

**Petition to the City of Binghamton City Council and Mayor Regarding
the Community Food System Zoning Proposal**

17. Allowing individuals to sell excess production is consistent with the highest ideals and entrepreneurial spirit that is the backbone of our city, our state, and our country;
18. Urban agriculture is promoted and practiced heavily by young people in cities throughout the Northeast, and the rest of the country;
19. The decline in population of the City of Binghamton, owing in part to the flight of young people from the area and sometimes referred to as Brain Drain, is steadily and effectively being counterbalanced by enthusiastic, civic-minded young people remaining and returning to the area with the help of urban agriculture, and the vibrant communities it is helping to create;
20. Supporting this trend in urban agriculture will aid in Retaining Brains, which is clearly in the best interest of the City of Binghamton, as well as the communities in which those young people live;
21. Agricultural activities necessarily bring young people and their more experienced elders together into a symbiotic and time-honored tradition of intergenerational cooperation and collaboration which fosters respect and mutual appreciation;
22. Defining the many beneficial activities mentioned above and implied by community gardening and urban agriculture will allow for their proliferation within the city along a course that respects both individual rights, and the best interests of neighborhoods and communities.

Therefore, the below signed do hereby petition City Council and the Mayor of Binghamton to pass the Community Food System Zoning Amendment Proposal in its entirety, and without further delay.

Name	Signature	Address
Barbara Ruchames	<i>Barbara Ruchames</i>	19 Hursey St. Binghamton
Jack Sperling	<i>[Signature]</i>	80 Riverside Dr. Binghamton