



October 10, 2023

Chair Dan Garodnick
City Planning Commission
120 Broadway, 3rd Floor
New York, NY 10271

RE: Support for City of Yes for Economic Opportunity

Dear Chair Garodnick,

I am writing on behalf of the Mayor's Office of Urban Agriculture to express our strong support for City of Yes for Economic Opportunity. This common-sense proposal would change zoning citywide to support new and growing small businesses by making it easier to operate and grow a business in New York City, while also addressing zoning barriers that are preventing the growth of urban agriculture businesses and entrepreneurs.

The Mayor's Office of Urban Agriculture (MOUA) is tasked with increasing access to and production of locally grown food, while strengthening climate resiliency, and spurring economic activity throughout the five boroughs. MOUA is particularly supportive of the proposals which will allow light-industrial businesses that process food or manufacture value-added food products to locate in commercial districts, allow enclosed agriculture within commercial districts, and permit rooftop greenhouses on non-residential buildings. We are also pleased that both *City of Yes for Economic Opportunity* and *City of Yes for Carbon Neutrality* are addressing confusing rules for composting by clarifying that small-scale composting can be considered an "accessory use" and that neighborhood-focused recycling facilities can locate in commercial storefronts.

By removing barriers to locating and expanding urban agriculture businesses and activities in New York City, the City of Yes proposal will directly support our efforts to advance environmental justice and food equity, while creating opportunity in the green economy. We look forward to working with our city agency partners on the successful implementation of this important and timely initiative.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Qiana Mickie".

Qiana Mickie
Executive Director
NYC Mayor's Office of Urban Agriculture