

**AFRICAN AMERICAN MAYORS ASSOCIATION, INC.**

a District of Columbia nonprofit corporation

**RESOLUTION ADOPTED AT MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**February 11, 2015**

**Resolution in Support of the Development of Urban Green Spaces and Gardens**

WHEREAS, the environmental and social benefits of green spaces and gardens have long been known and academic research continues to advance our understanding of the important effects that greenery has upon our environment, our society, and personal wellness;

WHEREAS, some of the environmental benefits of green spaces include: preventing soil erosion and improving the soil, absorbing rainwater, reducing glare and noise, cleaning the air, cooling the environment, and providing wildlife habitat;

WHEREAS, green spaces and gardens also provide other types of benefits such as improved mental cognition, stress and anxiety reduction, faster recovery from surgery, stronger interpersonal relationships and increased life expectancy, along with giving our nation's children a place to play and enjoy the outdoors;

WHEREAS, gardening also provides many benefits to adults and children by improving their health and wellbeing. Children who grow their own vegetables and eat more vegetables have a healthier overall diet. These opportunities are especially helpful in urban environments, which may lack access to fresh produce and lack of nutritional alternatives. Further, children who participate in gardening at school, such as in the school garden, learn the importance of a nutritional diet and develop life-long skills such as leadership and decision making. These school garden participants also demonstrate enhanced academic achievement and improved self-esteem and social behavior;

WHEREAS, urban gardens and green spaces provide opportunities for urban revitalization in our nation's cities and can assist in some of our country's challenges such as stormwater management and pollinator gardens; and

WHEREAS, it is deemed to be in the best interests of the **African American Mayors Association, Inc.** (the "Corporation" or "AAMA") to support such development of urban green spaces and gardens.

NOW THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY

RESOLVED, that the Corporation supports the need for urban green spaces and gardens for the betterment of all citizens and encourages all mayors who are members of the Corporation to support the establishment of these green spaces and gardens through the promotion of policies and practices that enhance such efforts, participation in related

activities and provide for the long-term sustainability of such important outlets for our nation's citizens.