn, Mejia, O'Malley and Wu



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

A RESOLUTION TO DECLARE THE MONTH OF OCTOBER "CO-OPERATIVE MONTH"

- WHEREAS,** The first national "Co-op Month" was celebrated in 1964 by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and has been celebrated every October in the United States of America; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Co-operatives are businesses that are locally owned by everyday people who join together to achieve shared goals, solve a challenge or meet a community need, together; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Co-operatives are recognized in the laws and statutes of Massachusetts as member or user-owned, user-governed and user-benefiting enterprises, giving people a real stake in their economic destiny and the future of their communities; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Co-operatives enable people to meet a wide variety of needs, goals and aspirations including healthy food, employment, farm products, financial services (credit unions), electric, telephone and cable services, and health care, housing, and insurance; *and*
- WHEREAS,** In the United States, there are about 65,000 co-operatives, and one out of every three people is a member of at least one co-op or credit union; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Around the world, there are about 3 million co-operatives, and about 12% of the human population are members of a co-op, and about 10% of the world's population, or around 280 million people, are employed by co-ops; *and*
- WHEREAS,** The Commonwealth of Massachusetts has 6 food co-ops: Franklin Community Co-op in Greenfield and Shelburne, Leverett Village Food Co-op of Leverett, Old Creamery Co-op of Cummington, Quabbin Harvest Food Co-op in Orange, River Valley Co-op in Easthampton & Northampton and Wild Oats Co-op Market in Williamstown; and the state of Massachusetts has 3 start-up initiative food co-ops: Assabet Co-op Market in Maynard, Common Share Food Co-op in Amherst and Dorchester Food Co-op in Dorchester, which collectively are owned by over 21,580 local members, together, employing more than 340 people, generating over \$49 million in annual revenue, and selling more than \$11.5 million in local products; *and*

WHEREAS, Last year, more than 1,315 people in Massachusetts joined our member food co-ops in our Commonwealth, sharing in the ownership of their local co-operative grocery store; *and*

WHEREAS, Co-operatives play a major role in the regional economy of Boston, Massachusetts; *and*

WHEREAS, The co-operative philosophy of working together for the common good has promoted community, well-being and improved the quality of life for citizens of Dorchester and Boston; *and*

WHEREAS, Dorchester Food Co-op is joining with other members of the Neighboring Food Co-op Association in endorsing the Co-op Month 2021 theme established by the National Co-operative Business Association / CLUSA International, as “*BUILD BACK FOR IMPACT,*” emphasizing the manner in which co-operative enterprises are helping our communities rebuild from the pandemic in a more inclusive, resilient and sustainable manner; *and*

WHEREAS, Dorchester Food Co-op’s mission is to challenge the traditional food system by building a community and worker owned asset that nourishes, employs and reinvests in the local community; *and*

WHEREAS, Dorchester Food Co-op has over 1060 household member-owners and welcomes everyone to join this food justice movement of building a food co-op and café in the Bowdoin-Geneva Neighborhood, to collectively create a local food hub with quality public space to help enhance the health and well-being of everyone, not just Dorchester residents, because healthy food is a basic human right for all not the privileged few; ***NOW, THEREFORE BE IT***

RESOLVED: That the Boston City Council, declares the month of October “Co-operative Month”.

Filed on: October 1, 2021