

## OFFICE OF THE SELECT BOARD

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### TOWN OF ARLINGTON MASSACHUSETTS 02476-4908

**WHEREAS:** Feeding America has designated September as Hunger Action Month and September 23 as Hunger Action Day to raise awareness about hunger and inspire neighbors to take action; and

**WHEREAS:** In 2021, the rate of food insecurity among Massachusetts adults was 32% and the rate among Massachusetts households with children was 40%; and

**WHEREAS:** Inequities in access to food remain prevalent; in Massachusetts in 2021, 53% of Black adults, 61% of Latinx adults, and 51% of LGBTQ+ adults experienced food insecurity; and

**WHEREAS:** In Arlington, an estimated 3,940 people, roughly 1 in 11 residents, are at risk for food insecurity; and

**WHEREAS:** The Town of Arlington recognizes that Arlington EATS, Arlington Council on Aging, Food Link, and Arlington Public Schools work in partnership to address food insecurity in this community; and

**WHEREAS:** The COVID-19 pandemic and its economic ramifications have exacerbated food insecurity across the Commonwealth and put tremendous stress on the emergency food assistance system; and

**WHEREAS:** Arlington EATS is serving more neighbors than ever; before the pandemic, EATS served an average of 171 households each week at the Market; after the onset of the pandemic, the average number of households served by EATS each week rose to 230 — a 35% increase that held through 2021; from January through July 2022, that number rose further — to an average of 261 households per week; and

**WHEREAS:** In 2021, Food Link collected 1.4 million pounds of food — the equivalent of 1.2 million meals — and distributed it to 84 social service agencies serving 75,000 individuals facing food insecurity; and

**WHEREAS:** The Arlington Council on Aging (COA) frequently refers older residents to EATS Market and the EATS home delivery program; in the past year, the COA has used their fully accessible vans to provide 364 free rides to Arlington EATS Market; and

**WHEREAS:** The Greater Boston Food Bank distributes over 100 million pounds of food a year in Eastern Massachusetts and is a critical resource for all of its community partners — including Arlington EATS.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Town of Arlington encourages any resident in need of food to call Arlington EATS at (339) 707-6761 or visit [arlingtoneats.org](http://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 23, 2022 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.

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**SELECT BOARD  
OF THE  
TOWN  
OF  
ARLINGTON**

A true record.  
ATTEST:

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Board Administrator