

RESOLUTION NO. – 2022

WHEREAS, the County, by Resolution No. 223-2000, submitted a proposal to the New York State Commissioner of Agriculture and Markets to establish Westchester County Agricultural District No. 1, which was certified by the New York State Commissioner of Agriculture and Markets and became effective on July 19, 2001 with an eight-year review period; and

WHEREAS, the County, by Resolution No. 161-2010, after conducting a review of the district in accordance with Agricultural Districts Law, submitted a proposal to the New York State Commissioner of Agriculture and Markets to continue the Westchester County Agricultural District No. 1 with modifications including limiting the district to certain municipalities within the county and creating criteria for parcels to be located within the district, which was certified by the New York State Commissioner of Agriculture and Markets and became effective on September 19, 2011; and

WHEREAS, the County, by Resolution No. 70-2017, after conducting a review of the district in accordance with Agricultural Districts Law, submitted a proposal to the New York State Commissioner of Agriculture and Markets to continue the Westchester County Agricultural District No. 1 with the previous modifications including limiting the district to certain municipalities within the county and creating criteria for parcels to be located within the district, which was certified by the New York State Commissioner of Agriculture and Markets and became effective on August 17, 2017; and

WHEREAS, the County, by Act No. 55-2004 in accordance with Section 303-b of New York State Agriculture and Markets Law, established an annual 30-day period in which to receive applications for the inclusion of additional parcels of land within Westchester County Agricultural District No. 1, which was repealed and replaced by Act. No. 95-2017 establishing the 30-day period as the month of March; and

WHEREAS, Westchester County Agricultural District No. 1 is the only certified agricultural district within Westchester County; and

WHEREAS, the Westchester County Board of Legislators has received six applications for inclusion of parcels of land into Westchester County Agricultural District No. 1; and

WHEREAS, the applications were forwarded to the Westchester County Agriculture and Farmland Protection Board (AFPB) for review and report, and the AFPB, after due deliberation and consideration of the conditions of each parcel and the agricultural operations on them or planned for them, determined: (1) whether the parcels consisted primarily of viable agricultural land as defined by New York State Agriculture and Markets Law; (2) whether the existing or proposed agricultural operation serves the public interest by assisting in maintaining a viable agricultural industry; and (3) whether the application met the eligibility requirements and satisfied the evaluation criteria associated with the district as modified during the recertification process; and recommended approval of both of the applications as described in the AFPB report; and

WHEREAS, agricultural land contributes significantly to the quality of life in Westchester County by providing open space, links to our cultural history, vegetative and wildlife habitat, and a local source of fresh food; and

WHEREAS, the protection and enhancement of agricultural land is in furtherance of the County's goals to protect natural and cultural resources, preserve open space and community character, and reduce the environmental impacts associated with development; and

WHEREAS, a duly noticed public hearing was held on _____, at which time local municipalities, the public, and other interested parties were given the opportunity to comment on the proposed addition of parcels to the Agricultural District.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Westchester County Board of Legislators approves the inclusion, subject to the limitations (if any) expressed in the report of the Westchester County Agriculture and Farmland Protection Board, of the following applications for additional parcels of land within the Westchester County Agricultural District No. 1: Application #2022-03, #2022-04 (the 9 Orchard Hill Road parcel only), and #2022-06, which applications are more fully described in the report of the Agriculture and Farmland Protection Board; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Clerk of the Board is directed to forward a copy of this Resolution, along with the report of the Agriculture and Farmland Protection Board and

other required information in support of the applications to the Commissioner of the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets for review and certification.

Dated: 2022
White Plains, New York