

November 28, 2023

Letter of Support for the proposed Fairview Community Gardens**To: Director Michael Braniff**

Anchorage Soil and Water Conservation District supports the efforts of Anchor Gardens and the Fairview Community Council to encourage food security in our Municipality and to build spaces where residents can glean the benefits of gardening for their families and community. Space to garden is extremely limited in Anchorage, particularly in many of the underserved communities. As you may know, we import 95% of our food, and our organization believes it is of the utmost importance that Anchorage improves its food security.

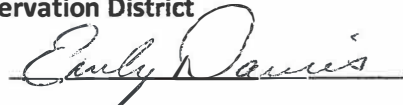
Members of the Fairview Community Council have developed designs and acquired funding for converting two vacant lots in the 1300 block of Ingra Street into Community Gardens. The lots are owned by DOT&PF, and the agency will allow gardening there subject to a signed MOA with the Municipality of Anchorage. We highly recommend that the Municipality move forward with signing an MOA so that this project can proceed as soon as possible.

Anchor Gardens has demonstrated that they are capable of developing beautiful, sustainable, and productive community gardens. Their volunteers put their heart and souls into the work, and their efforts make this community a better place. It is a shame that administrative hurdles are holding back this project from benefiting an underserved community in Anchorage and improving our food security. Anchorage Soil and Water Conservation District urges you to address this matter as soon as feasibly possible, to expedite the project and allow our amazing local volunteers to do what they do best – build gardens and community!

Sincerely,

Urban Agriculture Committee, Anchorage Soil and Water Conservation District

Jessica Sharp, District Manager



Emily Davies, Board Supervisor



Steve Gerlek, Board Supervisor



Hans Thompson, Board Supervisor



Melody Price, Committee Volunteer