



Resolution No. R-2017-001

**RESOLUTION
SUPPORT FOR THE GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER
FOOD ENTERPRISE CENTER**

WHEREAS, The George Washington Carver Food Enterprise Center committee requests the support for the GWC FEC; and

WHEREAS, across the Northern Piedmont Region, no publicly available, government certified value-added food processing infrastructure exists; and

WHEREAS, local food entrepreneurs across the region are processing in home kitchens for limited product sales, largely at farmer markets, or are shipping outside the region for production; and

WHEREAS, the project plans also include a small-scale laboratory for pretesting to meet FDA requirements, food safety and food preparation training and certification, and shared office space for startup food businesses; and

WHEREAS, up to 40% of perishable crops are left rotting in the fields because the market for imperfect produce on grocery shelves is limited, at best; and

WHEREAS, a market analysis and an engineering site assessment has been completed and a Brownfields funding grant has allowed Culpeper County Government to begin environmental remediation at the Carver School; and

WHEREAS, George Washington Carver Food Enterprise Center is developing a commercial kitchen and food business incubator to occupy 12,100 square feet in the original school building, owned by Culpeper County Government; and

WHEREAS, the two areas of immediate need are development of a business plan, which will guide how development will be staged; and getting the word out to interested users and investors across the region and beyond that this facility is under development and will be available for public use; and

WHEREAS, infrastructure of this magnitude and importance will strengthen our rich agricultural legacy and contribute significantly to an agriculture-based economic engine for Culpeper and the Region;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Council of the Town of Culpeper, Virginia, this 14th day of February, 2017, does hereby endorse the support of the George Washington Carver Food Enterprise Center – and encourage the surrounding localities that will be able to take advantage of this facility to take the necessary steps in making this exciting and mutually beneficial vision a reality

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town of Culpeper will collaborate directly with the Virginia Cooperative Extension during the development and implementation process for the George Washington Carver Food Enterprise Center.

BY ORDER OF COUNCIL OF THE
TOWN OF CULPEPER, VIRGINIA



Michael T. Olinger, Mayor

ATTEST:



Kimberly D. Allen, Town Clerk

MOTION: Ryan

SECOND: Reaves

AYES: Clancey, Olinger, Price, Reaves, Rimeikis, Russell, Ryan, Taylor, Yowell

NAYS: None

Absent from Vote: None

Absent from Meeting: None