



LEGISLATIVE MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

FROM: Lisa Morrell, City Manager

REQUESTING DIRECTOR: Joan Junkala-Brown, Community & Economic Development

DATE: May 21, 2020

RE: Land lease of vacant unimproved City-owned surplus real estate located at 2230 Washington Street NE

SUMMARY:

Little Growers Inc., based in Palm Bay, has requested the use of a vacant, unimproved City-owned lot, approximately 0.16 acres located at 2230 Washington Street NE in the Driskell Heights subdivision. Little Growers proposes to use the property as a community garden for a youth-centered urban agriculture project that promotes community food security, sustainability and serve as a gateway to leadership development opportunities for at-risk youth. The program will also serve to improve nutrition and decrease the risk of food insecurity by teaching children lessons on where food comes from, the importance of eating fruits and vegetables and how to grow food through fun, hands-on activities.

Little Growers' community garden program will serve children of low- to moderate-income families between the ages of 5-15 years old who reside within a one-mile radius of the community garden site. Little Growers intends to serve approximately 12 children in its first year of operation, selected through an application review process administered by its advisory board.

The community garden will also serve to provide fresh produce to the community through a membership program. Subsidized memberships will be made available through fundraising efforts such as events, donations, sponsorships and grants.

Little Growers is currently in the process of obtaining a 501(c)3 tax-exempt/charitable organization status and will seek to secure funds through individual donations and grants. The company is comprised of one full-time Executive Director and one part-time Garden Coordinator. Its community partners include Lipscomb Park Association, Evans Center, Inc., Palm Bay Police Department, Melbourne Police Department, The Education Network, Inc. and Youth Keepin It 100 Magazine.

REQUESTING DEPARTMENTS:

Community & Economic Development

FISCAL IMPACT:

The fiscal impact of this item will result in revenue of \$12 annually.

RECOMMENDATION:

Motion to ~~approve/acknowledge/consider etc.~~ >> **authorize the City Manager to execute the public land lease agreement at 2230 Washington Street, NE, with Little Growers Inc., for the use of Youth Community Garden Program.<<**

Attachments: (available upon request)

- 1) Proposal for Little Growers Community Garden
- 2) Lease Agreement for 2230 Washington Street NE