

**PROCLAMATION DESIGNATING AUGUST 4 -10, 2024
AS FARMERS MARKET WEEK AND CELEBRATE
THE 25TH NATIONAL FARMERS MARKET WEEK**

WHEREAS, the vendors at the Abingdon Farmers Market's provide citizens with access to nutritious, local sourced foods, with these markets expanding and evolving to meet the growing demand for a wide variety of agricultural products, and

WHEREAS, farmers markets and other direct agricultural marketing outlets offer crucial infrastructure for distributing farm and value-added products, contributing approximately \$9 billion each year to the U.S. economy, and

WHEREAS, farmers markets play a vital role for small-to-medium, and experienced agricultural producers to market their products, generating revenue that supports family farms and revitalizes rural communities nationwide, and

WHEREAS, the Town Council acknowledges the importance of expanding agricultural marketing opportunities that support and encourage the next generation of farmers and ranchers; stimulate business development and job creation; strengthen community connections through rural and urban linkages, and more; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) emphasizes the value of growing local and regional agricultural market opportunities that enhance farmers' economic viability, improve access to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, and promote the distribution of healthy, locally-grown food by shortening the distance between producers and consumers; and

WHEREAS, farmers markets serve as a hub for community engagement, connecting urban and rural neighborhoods and facilitating the exchange of ideas, support systems, and resources.

NOW, THEREFORE, to recognize the contributions of farmers markets to the citizens and visitors of the Town of Abingdon, I, Amanda Pillion, Mayor, do hereby proclaim the week of August 4-10, 2024, as Farmers Market Week, in conjunction with the observance of the 25th National Farmers Market Week. I encourage all citizens to celebrate farmers markets with appropriate observance and activities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 6th day of August 2024.


Mayor Amanda Pillion

