



For Immediate Release

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## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **CAPITAL ROOTS ANNOUNCES FORMAL ACTION TO VOLUNTARILY RECOGNIZE EMPLOYEE UNION**

(Troy, N.Y.) – At its Board meeting on June 30, 2022, the Board of Directors of Capital Roots voted to voluntarily recognize the union of Capital Roots’ staff with SEIU Local 200United, which will form the first collective bargaining unit in the organization's history. In the coming weeks, Capital Roots' management and SEIU Local 200United will begin negotiations to develop a union contract.

"Capital Roots supports and respects the right of staff to collectively organize," said Board Chair Rachel Hye Youn Rupright. "The Board’s decision to voluntarily accept is not only rooted in a strong commitment to Capital Roots’ mission and values, but a demonstration of our shared purpose and affection for the organization and the communities we serve."

“Capital Roots is proud to provide vital services to our constituents, particularly during the difficulties of COVID-19,” said Amy Klein, Chief Executive Officer. “Our staff is critical to our ability to deliver these important programs and to helping us achieve our mission to provide communities with equitable access to fresh food. Along with the Board of Directors and Capital Roots’ management team, I look forward to working with our unionized staff as we continue to grow and operate as an essential resource for our communities.”

For over 47 years, Capital Roots has been working to reduce the impact of poor nutrition on public health in New York's Capital Region by growing community gardens, providing access to fresh food and green spaces, offering nutritional and horticultural education for all ages and coordinating urban greening programs. Under the leadership of its longstanding CEO, Amy Klein, Capital Roots has grown to be one of the region's most impactful not-for-profit organizations promoting environmental wellness and health equity through its food access programs.

To learn more about Capital Roots, visit [www.capitalroots.org](http://www.capitalroots.org).

**About Capital Roots.** Capital Roots is a 47-year-old nonprofit organization that nourishes healthy communities with more than 55 Community Gardens, the Veggie Mobile<sup>®</sup>, Healthy Stores, the Produce Project, Squash Hunger and more. Capital Roots is headquartered at the Urban Grow Center, a regional food hub focused on urban agriculture and produce distribution to four counties, enabling Capital Roots to deliver local food and services to underserved neighborhoods and low-income families. Learn more at [www.capitalroots.org](http://www.capitalroots.org).