



BOARD/COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION

Sustainable Food Policy Board

Recommendation Number: (20131125-5C)

Reiteration of Urban Farm Ordinance Non-Code Recommendations

WHEREAS, the Sustainable Food Policy Board (SFPB) has been charged with helping to improve the local economy, the availability, sustainability, accessibility, and quality of food and our environment; and

WHEREAS, on November 21, 2013 the Austin City Council revised sections of the City's land development code related to urban farming based on SFPB, City Staff and Planning Commission recommendations; and

WHEREAS, in order to have a just food system, low-income residents must be able to afford the fresh produce offered on farms in their neighborhoods, which includes families eligible for Supplemental Nutrition Assistant Program (SNAP) and Women Infants and Children (WIC) benefits; and

WHEREAS, in May 2013, the Sustainable Food Policy Board recommended that the city minimize zoning barriers, permitting processes/fees, and incentivize adoption of Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) technology for redeeming nutrition assistance benefits to make farmers markets and farm stands sustainable, accessible and affordable venues for getting high quality, culturally appropriate food to all residents (including those eligible for SNAP- and WIC) throughout the city; and

WHEREAS, on July 22, 2013 the SFPB sent a recommendation to Council that City staff provide technical assistance to urban farm stands so that they are able to accept SNAP, WIC, FMNP and allocate \$15,000 to support getting farm stands equipped with EBT technology in Fiscal Year 2014 in order to support the affordability and accessibility of food produced at urban farms;

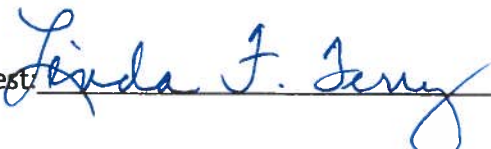
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Austin/Travis County Sustainable Food Policy Board recommends that the Austin City Council work with the City Manager to immediately allocate \$5,000 to fund the technology for two years to accept SNAP and WIC benefits at City of Austin existing on farm farm-stands and contribute with local organizations and funders to double those benefits so that \$1 of benefits buys \$2 of farm produce.

AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED, that the SFPB reiterates its recommendation that a City staff person assist current urban farmers in expeditiously obtaining necessary Certificates of Occupancy.

Date of Approval: November 25, 2013

Record of the vote: Unanimous on a 8-0 vote.

Attest:

  
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