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VAAD HARABANIM
THE RABBINICAL COUNCIL
of GREATER WASHINGTON

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To our dear Jewish Community,

We hope you and yours had a wonderful Pesach.

While we are mournful of every loss and pained by each illness in our community, we remain grateful to Hashem that our community has seen relatively few deaths and hospitalizations due to COVID-19. Our continued efforts to reinforce each other and adhere to the official distancing and safety guidelines established by our government leaders will hopefully, with Hashem's help, see us through this unprecedented *mageifah* (plague). We reiterate our request to all to continue at-home enhanced *tefillos*, Torah study and *zedakah* to counter this *gezeirah* (difficult decree).

As we know, one of the crucial elements of life is food supply. We would like to take this opportunity to encourage all community members to support our local kosher establishments as much as is possible. Many of our local kosher vendors went well above and beyond the norm to help ensure that everyone had the necessary foods for Pesach. These vendors went to great lengths to ensure stock and delivery, especially to the homebound and the elderly. Their efforts were not without real wear and tear on the proprietors and their employees, besides the significant financial risk they took in these times of uncertainty.

While we would not express preference for one proprietor over another, we do wish to encourage you to prioritize our local kosher vendors — and to consider them even for those non-food items which might normally be purchased elsewhere. Please also patronize the local kosher food service establishments in any extra measure that you can.

If you are indeed buying more than you need, please consider donating your excess food and household supplies to Yad Yehuda's Capital Kosher Pantry. The Pantry currently helps feed an unprecedented number of community members while maintaining the dignity of every patron — some of whom have lost their very income and do not know when or even if they will regain it.

This is a time to stand in increased solidarity with one another and, together as a community, support the local kosher vendors and establishments who have been there for us during the current trying times.

With heartfelt blessings for continued good health, safety and a swift return to normalcy, we remain,

The Rabbinical Council Of Greater Washington

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