



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE PROPOSED RELOCATION OF THE HERTER COMMUNITY GARDEN

WHEREAS, Located along the banks of the Charles River in Allston-Brighton's 60-acre Christian A. Herter Park, the Herter Community Garden was founded in 1976 and has served as a vital resource and gathering space for local community members for over 45 years; *and*

WHEREAS, The Herter Community Garden has provided crucial access to organic gardening space for a multigenerational community that includes older adults, immigrants, and residents of color from surrounding neighborhoods who rely on the Garden for food security, sociability, and support networks; *and*

WHEREAS, The success of the Herter Community Garden has resulted in great demand for space, as evidenced by the four-year waitlist for one of the Garden's 70 plots; *and*

WHEREAS, On September 29, 2021, the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) announced its intent to remove and relocate the Herter Community Garden from its current site in order to consolidate Herter Park's existing gardens; *and*

WHEREAS, Relocation of the Garden has been deemed infeasible by gardeners; removal of the Garden will result in the loss of 45 years of community labor and organic soil enrichment, and the site proposed for Garden's relocation is poorly suited for cultivation; *and*

WHEREAS, In opposition to the DCR's plans, a resident-initiated petition that supports the retention of Herter Community Garden in its current location has garnered over 2,300 signatures; *and*

WHEREAS, The removal and relocation of the Herter Community Garden will negatively impact those community members for whom the Garden is an essential resource;
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED: That the Boston City Council stands with Herter Community Gardeners and expresses its strong opposition to the DCR's plan to remove or otherwise relocate the Herter Community Garden; **AND BE IT FURTHER**

RESOLVED: That the Boston City Council urges the DCR to both retain Herter Community Garden in its current location and work with stakeholders to determine how best to support the Garden's future.