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JOHN V. HURD, CHAIR
JOSEPH A. CURRO, JR., VICE CHAIR
DIANE M. MAHON
STEPHEN W. DECOURCEY
LENARD T. DIGGINS



730 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE
TELEPHONE
781-316-3020
781-316-3029 FAX

TOWN OF ARLINGTON MASSACHUSETTS 02476-4908

WHEREAS: Feeding America has designated September as Hunger Action Month and September 10 as Hunger Action Day to raise awareness about hunger and inspire neighbors to take action; and

WHEREAS: In Arlington, an estimated 4,530 people, roughly 10% of the total population, are at risk for food insecurity; and

WHEREAS: The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated the issue of food insecurity throughout the region; and

WHEREAS: Before the pandemic, approximately 1 in 13 residents of Eastern Massachusetts experienced food insecurity; in 2020, 1 in 8 residents of Eastern Massachusetts are projected to experience food insecurity; child food insecurity is projected to rise at a greater rate, with one in six children now at risk to experience hunger; and

WHEREAS: The Town of Arlington recognizes that Arlington EATS, Arlington Council on Aging, Food Link, and Arlington Public Schools have worked in partnership to address food insecurity in this community and acknowledges that they have increased services dramatically since the onset of the pandemic; and

WHEREAS: The number of neighbors served by Arlington EATS has increased 60%; EATS now distributes approximately 9,000 pounds of food and makes 220-250 deliveries per week; and

WHEREAS: Food Link has collected 90,000 pounds of food (twice the usual amount), provided the equivalent of 75,000 meals to those in need, and distributed food to 15 new community partners; and

WHEREAS: Arlington Council on Aging has acted as a communication hub to connect all residents to food resources and has undertaken focused outreach to Arlington seniors; and

WHEREAS: Since April, Arlington Public Schools has been providing weekly deliveries of free breakfasts and lunches to children and teens facing food insecurity in Arlington; APS deliveries currently serve approximately 220 children and teens per week.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of Arlington encourages any resident in need of food to call the Arlington Food Hotline at (781) 316-3400 or visit arlingtoneats.org; and

RESOLVED, that the Town of Arlington encourages residents to support efforts to alleviate food insecurity by volunteering and donating money or food when they are able; and

RESOLVED, that September 10, 2020 shall be proclaimed as Hunger Action Day in Arlington, and that all residents are encouraged to take cognizance of this event and participate fittingly in its observance.

_____	SELECT BOARD
_____	OF THE
_____	TOWN
_____	OF
_____	ARLINGTON

A true record.

ATTEST:

By: _____
Board Administrator