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Performance Oversight Testimony
Charles Rominiyi, DC Greens

Thank you Councilmember White and committee members for making space today for community input. My name is Charles Rominiyi and I am the Manager of The Well at Oxon Run, which is a program of DC Greens. We're a local nonprofit with nearly 15 years of experience advancing food access and health equity in the nation's capital. I am here today to express my gratitude towards DPR for their collaboration with DC Greens in nurturing and sustaining The Well at Oxon Run. Additionally, I'd like to offer some insights on how further backing for essential DPR initiatives could empower organizations like ours to amplify our impact within the communities we serve.

The Well at Oxon Run is an intergenerational farm and wellness space located in Ward 8. This unique project could not be possible without collaboration from the DC Department of Parks and Recreation, The Green Scheme, and Friends of Oxon Run, as well as our dedicated community members living near Oxon Run Park. The Well serves as a food access point and wellness asset for community members to explore different aspects of their well-being. It stands as a safe and secure place where the community can learn about nutrition, where our youth are inspired to discover the importance of green spaces, and where individuals from all walks of life can reestablish their connection with nature.

DC Greens achieves its goals through the support of a wide array of partners and donors. Over the past few years, DPR has made several financial investments in The Well — all of which have been crucial for farm maintenance and community activities. As the community at The Well continues to grow, we anticipate the need for financial support to grow as well.

This year, we are heading into our third growing season in the space and we plan to expand opportunities for community engagement and programming based on community feedback we gathered at the end of last season. We hope that the Council will ensure that DPR continues to prioritize urban agriculture and community wellness at spaces like The Well at Oxon Run.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak today and I welcome any questions you may have.