

MAYORAL PROCLAMATION

Takoma Park Veg Week 2009 April 24 - April 30

- 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 recognized in 2006 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,** Maryland Senator Jamie Raskin (D-20), a representative of Takoma Park, penned a Green Resolution in the *Takoma Voice* in January 2009, encouraging residents to try vegetarian eating for one week as a way to protect their health and the environment; 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,** 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 promotes veg-friendly eateries on its website VegDC.com; and
- WHEREAS,** several Takoma Park businesses are participating in and support Takoma Park Veg Week, including Middle East Cuisine, Takoma Park-Silver Spring Co-Op, the Falafel Stand, Mark’s Kitchen, and the Takoma Business Center.

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 24 through April 30, 2009, as Takoma Park Veg Week, and encourage residents to participate by choosing 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 community; and

FURTHERMORE, I hereby proclaim our appreciation to all those in the community, including Senator Jamie Raskin and Compassion Over Killing, for helping to organize and promote this week-long celebration.

Dated this 20th day of April, 2009.

Bruce R. Williams
Mayor