Mayoral Proclamation

Maryland VegWeek 2012
April 23 – April 29

WHEREAS, the City of Takoma Park is dedicated to the preservation of the environment and natural resources; and

WHEREAS, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization recognizes that livestock agriculture is “one of the most significant contributors to today’s most serious environmental problems;” and

WHEREAS, recent studies and reports have demonstrated that we can lower our negative impact on the planet simply by cutting down on the animal products we eat; and

WHEREAS, a plant-based diet has been shown to use fewer resources and cause less pollution; and

WHEREAS, the American Dietetic Association recognizes that a vegetarian diet decreases our risk of various ailments, including heart disease, high blood pressure, diabetes, obesity, and various cancers; and

WHEREAS, nearly 10 billion birds, pigs, and cows are slaughtered for food each year in the U.S., most of whom live on massive factory farms that cause tremendous animal suffering as well as environmental destruction; and

WHEREAS, a growing number of people are reducing their meat consumption to protect their health and the environment, as well as to help prevent animal cruelty; and

WHEREAS, the Takoma Park-based nonprofit organization Compassion Over Killing works to expose the cruelties forced upon animals raised for food and encourages vegetarian eating as a way to help build a kinder world; and

WHEREAS, Compassion Over Killing works with area businesses to ensure vegetarian meals are readily available to consumers and also promotes veg-friendly eateries on its website VegDC.com; and

WHEREAS, Maryland representatives Senator Jamie Raskin (D-20) and Delegate Tom Hucker (D-20), and County Councilmember Valerie Ervin are supporting and participating in Maryland VegWeek 2012; and

WHEREAS, several Takoma Park businesses are participating in and supporting Maryland VegWeek 2012, including Middle East Cuisine, Souper Girl, and My Little Bistro.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BRUCE R. WILLIAMS, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND, ON BEHALF OF THE COUNCIL, STAFF, AND RESIDENTS, hereby proclaim April 23 through April 29, 2012, as Maryland VegWeek, and encourage residents to choose vegetarian foods as a way to help protect the planet, their health, and animals and to explore the wide variety of vegetarian cuisine offered in our own community.

FURTHERMORE, I hereby extend our appreciation to all those in the community, including Senator Jamie Raskin, Delegate Tom Hucker, County Councilmember Valerie Ervin, and Compassion Over Killing, for helping organize and promote this week-long celebration.

Dated this 16th day of April, 2012.

Bruce R. Williams
Mayor