

ORDINANCE NO. 20081120-058

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 2-1 OF THE CITY CODE RELATING TO CITY BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS TO ADD SECTION 2-1-170 ESTABLISHING THE SUSTAINABLE FOOD POLICY BOARD.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:

PART 1. FINDINGS

- (1) Austin is a responsive community with limitless possibilities so there is no excuse for hunger;
- (2) Affordable and nutritious food, provided in a respectful manner, is a human right;
- (3) The City of Austin wishes to ensure that a wide variety of safe, nutritious and sustainably-grown food is available to city residents;
- (4) The City of Austin wishes to ensure that access to safe, nutritious and sustainably-grown food is not limited by economic status, location, or other factors beyond a resident's control;
- (5) The City of Austin wishes to recognize that increasing the amount of fresh, nutritious and sustainably-grown food in our region will have a positive impact on our local economy;
- (6) The City of Austin wishes to recognize that increasing the amount of fresh, nutritious and sustainably-grown food grown in our region will have a positive affect on the region's efforts to reduce energy consumption and its production of greenhouse gases;
- (7) The City of Austin wishes to ensure that the price of food in the city and the county remains reasonably close to the average price existing in the balance of the region and stable as compared to the median family income;
- (8) The City of Austin wishes to ensure that the region maintains the natural resources, land base, infrastructure and skill sets necessary to produce fresh, nutritious and sustainably-and-locally grown food, including organic, pasture-based, and humane farming products.

- (9) The City of Austin wishes to recognize the importance of providing education to its residents to support a healthy, local food system by promoting environmental, nutritional, cultural, culinary, and horticultural awareness;
- (10) The City of Austin wishes to ensure that the region preserves our unique food culture, traditions, and heritage; and
- (11) Travis County Commissioners also support these goals and efforts to improve our food system in order to benefit the citizens of Austin and Travis County.

PART 2. The City Code is amended to add a new Section 2-1-170 to read:

§ 2-1-170 SUSTAINABLE FOOD POLICY BOARD

- (A) The Sustainable Food Policy Board is composed of 13 members. The Board may include representatives from the retail food industry, consumer interest groups, the health care and wellness community, the emergency food program community, the local agriculture industry, soil and compost producers, the food or nutrition education field, the non-profit food organization community, the for-profit food industry, and the food manufacturing industry. Board members need not be city residents.
 - (1) The City Council shall appoint 7 members.
 - (2) The Travis County Commissioners Court shall appoint 6 members.
- (B) The Board shall serve as an advisory body to the City Council and Travis County Commissioner's Court concerning the need to improve the availability of safe, nutritious, locally, and sustainably-grown food at reasonable prices for all residents, particularly those in need, by coordinating the relevant activities of city government, as well as non-profit organizations, and food and farming businesses.
- (C) The Board shall:
 - (1) monitor the availability, price and quality of food throughout the Austin and Travis County area;
 - (2) collect data on the food security (i.e., access to an affordable, diversified local food supply) and the nutritional status of city residents;

- (3) inform city and county policy makers, administrators, and the public-at-large about the status of the region's food system and food security;
- (4) monitor and analyze the administration of city and county food and nutrition programs;
- (5) explore new means for the city and county to improve the local food economy, the availability, sustainability, accessibility, and quality of food and our environment, and assist city and county departments in the coordination of their efforts;
- (6) review availability and recommend measures to promote the preservation of agricultural land in the City of Austin and Travis County;
- (7) and recommend to the city and county adoption of measures that will improve existing local food production and add new programs, incentives, projects, regulations, or services.

PART 3. This ordinance takes effect on December 1, 2008.

PASSED AND APPROVED

November 20, 2008

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Will Wynn
Will Wynn
Mayor

APPROVED:

David Allan Smith
David Allan Smith
City Attorney

ATTEST:

Shirley A. Gentry
Shirley A. Gentry
City Clerk