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PROCLAMATION

- WHEREAS:** Hunger and poverty are issues of grave concern in the United States, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and Arlington; and
- WHEREAS:** Inflation and disruptions to food supply chains have exacerbated food insecurity; and
- WHEREAS:** Inequities in access to food remain prevalent, with rates of food insecurity in the Commonwealth significantly higher than average in Black, Hispanic, and LGBTQ+ households; 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:** Arlington EATS is serving more neighbors than ever; from December 2022–June 2023, the Market served 346 households each week compared with 249 a year earlier — a 39% increase; and
- WHEREAS:** The Arlington Council on Aging (COA) acts as the transportation partner for Arlington EATS, providing 206 rides to the Market per month; and
- WHEREAS:** In 2022, Food Link collected 1.2 million pounds of food — the equivalent of one million meals — and distributed it to 90 social service agencies throughout 47 communities in Greater Boston; 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 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; 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 15, 2023 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.

Sources: Arlington EATS, Food Link, the Arlington Council on Aging, and the Greater Boston Food Bank's [2023 Opportunities for Food Equity & Access in Massachusetts Report](#)

_____ **SELECT BOARD**

_____ **OF THE**
_____ **TOWN**
_____ **OF**
_____ **ARLINGTON**

A true record.

ATTEST:

By: _____
Board Administrator