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Steven Peck
Green Roofs for Healthy Cities

October 17, 2013

Dear Members of the Parks and Environment Committee,

Green Roofs for Healthy Cities would like to express its strong support for the recommendations found in Item PE 23.1 – Toronto Agriculture Program.

Green Roofs for Healthy Cities' mission is to increase the awareness of the economic, social and environmental benefits of green roofs and green walls, and other forms of living architecture through education, advocacy, professional development and celebrations of excellence. We recognize the importance of urban agriculture in creating a vibrant, economically sound and environmentally responsible city.

Throughout North America, entrepreneurs are beginning to seize the opportunity of growing food in cities, on roofs. The technology to allow this currently exists. The market for locally grown produce is strong. Job creation occurs, the economy is strengthened and cities prosper.

We're heartened to see that the City of Toronto, as shown in the *Toronto Agriculture Program* report, understands the potential of urban agriculture. While the inventory of urban agriculture activities shows an impressive array of ways that many city departments currently support urban agriculture, it can be difficult to for businesses and community groups to know who to contact. Opportunities to forge partnerships and support engaged citizens may be lost.

How urban agriculture is coordinated in the City is a key question. The payoff for the city of having an Agriculture Program will be better coordination and use of resources, better ability to leverage support from other sectors, while simultaneously improving the environmental, economic and social health of the city.

Thank you for your consideration,



Steven Peck

Steven W. Peck, GRP, HASLA
Founder and President, Green Roofs for Healthy Cities