

Dear Denver Planning Board,

I am writing about the hearing for the urban garden at 850 Kalamath St. I strongly oppose any movement to ban the existence of the garden. I live just a few blocks away from the garden and

it is wonderful to be able to walk to a place that grows and sells food in my neighborhood. It is a great part of our community. In addition to providing the neighborhood with fresh vegetables on a pay what you can basis, the garden is a great community space. I volunteered my time there one morning to help with stringing up green beans. Through this experience I also learned valuable information about growing vegetables in my own garden. While this was an informal transfer of knowledge, this demonstrates why this garden should be allowed to exist. It provides a space for people to come together and learn from each other. I've also taken a formal class about beekeeping at the garden location. I had looked at other beekeeping classes in the past, but they have always been too far away and too expensive for me to attend. It is amazing to have a space like this in my very own neighborhood.

Sincerely,

Heidi Blocker

To Whom It May Concern,

This is a letter concerning Gabrielle's Garden on 850 Kalamath st. I understand that their ability to operate their farm and sell veggies to a neighborhood that desperately needs fresh food is up for a hearing today. I am writing to ask that you allow them to operate until the land sells because of how much they bring to us all by having the garden there. Not only are they changing a previously arid, sad patch of land into a garden thriving with abundance and fresh food, but they are also providing a "pay what you can" stand where people can pay what they can afford for fresh vegetables their family might not otherwise be able to eat. Everywhere around this stand and the their numerous volunteer who work and educate people about the garden the city bustles on, but here they create a sense of community. Events, tours, and yoga classes are just another part of the work they do to bring people together and get them talking about vegetables. So please, let them stay where they are and continue to teach us all.

Thank you for your time,

Sincerely,

Kassia Koukari

Re: 850 Kalamath

The modern human has progressively become more and more complex, to the point that many of the most basic and fundamental requirements for a full, healthy life have been clouded and replaced with often trivial and excessive luxuries, throwing the general paradigm out of balance. One of the most primary of these requirements is the need for a solid, healthful diet covering the full spectrum of what is necessary for the body to function at its best. Vegetables free from harmful pesticides and genetic modification are among the most simple and straightforward foods, yet arguably the most important piece of a quality diet.

And so the paradox arises...

With the prices of organic foods as high as they are, the uninformed middle class American family automatically reaches for the cheaper, generic vegetables which have been unnaturally and unhealthily manipulated, often for the sake of making them appear physically uniform and presentable. Why is it that we must pay extra for the organic vegetable that is untouched and in its natural state, and pay less for what is essentially a mutant that has been tainted with what science has openly shown to be a deadly poison? Is it because the mutant vegetables are less costly to produce and more plentiful? Yes. But wait a second - why are we consuming chemical mutant vegetables in the first place? This concept is multiplied and taken even further when considering hard working low income families, who will purchase and consume that which is most readily available and affordable, which can entirely exclude vegetables leaving only the most nutrition-less, unnatural and harmful foods available. Why does this happen? It happens because big business and genuine human spirit do not go hand in hand. At all.

So what do we do?

We take it into our own hands to provide our community (first) and ourselves (last) with what we know to be pure, fair, progressive and ultimately loving. Urbiculture Community Farms does this to a 'T' by running multiple large-scale organic gardens in and around the city of Denver, Colorado. Out of many, one reason for their taking up such a task is to provide low-income families with access to organic vegetables on a pay-what-you-can basis, meaning the buyer can choose to pay as much or as little as they can afford, even to the point of bringing home vegetables at no cost. Of course, the bounty is available to people of all income levels, and this subtly allows the hopeful possibility of even the tiniest increase in awareness of the universality of all humans everywhere, regardless of financial status. Metaphorically speaking, it's a seed planted that can only lead to growth, if cultivated.

Although we will persevere and remain positive under all conditions, one less chunk of goodness (a thriving urban farm in this case), and we will have taken one small step backward from the prospect of an all-inclusive understanding and sense of compassion spanning the globe.

I humbly ask that you take these ideas to heart not by simply reading and understanding them as an external, law-based issue, but by contemplating the ways in which they tie into YOUR personal experience as a resident of planet Earth. I must express the deepest appreciation for even considering the continuation of something good and dear to many of us.

If the reader of this letter is unfamiliar with the "mutant vegetables" I have mentioned, no matter how skeptical you may be, I urge you out of real compassion to research and learn with an open mind.

