CITY OF AUBURN

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

PROCLAMATION

FOOD DAY PROCLAMATION FOR THE CITY OF AUBURN

WHEREAS, the health and well-being of our citizens is of primary concern for the City of Auburn; and

WHEREAS, promoting safer, healthier diets is a critical factor in improving citizens' overall health and quality of life and local organizations such as the St. Mary's Nutrition Center are supporting area residents in learning how to create healthier, locally sourced meals at home; and

WHEREAS, supporting sustainable family farms, farm stands, farmers' markets and local agriculture benefits the local economy and Auburn is home to many including Valley View Farm, Bell Farms, South Auburn Organic Farm, Wallingford's and others in addition to farm stands like the well-known Blackie's and access to nearby markets like the blossoming Bates Mill 5 Farmers' Market in Lewiston; and

WHEREAS, obtaining fair pay and safe conditions for food and farm workers is beneficial for both the producer and consumer so that the food we produce and consume is safe and fair for all and training the farmers of today and tomorrow is a top priority for our community centered on efforts like those of Lewiston-based Lots to Gardens, Portland-based Cultivating Community and the Auburn School Department to connect the science and business planning of agriculture to those residents in our community that aspire to make their living on the land; and

WHEREAS, expanding access to food and reducing hunger is of critical importance to aid those who live in food deserts and efforts led by Good Food Lewiston-Auburn, Auburn-based Good Shepherd Food Bank, and the growing food Back Pack initiative in our locals schools are modeling the way to support our local residents in overcoming this challenge;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jonathan P. LaBonte**,** Mayor of the great City of Auburn, do hereby proclaim Friday, October 24, 2014 as **FOOD DAY** in the City of Auburn.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Seal of the City of Auburn, this 24th day of October, 2013.

Jonathan P. LaBonte, Mayor