



Date 04/27/2021

Michael Carter Jr., Director  
Carter Farms / Africulture  
Unionville, VA 22567

Dear Economic Development Authority,

I am expressing not just our support but our desired partnership with Downtown Greens on the acquisition and agricultural vocational development of the property adjacent to Braehead Farms. Carter Farms will provide technical assistance and training and Africulture, the 501c3 arm of Carter Farms will provide vocational and agricultural youth to young adult curriculum for the vocational workforce development of this land. It's critical that Fredericksburg retain the last remaining lot of agricultural land in the city. Vocational education, centered around agriculture is needed to develop a niche young adult centered workforce between the ages of 16-25.

Carter Farms and Africulture will assist Downtown Greens in creating an agricultural centered training center that will focus on the cultivation of this crop and many other specialty crops and vegetables, that will bring in revenue for the project. We seek to train in organic and biological cultivation, forest and pasture management, agronomy, pest and wildlife management, security, logistics, plumbing (irrigation outdoor and indoor for the farm), marketing (social media and packaging), accounting, finance, technical writing, visual arts, agritourism and human resource management.

Carter Farms will also set up a demonstration area of its Africulture tour, highlighting the contributions of plants and people of African descent and we will include plants and people of Indigenous, Latin American, and Asian descent to agriculture. These tours serve as an educational foundation to young people and adults that challenge the narrative and negative stereotypes of various ethnic and racial groups in agriculture. Agriculture and our relationship to it is the foundation for anti-blackness sentiment in many cultures around the world, that lead to the implicit and explicit cultural bias of people of darker skin.

Carter Farms relationships in agriculture around the world, will assist in providing a cross cultural more balanced educational experience, where our participants will learn about and with other cultures and the interdisciplinary aspects of agriculture and how it is the foundation for healthy communities.

The partnership will focus on creating a happiness quotient in addition to production, that creates environments that challenge and heal PTSD for military veterans as well as cultural discriminations, child and relationship abuse and addiction.

Agriculture has caused a lot of trauma in the African American community, and the Fredericksburg area is not exempt. Agriculture shared in the right cultural and dietary context can and will also serve as a healer, that provides peace, comfort, and can eliminate the food deserts in communities like Mayfield and Brag Hill.



We desire to address and one day solve the oldest problem in America, with the oldest profession in the world, agriculture.

We humbly ask that this proposal from Downtown Greens be accepted or at least considered, as maintaining one of the last green spaces in Fredericksburg should be of more value than adding another industrial park. The impact on the lives of our young people and creating an environment and culture to challenge systemic and cultural racism and discrimination will not be achieved by leveling and tarring a vibrant greenspace and forest.

Thank you for your consideration and please see the extinction level event document attached in addition to this letter. Please allow us to assist in building a cultural and agricultural shield of young people, at the most critical age of 16-25, to the area. This land and project will not only grow vegetables but grow and raise opportunities and people.

Let's Grow.

In servitude to my culture, my people, my ancestors and my heritage

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