*Connor Black
Santa Fe Art District*

To whom it may concern,

Williams, Gretchen - City Council

From: Montero, Judy H. - City Council District #9
Sent: Monday, November 18, 2013 10:18 AM
To: 'alyson.crabtree@gmail.com'; 'candice@urbiculturecommunityfarms.org'; Williams, Gretchen - City Council; Miguel, Nola J - City Council Operations
Subject: Re: For tonight's City Council meeting: In support of Gabrielle's Garden rezoning

Thank you. Come to the public hearing.
Councilwoman Judy H. Montero, District 9

From: Alyson Crabtree [<mailto:alyson.crabtree@gmail.com>]
Sent: Monday, November 18, 2013 10:13 AM
To: Montero, Judy H. - City Council District #9
Cc: Shepherd, Susan K. - City Council District 1; Faatz, Jeanne R. - City Council Dist #2; Nevitt, Chris - City Council Dist #7; Susman, Mary Beth - City Council; Brown, Charlie - City Council District #6; kniechatlarge; Deborah Ortega - Councilwoman At Large; Aldus.brooks@denvergov.org <Aldus.brooks@denvergov.org>; Robb, Jeanne - City Council Dist. #10; Herndon, Christopher J. - City Council District 11; Lopez, Paul D. - City Council Dist #3; Lehmann, Peggy A. - City Council Dist #4
Subject: For tonight's City Council meeting: In support of Gabrielle's Garden rezoning

Tonight, City Council will be deciding on the rezoning needed in order for Gabrielle's Garden (850 Kalamath) to continue as an urban garden.

I am a Lincoln Park neighbor and appreciate what Gabrielle's Garden brings to the neighborhood in terms of its beauty, its ability to draw people together, and making one of Lincoln Park's identifying qualities its spirit of generosity.

Please change the zoning to General Use (G-MU-3) so that the garden can stay.

Kind regards,
Alyson Crabtree
1314 Lipan

Williams, Gretchen - City Council

From: Montero, Judy H. - City Council District #9
Sent: Monday, November 18, 2013 10:11 AM
To: Williams, Gretchen - City Council; Miguel, Nola J - City Council Operations
Subject: Fw: Rezoning to Permit Gabrielle's Garden to Continue

For file.

Councilwoman Judy H. Montero, District 9

----- Original Message -----

From: Stephen G. Cook [<mailto:earthinmind@toad.net>]
Sent: Monday, November 18, 2013 09:40 AM
To: Montero, Judy H. - City Council District #9
Subject: Re: Rezoning to Permit Gabrielle's Garden to Continue

Dear Representative Montero,

I write in support of the rezoning of the parcel at 850 Kalamath to allow Gabrielle's Garden to continue in operation.

What a wonderful addition to the neighborhood this garden has been.

It is a minor stroke of genius if you ask me. Not only has the garden provided a ready source of food, it has become a meeting and performance space. I especially like to see the smiles on the faces of local kids on Saturday mornings! They are learning good nutrition at an early age!

Thank you for all you do.

Best regards,

Steve Cook

846 Fox St.

720-635-1536

To Whom it May Concern:

This local urban garden is the best thing that has happened to the Art District Area. On every corner you can find fast food and gas stations that offer \$1 burgers and fries for our kids. Before this garden, that's all the people of the community could afford. Gabrielle's Garden offers fresh food grown in the ground with loving hands for only a donation. It provides nourishment for the kids, adults and older adults who desperately need other inexpensive options for food. Please allow Gabrielle's Garden to continue growing in their current location. Not many people can say they have a "farmers market" just around the corner, but I can! It provides so much good food for so many people.

Thank you for your time,

Ricki Seiy

Denver Planning Board,

I am writing in regards to the hearing on zoning for the farm at 850 Kalamath and its continued existence. I would like to strongly state my support for the farm as well as my opposition to any decision that would require its removal. I live a few blocks away and value its existence in my neighborhood and its contributions to my quality of life. It does a wonderful job of bringing together differing elements of the community. It is also an excellent source of fresh produce and is a regular destination in my weekly shopping.

On a recent Saturday while shopping there I met hipster artists, gentrifying condo owners and several Hispanic women who shared tips on what to do with tomatillos. It was a place where all the different elements that keep this end of the city interesting could come together on one of the most uniting things ever, food. It provides a needed community space where all members of the neighborhood can interact and mingle.

I am concerned as well as to what the alternatives to the farm would be. It is built on a part of a vacant lot that has been unable to be sold or developed. The last thing we need in this area is more pavement and empty lots. For as many police cars I see in the neighborhood I feel remarkably safe here. That said, having traffic and activity and people who care about the area around the farm has to be preferable to yet another empty space. Neighborhoods are made more livable and vibrant by the variety of businesses and enterprises undertaken in them. This is already an excellent neighborhood in that regard, the continued existence of the farm can only make it more so.

