

CHATHAM COUNTY COMMISSIONERS Walter Petty, Chairman Brian Bock, Vice Chairman Mike Cross Jim Elza Pam Stewart

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Resolution of the Chatham County Board of Commissioners

SUPPORTING THE FORMATION OF A CHATHAM COMMUNITY FOOD COUNCIL

WHEREAS, several county departments, nonprofits, farm-related representatives and others interested in strengthening the community's food system have been working as a task force for several months to explore the benefits of forming a Chatham Community Food Council as a community-based entity; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of a Chatham Community Food Council is to identify and strengthen the connections among all members of the food system, including farmers, producers, distributors, vendors, educators, policymakers, community organizations, agencies and consumers; and

WHEREAS, a strong community food system maximizes the potential of its local food resources to enhance community wealth and health, which supports the priority goal of the Board of Commissioners to "achieve a prosperous, thriving community"; and

WHEREAS, the Chatham Community Food Council will be a community-based organization rather than a county entity, with 12 to 15 members representing a cross-section of the community and major stakeholders in the local food system; and

WHEREAS, the Chatham Community Food Council will need in-kind support from Chatham County Government, including:

- involvement of staff from key departments, with the required approval of department heads
- the use of county facilities for meeting space, when space is available
- two appointments by the Board of Commissioners to the Food Council to help guide its direction; and

WHEREAS, the Chatham Community Food Council seeks the opportunity to present an annual report to the Board of Commissioners that will include a status report and possible policy recommendations for consideration by the Board of Commissioners.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Chatham County Board of Commissioners supports the formation of a Chatham Community Food Council as described above and in its charter as a community-based entity.

Adopted the 19th Day of May of 2014.

Walter Petty, Chairman

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