



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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STATEMENT

Capital Roots Board of Directors' Statement

(Troy, N.Y.) – The following is a statement from the Capital Roots Board of Directors in response to the union rally that took place Friday, August 5, 2022 at noon.

Capital Roots remains committed to exemplifying a fair and equitable workplace for our valued staff. When we [voluntarily recognized](#) the staff's efforts to unionize last month, we did so with an understanding and expectation that both the nonprofit's counsel and the union would quickly begin negotiating in good faith, and in parallel, both parties would continue to legally perform their duties to ensure the essential day-to-day operations of Capital Roots.

At this time, there have been no bargaining agreements made, and it is premature to elaborate on any specifics, as negotiations are expected to commence in the fall.

The Board of Directors' decision to voluntarily recognize a union of Capital Roots employees remains the policy and intention of the Board and management of Capital Roots. Sadly, we are aware of many factually inaccurate and defamatory allegations being made against CEO Amy Klein and her management team by certain union supporters. We categorically deny them. Management has not acted illegally, and its actions, taken in support of the management of the organization during the formation of this new relationship, have been guided by the organization's principles, our rules of workplace conduct, and law. They have nevertheless been manipulated and contorted into false assertions of unfair practices and retaliation. Those assertions are not true.

We look forward to continuing the conversation with union organizers and fully stand in support of the nonprofit's CEO, Amy Klein, who has been with the organization for twenty-five years and demonstrated utmost leadership and compassion for not only the staff, but also the people the organization serves. We will continue to maintain a positive work environment for all Capital Roots volunteers and staff.

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[®], 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.