The last point I would like to bring up is the community focus of the farm and their awareness of the importance of food for everyone. I don't know if you have gone to the farm when they are selling produce. They do it twice a week at times that are convenient even for people who work a lot. They do it comfortably and invitingly. Their prices are reasonable, and they are very clear about how an inability to afford the produce should not stop someone from enjoying it. Their mission says that everyone should have access to good fresh and healthy food, and they follow through with that in person. That goal is something that is important in all parts of any city, but are certainly true in this neighborhood where incomes and financial situations are so varied. It keeps the place we live real and open for everyone, and isn't that the goal? I want to live in a city and place where everyone can live, and live well.

Oh, and last time I was there they were picking winter squash to order. How cool is that?

Thank you for your time, and I hope you will do the right thing and allow this important piece of our community to remain.

Ben



DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT
WELLINGTON WEBB BUILDING
201 WEST COLFAX AVE., DEPT 205
DENVER CO 80202

Attn: Zoning Review Board

September 16, 2013

Re: Support for Zoning Variance for Gabrielle's Garden

Dear Zoning Review Board Members:

We write to request that you approve the zoning variance that permits *Gabrielle's Garden*, at 850 Kalamath Street, Denver, CO 80204, to remain in operation.

From the perspective of the neighborhood organization, the garden is an asset to our community. By providing affordable, locally-grown, organic, and fresh produce, we see a health benefit to the neighborhood. La Alma/Lincoln Park has long struggled with providing healthier options for residents, and Gabrielle's garden has been a valued solution.

We also feel that previously vacant grounds are well maintained, inviting, and much improved.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Stauffer".

David Stauffer

On behalf of La Alma/Lincoln Park Neighborhood Association



www.ArtDistrictonSantaFe.com

September 17, 2013

Attn: Zoning Review Board

Re: Support for Zoning Variance for Gabrielle's Garden at 850 Kalamath Street

Dear Zoning Review Board Members:

I am writing on behalf of Denver's Art District on Santa Fe ("Art District"), a Colorado Certified Creative District in District 9 in Denver, in support of a zoning variance which will allow Gabrielle's Garden to continue operation.

I believe the garden is a great asset to the community as well as the businesses in the neighborhood. It has promoted good health within the community by providing access to fresh, healthy, affordable food. It has fostered relationships within the community by providing a place for neighbors- whether artists, business owners, or low-income families- to gather, work together, and get to know one another. It has developed empowerment within the community by providing education opportunities to individuals of all income levels. It is obvious that this garden is beneficial on all levels for the community.

The garden is also very beneficial to the Art District specifically as it has taken an unattractive, vacant lot and transformed it into a vibrant green space and a place for artists to exhibit their work outdoors- the youth arts program at Arts Street has recently installed a mural, mosaics, and multiple small paintings and local sculptors and installation artists have also contributed their work. As we all know, green spaces is something we are lacking in this neighborhood and this garden provides a breath of fresh air and beauty to all who visit it.

This site is a benefit to the surrounding businesses as well as it draws attention from passing traffic on Kalamath, and adds more value to the neighborhood than an empty dusty dirty lot would. It is obvious from any angle that this garden is greatly beneficial to the community, the Art District, and all surrounding businesses. Thank you for your consideration in creating a variance which would help us keep the garden alive.

Sincerely,

/Jack D. Pappalardo/

Jack D. Pappalardo, Esq.

President, Denver's Art District on Santa Fe

303.807.2674; JackDP@Earthlink.net; www.JackDouglasLaw.com

Williams, Gretchen - City Council

From: Montero, Judy H. - City Council District #9
Sent: Monday, November 18, 2013 2:28 PM
To: Williams, Gretchen - City Council
Subject: Fw: Please Rezone Gabrielle's Garden

Include in information
Councilwoman Judy H. Montero, District 9

From: Liz Wolfert [<mailto:springtigerfarms@gmail.com>]
Sent: Monday, November 18, 2013 02:07 PM
To: Shepherd, Susan K. - City Council District 1; Faatz, Jeanne R. - City Council Dist #2; Lopez, Paul D. - City Council Dist #3; Lehmann, Peggy A. - City Council Dist #4; Susman, Mary Beth - City Council; Brown, Charlie - City Council District #6; Nevitt, Chris - City Council Dist #7; Brooks, Albus - City Council District 8; Montero, Judy H. - City Council District #9; Robb, Jeanne - City Council Dist. #10; Herndon, Christopher J. - City Council District 11; kniechatlarge; Deborah Ortega - Councilwoman At Large
Cc: Candice Orlando <candice@urbiculturecommunityfarms.org>
Subject: Please Rezone Gabrielle's Garden

Dear Members of Council:

During this evening's meeting, please vote in favor of rezoning the parcel at 850 Kalamath St. (known as Gabrielle's Garden) to the proposed General Use (G-MU-3) zoning.

The proposed rezoning of this parcel will allow UrbiCulture Community Farms to continue to be good stewards of this property, cultivating an excellent urban farm that provides organic produce to any Denver citizen, regardless of what they can pay.

