

## CITY OF KINGSTON PROCLAMATION

**WHEREAS**, Kingston Emergency Food Collaborative (KEFC) was launched in response to the closure of public schools and the loss of access to the essential food resources they provide to children. The response quickly evolved during the PAUSE and expanded beyond students, to any community member in Kingston that needed food. At the peak of its distribution services last April and May, KEFC delivered 2,974 meals in one day to 1,487 individuals and groceries to 495 households in one week; **and**

**WHEREAS**, even after the first wave of the pandemic subsided, KEFC has continued to provide food deliveries from People's Place, Catholic Charities, and the Everette Hodge Community Center throughout the pandemic. In one year, KEFC has supported 743 households who are homebound by COVID-19 or lack of transportation, by delivering food to 2,077 individuals (1,368 adults and 709 children); **and**

**WHEREAS**, KEFC is primarily volunteer-run, with many community-based organizations also contributing staff time to this effort. More than 500 unique volunteers have helped manage multiple distribution sites, sort and pack food, schedule deliveries, handle a food-request hotline, conduct outreach calls, schedule volunteers, deliver meals and groceries, source ingredients for and provide school recess meal boxes for families, and mobilize rapid meal production and distribution as needed. This equates to 17,393.25 volunteer hours worked since the collaborative's launch through February 28 of this year, totaling \$473,090 in unpaid work; **and**

**WHEREAS**, unequal access to healthy food is more than just a crisis in our current moment; it is a social emergency that requires rethinking how our community lives and works together. The work of KEFC continues in these areas: engaging the community to hear their needs, advocating with the school district to make meals more accessible, and developing plans to support those who do not have access to food.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, Steven T. Noble, Mayor of the City of Kingston, do hereby proclaim March 18<sup>th</sup> 2021 as KINGSTON EMERGENCY FOOD COLLABORATIVE DAY** *in the City of Kingston in recognition of the service of multiple organizations, grassroots organizers, City of Kingston staff, and individual volunteers who came together to remove barriers to food access and ensure that members of our community had food during the statewide pandemic shutdown and who continue to do so..*

*In witness whereof, I hereby set and cause to be affixed the  
Corporate Seal of the City of Kingston*

*March 18th, 2021*



A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Steven T. Noble".

*Steven T. Noble  
Mayor*