



City of Hartford * County of Van Buren * State of Michigan

TO: Mayor Danger and Hartford City Commission

FROM: Nicol Pulliam, City Manager

DATE: December 15, 2025

RE: **LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR HARTFORD LIBRARY COMMUNITY GARDEN GRANT APPLICATION**

ITEM BEFORE THE COMMISSION:

The item before the Commission is to support the City of Hartford's public library grant application for a community garden.

DISCUSSION:

The city manager received a request from the public library to support their grant application to install a community garden. The garden would be located in the fenced area in the southwest corner of the property. The area was the preschool playground. The proposed garden would feature raised beds with ground covered with wood chips, around the exterior and between the beds. The purpose of the community garden would be to grow healthy vegetables for the library's Cooking with Families program and to promote healthy eating habits through locally grown fruits and vegetables that will be free to the community.

The community garden offers a wide range of social, economic, environmental, and health benefits. It will build stronger community connections. Creates a shared, safe gathering space for all ages and encourages civic engagement and volunteerism. Also, it will provide hands-on learning for adults and children about growing food, nutrition, ecology, and sustainability. The economic benefit could lower household grocery costs and create opportunities for adults and children to learn about entrepreneurship.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Hartford City Commission supports the City of Hartford's public library grant application for a community garden.