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4/7/14 Proclamation for 2014 Veg Week

PROCLAMATION
Ann Arbor Veg Week
April 21-27th, 2014

WHEREAS, the City of Ann Arbor is dedicated to the preservation of the environment and natural resources; and

WHEREAS, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization recognized in 2006 that livestock agriculture is "one of the most significant contributors to today's most serious environmental problems;" and

WHEREAS, recent studies and reports have demonstrated that we can now lower our carbon footprint on the planet by simply cutting down on the animal products that we eat; and

WHEREAS, the American Dietetic Association recognizes that a plant based diet decreases our risk of various ailments, including heart disease, high blood pressure, diabetes, obesity and various cancers; and

WHEREAS, nearly 10 billion birds, pigs, and cows are slaughtered for food each year in the U.S., most of whom live on massive factory farms that cause tremendous animal suffering as well as environmental destruction; and

WHEREAS, Farmer's markets that have been established throughout Ann Arbor and elsewhere provide healthy, locally grown organic fruits & vegetables for those who seek healthy food choices; and

WHEREAS, several of Ann Arbor businesses are participating in and support Ann Arbor Veg Week including Nicola's Books, The Lunch Room, Ann Arbor District Library, Humane Society of Huron Valley, Main Street Area Association, A2 Fitness Professionals, and Current Publications, in addition to 20 plus restaurants that will be offering vegan special menu items throughout the week.

NOW THEREFORE, I, John Hieftje, Mayor of Ann Arbor do hereby proclaim April 21-27, 2014, as Ann Arbor Veg Week, and encourage residents to participate in choosing plant-based foods as a way to protect their health, the planet and animals.

I hereby set my hand and seal
This 21st day of April, 2014

John Hieftje, Mayor