August 12, 2016

Board of Commissioners
Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles
2600 Wilshire Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90057

**Re: Incorporating a Healthy Food Growing Policy in 2017 Draft Agency Plan**

Dear Board of Commissioners:

We, the over xxx undersigned organizations and individuals, submit this letter as official public comment for the Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles 2017 Draft Agency Plan. Under the leadership of Mayor Garcetti the City of LA is making significant strides in addressing health equity and food access, most notably by expanding land access for urban gardening and neighborhood-based food growing projects. HACLA has a central role to play in this growing movement by supporting and protecting residents to grow food within its properties.

We believe a healthy food growing policy should include but not limited to:

1. Creating guidelines for edible plants in front and backyard gardens;
2. Encouraging water efficient measures and other sustainable urban garden practices; and
3. Creating new guidelines and maintenance procedures for the expansion of onsite community gardens.

Food growing and urban gardening is a vital community benefit. Developing such a policy will improve the overall mental, physical and spiritual wellbeing of residents, address neighborhood nutritional needs by increasing access to fruits and vegetables, and will build community through visually beautiful green space and gardens.

We look forward to developing this policy with each of you in the coming year.

Respectfully,

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