For the past two years, Gabrielle's Garden has served the La Alma & Lincoln neighborhoods as a significant community asset and gathering place. Your vote to rezone will be a simple gesture in support of this existing, successful, beneficial land use.

Sincerely,
Liz Wolfert

--
Liz Wolfert
Owner, Spring Tiger Farms
springtigerfarms@gmail.com

My name is Alex and I am writing this letter in support of Gabrielle's Garden at 832 Kalamath St. Denver, CO. I believe Gabrielle's Garden is a necessary staple for encouraging growth, community, and learning about organic, healthy, locally grown produce. It would be a tragedy to re-zone this area of Denver and take away a very important part of this community that many believe is not merely a garden, but a necessity to supporting the local community through affordable, healthy, organic vegetables. The many volunteers and patrons of Gabrielle's Garden wish for nothing more than to beautify this otherwise disgusting and dilapidated stretch of gravel and pavement on Kalamath, while at the same time providing a necessary service for the community, local businesses, and low-income families. Please allow the zoning to remain in such a way as to allow Gabrielle's Garden to remain functional, beautiful, and supportive to Denver. There would be absolutely nothing to gain from taking this away from the community, but there would be so much to lose for so many. I believe that not a single person would want the garden to disappear for any reason; the many volunteers love the work we do, the many customers love the vegetables we produce at an affordable price, and the many businesses around the area love the fact that having a brilliant garden in the heart of the Arts District beautifies and draws in more consumers to this area which would otherwise be left abandoned and destitute, without beauty, an eyesore in the heart of the Arts District on Santa Fe. Keep Gabrielle's Garden and keep the community growing and thriving while also beautifying this wonderful area of Denver!

Thank You,
Alex W.

I strongly encourage the City of Denver zoning board to rule in favor of Gabrielle's Garden - and UrbiCulture Community Farms in Denver. I live in the Lincoln Park-La Alma neighborhood (near Gabrielle's Garden) and am a healthcare and public health professional. In so many ways it benefits our city and neighborhood to have a service/business like this: they provide affordable, healthy food in a neighborhood where many residents struggle financially, it is an example of a true local business, they add a green space to the neighborhood (something of beauty but also a way to regulate some of the intense heat in the city in the summer), and it simply makes our city more vibrant and interesting. This is an all around positive enterprise. Please support measures that allow Gabrielle's Garden to continue and thrive!

Respectfully,
Carolyn Swenson, MSPH, MSN, FNP
1238 Mariposa St.
Denver, 80204
cjswenson57@gmail.com
[303-748-0759](tel:303-748-0759)

Attn: Planning Board

As an artist at 910 Santa Fe Drive, I know the positive impact that Gabrielle's garden has made in our community. We walk just a few short blocks to enter this amazing garden which provides us with fresh produce at reasonable prices and clearly, it is for *all* of us. I can think of no better way to help build community than through a garden. We can all plant, grow, and eat healthily just a bit more because of this delightful piece of land. I eat cucumbers from the garden daily because our amazing chef Jamie, of "MMM Coffee" makes sure to provide them and other tasty vegetables for us. If there is a problem in continuing the garden, I urge that a resolution be made to do whatever it takes to make sure that Gabrielle's continues providing its blessings to us. Gabrielle's Garden is the essence of community - the opposite of a decaying urban scene and breathes fresh air (and food!) into all of us.

Sincerely, Ginny Abblett
910 Santa Fe Drive, #5
Denver, CO 80204
303-913`5222
www.ginnyabblett.com

To whom it may concern:

September 14, 2013.

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

It's 9:15AM any Saturday morning from June to mid-October and where will you find me? At Gabrielle's Garden on Kalamath between 8th and 9th Avenues. What's at Gabrielle's Garden? Unless you have your own backyard garden, it's a neighborhood resource with the freshest organic vegetables around! (Carrots pulled and rinsed while you wait) (When was the last time you munched on a raw carrot that tasted like a carrot?)

Why is Gabrielle's Garden important? Well ... there are several reasons why I consider it important to our community.

It's taken a vacant lot and turned that land into: a thing of living beauty; a source of really good food for neighborhood residents and passersby, as well as shelter residents; an opportunity for the Denver young people who volunteer to plant, care, harvest, and gain hands-on experience with growing a garden and the responsibility that comes with being involved with an on-going project; and, a stimulus for neighbors to see what's possible and an information resource for planning / planting their own garden next year. How better to bring people / community together than create an opportunity for talking / learning?

Gabrielle's Garden is something unique that positively benefits many individuals and families,, in different ways at no or very little cost to the community. I applaud the dedicated efforts of UrbiCulture Community Farms for making good food available to us and promoting a sense of community.

Sincerely,

Bob McCarroll

1222 E. 16th Avenue, #5

Denver, CO 80218