



**CITY OF LAWRENCE**  
**OFFICE OF THE MAYOR**

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DANIEL RIVERA  
MAYOR & CEO

**For Immediate Release**  
**PRESS RELEASE**

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**Eyesore Turned Community Garden**  
**Former Blighted Property Now Grows Fresh Produce**

**August 1, 2018, Lawrence, MA-** Mayor Daniel Rivera, with City Council President Kendrys Vasquez, City Councilor Jeovanny Rodriguez and Groundwork Lawrence will hold a press conference tomorrow to celebrate the opening of a community garden. “I commend Councilor Rodriguez on his leadership in the development of our new community garden and I thank Groundwork Lawrence for their partnership in this effort,” said Mayor Daniel Rivera. “Community gardens are so important to the quality of life in Lawrence. They give working families access to healthy, fresh food at no cost while also empowering neighbors to get to know one another through the efforts to maintain the gardens. Community gardens not only build fresh produce, they build a sense of community.”

The Lowell and Margin community garden was a collaborative effort between the office of Mayor Daniel Rivera, Councilor Jeovanny Rodriguez and Groundwork Lawrence to transform a vacant lot into a space for residents to grow fresh food. The City of Lawrence has 10 community gardens that serve over 250 families citywide. “We identified this vacant lot through the Towerhill Shines project during our neighborhood cleanups and got the idea to turn it into a community asset. The Lowell and Margin community garden has improved the moral in my district,” said City Councilor Jeovanny Rodriguez. “When residents can walk outside their home and see fresh vegetables growing where a vacant lot used to sit, it gives them a sense of pride in their neighborhood and it brings the community together.”

“This new community garden will be beneficial not only to towerhill residents, but to the whole city,” said Council President Kendrys Vasquez. “I applaud the collaborative efforts of Councilor Rodriguez, the administration and Groundwork Lawrence.”

Details on the event are below:

**Who:** Mayor Daniel Rivera  
City Council President Kendrys Vasquez  
Councilor Jeovanny Rodriguez  
Heather McMann, Executive Director, Groundwork Lawrence

**When:** Thursday, August 2<sup>nd</sup>  
12:00PM

**Where:** Corner of Lowell Street and Margin Street  
Lawrence, MA

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