

Staff Report

File #: 16-408**Version:** 1**Date:** 12/12/2016**Item #:** 5.b.

TO: Mayor and City Council**FROM:** Councilor Warren Bednarz, Ward 7**SUBJECT:**

Setting aside City owned property at 4229 Liberty Road South as a Community Garden.

Ward(s): Ward 7

Councilor(s): Councilor Bednarz

Neighborhood(s): Sunnyslope

MOTION:

I move that City Council adopt Resolution No. 2016-52 setting aside the City owned property at 4229 Liberty Road South, tax lot 08W09AB04300, as a community garden, and direct the City Manager to undertake the necessary actions to remove the property's surplus designation.

DISCUSSION:

At its October 20, 2016 meeting, the Sunnyslope Neighborhood Association voted unanimously to request that the City discontinue efforts to market the property at 4229 Liberty Road South and remove the property from the City's surplus list. The Association has approached the City to seek a long-term solution for continued use of the property as a community garden.

In the four years that the garden has been in place, the number of active gardeners and educational and community programs conducted through the garden has increased. The property has become a model for how a community garden can thrive and how a communal effort can build a sense of pride and engagement within a neighborhood. In addition to being a source for harvesting food, the garden has provided opportunities for learning about gardening methods, community service and giving to the less fortunate.

Per City policy, the property has been declared surplus to the City's needs. The policy requires the cost-effective and timely disposal of City-owned surplus property to create a return on investment to the City. The property was acquired through the Streets and Bridges bond funds for a future Liberty Street expansion. The property is no longer needed by Public Works. There is an interested buyer.

The motion provides policy direction to the City Manager to make an exception to City policy to allow

the continued use of the property as a community garden.

Attachments:

1. Resolution No. 2016-52
2. Communication from the Sunnyslope Neighborhood Association

12/01/2016