

Board/Commission Recommendation



Sustainable Food Policy Board

Recommendation Number: (20130826-4C)

Farmers Market Ordinance Permits Recommendations

WHEREAS, the recent Economic Impact of Austin's Food Sector study found that there is strong consumer desire for local products, that further expanding the supply will yield greater overall economic activity and potentially lower prices of healthier food, and that for every dollar invested in locally-produced food the city sees an additional 86 cents in indirect and induced activity; and; and

WHEREAS, HB 1382 passed by the Texas State Legislature goes into effect in September 2012 and allows sampling at farmers markets without requiring a specific permit; and

WHEREAS, a stakeholder group has been working with the local health authority to create a farmers market ordinance that ensures safety while supporting local food producers and vendors, and that group believes the increased cost of multiple permits for some vendors would reduce participation in farmers markets; and

WHEREAS, when a vendor holds a permit at multiple markets on the same day, it can be expected that the vendor and the inspectors will gain efficiencies as the vendor complies with the regulations and is continuously inspected, and

WHEREAS, farmers market managers monitor, and are required to ensure, that vendors at the farmers markets are complying with regulations.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Sustainable Food Policy Board encourages the Austin City Council to ensure that when a farmer or vendor procures multiple permits to operate at multiple market sites on the same day, that the fees be reduced on those subsequent permits; and that sampling of "farm produce" be allowed without a permit, in accordance with HB 1382.

Date of Approval: August 26, 2013

Record of the vote: Approved on a 9-0-1 vote. Board Member Ronda Rutledge recused herself from this item due to a conflict of interest and left the dais.

Attest: *Linda J. Jung*