

RESOLUTION NO. R01-11 CMS

A RESOLUTION URGING CONSUMER AWARENESS OF FAIR TRADE ISSUES AND ENCOURAGING THE PURCHASE OF FAIR TRADE COFFEE

WHEREAS, in the context of global economy, consumer choices unknowingly affect communities and the environment in all corners of the earth; and

WHEREAS, the City of Oberlin, Ohio is aware of the dire situation of poverty in coffee-producing areas of the world and acknowledges many people are seeking more socially conscious and environmentally responsible ways to conduct their lives which do not degrade people, animals or the environment; and

WHEREAS, most small coffee farmers receive market payments for their harvest which is less than the cost of production, forcing them into a cycle of poverty and debt; and

WHEREAS, intensive coffee farming also leads to environmental problems such as the contamination of air and water supplies through pesticide poisoning, deforestation and the extinction of some bird species through habitat destruction; and

WHEREAS, Fair Trade Certified coffee works to correct these in-balances by guaranteeing stringent international criteria, paying a minimum price per pound, providing much needed credit at fair terms to farmers and providing technical assistance such as help transitioning to organic farmers; and

WHEREAS, Fair Trade Certified coffee encourages the cultivation of coffee under a shade canopy which preserves trees and birds as well as coffee grown under organic conditions and with the profits generated from receiving a fair wage, farmers can invest in community development, health care, education and environmental stewardship.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Oberlin, County of Lorain, State of Ohio, a majority of all members elected thereto concurring:

SECTION 1. That this Council hereby encourages consumer awareness of Fair Trade issues and encourages the purchase of Fair Trade Certified Coffee.

SECTION 2. It is hereby found and determined that all formal actions of this Council concerning or relating to the adoption of this Resolution were adopted in an open meeting of this Council and that all deliberations of this Council and of any of its committees that resulted in such formal actions, were in meetings open to the public in compliance with all legal requirements, including Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

SECTION 3. That this Resolution shall take effect at the earliest date allowed by law.

PASSED: 1st Reading - May 21, 2001 (E)
2nd Reading -
3rd Reading -

ATTEST:



CLERK OF COUNCIL



CHAIR OF COUNCIL

POSTED: May 22, 2001

EFFECTIVE DATE: May 22, 2001