

## MEMBER'S RESOLUTION

<b>Meeting/Date</b>	<b>COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE (2) – MAY 20, 2020</b>
<b>Title:</b>	<b>Sovereignty Garden Pilot Program</b>
<b>Submitted by:</b>	<b>Councillor Sandra Racco – Ward 4</b>

**Whereas**, the City of Vaughan approved Green Directions Vaughan, the City's community sustainability plan, in December 2019; and

**Whereas**, Green Directions Vaughan promotes the improvement of community well-being through the support of local food, the Agricultural System and the Agri-Food Network; and

**Whereas**, the COVID-19 pandemic will cause a rise in food insecurity due to the economic challenges that the pandemic has also caused; and

**Whereas**, on April 25, 2020 the province of Ontario re-opened community gardens and declared them an "essential source of fresh food" for people, including those who are facing food insecurity, during the COVID-19 pandemic; and

**Whereas**, The Transformation Initiative proposed a six-month pilot project (May 2020 to October 2020) to address the following objectives:

1. To provide immediate food security for the underserved community in Vaughan through collective community action and strategic partnership;
2. To empower communities by fostering a culture of resiliency through urban agriculture;
3. To demonstrate the case for a transformative and resilient food system through local, sustainable and decentralized production and distribution; and

**Whereas**, the intent of the Sovereignty Garden pilot program is to encourage private property owners in Vaughan to grow fresh produce and provide the produce to local food banks and other local food organizations; and

**Whereas**, the proposed role of the City is to provide services in-kind to assist with project endorsement, communications and marketing, sponsorship and corporate engagement and supporting the collection and distribution of produce; and

**Whereas**, The Transformation Initiative was founded in 2020 to act as an industry catalyst to transform markets and economy and to bring people together collaboratively to create sustainability solutions; and

**Whereas**, the proposed role of The Transformation Initiative is project management, marketing and outreach, tracking participation and providing communication support; and

**Whereas**, the full scope of the pilot program, including City responsibilities, has not yet been determined.

**It is therefore recommended:**

1. That the Sovereignty Garden pilot program be endorsed in principle; and
2. That City Staff work with Transformation Initiative to determine the scope and logistics of the pilot program and report back to Mayor and Members of Council on Staff's

**recommendation on whether to proceed with a pilot; and**

**3. That City Staff provide a report to Council with consideration of the viability and sustainability of this program in future years should the pilot program be undertaken in 2020.**

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor Sandra Racco  
Councillor, Ward 4 (Concord/Thornhill North)

**Attachment**

1. Sovereignty Gardens Overview Proposal