

Memorandum



CITY OF DALLAS

DATE January 16, 2015

TO Honorable Members of the Economic Development Committee:
Tennell Atkins (Chair), Rick Callahan (Vice Chair), Scott Griggs, Adam Medrano, Jerry R. Allen, Lee Kleinman

SUBJECT **Update on Economic Opportunities of Sustainable Food Systems**

On Tuesday, January 20, 2015, the Economic Development Council Committee will be briefed on an Update on Economic Opportunities of Sustainable Food Systems.

The following materials are attached for your review:

1. Update on Economic Opportunities of Sustainable Food Systems Briefing

If you have any questions or require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Jill Jordan'.

Jill A. Jordan, P.E.
Assistant City Manager

c: The Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
A.C. Gonzalez, City Manager
Warren M.S. Ernst, City Attorney
Rosa A. Rios, City Secretary
Daniel F. Solis, Administrative Judge
Craig D. Kinton, City Auditor
Ryan S. Evans, First Assistant City Manager
Eric D. Campbell, Assistant City Manager
Joey Zapata, Assistant City Manager
Mark McDaniel, Assistant City Manager
Jeanne Chipperfield, Chief Financial Officer
Sana Syed, Public Information Officer
Karl Zavitkovsky, Director, Office of Economic Development
J. Hammond Perot, Assistant Director, Office of Economic Development
Elsa Cantu, Assistant to the City Manager – Mayor and Council

Update on Economic Opportunities of Sustainable Food Systems

Presented by the Office of Environmental Quality
to the Economic Development Committee
of the Dallas City Council

January 20, 2015



Purpose

- To update the Economic Development Committee of the Dallas City Council with information obtained from stakeholders associated with sustainable food system planning.

Opportunity

- Food System Planning
 - Increased access
 - Healthier choices
 - Resource conservation
 - Land use planning
 - Job creation
 - Revenue generation
 - Food independence



Stakeholder Input

- Met with stakeholders from spring 2014 to current
- Created page on GreenDallas.net with sign-up form
- Public input since November 17 Committee meeting:
 - November 20 – Baylor/Baptist General Convention
 - December 1 – City Hall
 - December 2 – Dallas Farmers Market
 - December 4 – Zoning Ordinance Committee Meeting
 - December 18 – Zoning Ordinance Committee Meeting
 - December 18 – Baylor/Baptist General Convention
 - January 8 – Zoning Ordinance Committee Meeting
 - *(upcoming) January 22 – Zoning Ordinance Committee Meeting*

Stakeholders Involved

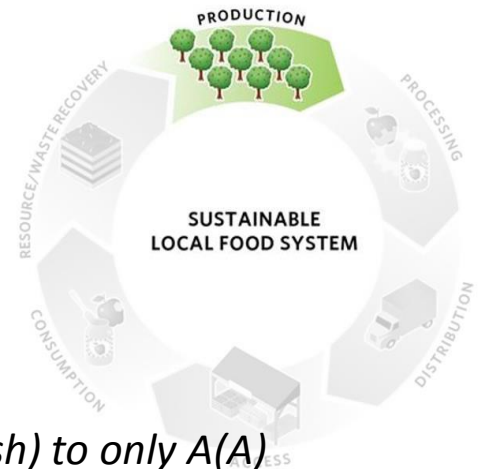
- Dallas residents
- Dallas Coalition for Hunger Solutions
- Dallas Housing Authority
- Dallas Farmers Market
- Hunt Institute at SMU
- Slow Food Dallas
- Diabetes Health and Wellness Institute
- Texas Hunger Initiative
- GROW North Texas
- Texas Hunger Initiative
- Unity Garden
- Anita's Arbor
- Texas Honeybee Guild
- Revitalize South Dallas Coalition
- Texas State Federation of Garden Clubs
- Garden Café
- We Over Me Farm - Paul Quinn College
- Dolphin Heights Neighborhood Association
- North Texas Food Bank
- Promise of Peace Garden
- Bethlehem Center
- Half Pint Palates
- Good Company Creative
- Earth Day Texas
- Painter Garden Classroom
- Earth Healthy
- Eat The Yard
- Lake Highlands Community Garden
- Green Phoenix Farms
- Kevin Sloan Studio
- Dallas Zoo
- Children at Risk

Stakeholder Proposed Changes to City Code

- Allow aquaponics
- Allow animal grazing
- Change size requirements
- Encourage sustainable farming practices
- Address fees
- Define structures and uses
- Eliminate redundant oversight
- Allow sales
- Allow alternative food delivery mechanisms



Opportunities to Grow – PRODUCTION



- **Allow “aquaponics”** (closed-system aquaculture)
 - *Chapter 51A-4.201 limits animal production (including fish) to only A(A) districts*
 - **Stakeholders seeking to allow fish production (as part of aquaponics) in all districts**
- **Allow animal grazing**
 - *Chapter 51A-4.201(3)(E)(ii) prohibits animal grazing and animal production*
 - **Stakeholders seeking to allow hens at agriculture locations**
 - Chapter 7 of city code governs the keeping of animals and addresses nuisance complaints
- **Change size and zoning requirements**
 - *Chapter 51A-4.201 requires farms and animal raising to be done on property of 3 acres or more*
 - **Stakeholders seeking to change size requirements to allow more opportunities to grow and sell food and food products**
 - Specific Use Permit can allow/govern activities on certain parcels

Opportunities to Grow – PRODUCTION (continued)



– Encourage sustainable farming practices

- Stakeholders seeking Council action to protect honey bees and other pollinators
- Bee pollination is responsible for more than \$15 billion in increased crop value each year. The total number of managed honey bee colonies has decreased from 5 million in the 1940s to only 2.5 million today.*

– Address fees

- Chapter 52 does not include exemption from building site certification at community gardens for storage
- Stakeholders seeking to extend 200 square foot structure exemption to community gardens
- Customers can request “water only” accounts to avoid wastewater fees at gardens and free irrigation system inspections through water conservation programs

– Define structures and uses

- Chapter 51A-2.102(135) defines structures
- Stakeholders seeking to allow for exemption for temporary growing apparatus such as hoop-houses, temporary green-houses, trellis, et cetera
- Chapter 52-301.2 enumerates activities under which no permit is required; additional language is being proposed to define structures and uses

*<http://ars.usda.gov/news/docs.htm?docid=15572>

Opportunities to Grow – PROCESSING



– Eliminate redundant oversight

- **Stakeholders seeking to reduce unnecessary oversight and expense**
- State of Texas regulates certain agricultural activities; City enforcement requires more staff and resources
 - State of Texas regulates bee-keeping (apiaries)
 - » Texas Agriculture Code – Chapter 131
 - » Texas Administrative Code – Chapter 71
 - » Texas law, effective January 1, 2012, made it possible for beekeeping to qualify for an agricultural exemption on property taxes*
 - State of Texas regulates fish production
 - » Currently requires permits and licensing at the state level
 - » Texas Agriculture Code – Chapter 134
 - » Texas Parks and Wildlife Code – Chapter 47
 - » Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (depending on use of water discharge)
- Existing City regulations provide means to address other concerns

*<http://txbeeinspection.tamu.edu/public/agricultural-exemption/>

Opportunities to Grow –

DISTRIBUTION & ACCESS



– Allow sales

- *Chapter 51A-4.201(3)(A)(i) requires crops be for personal or group (garden) use, consumption, or donation*
- **Stakeholders seeking to allow off-site sales in all districts, on-site sales in non-residential districts**
- Staff exploring changes to Chapter 29A - Neighborhood Farmers Markets to support off-site sales
 - Increasing number of registered vendors from 50 to 70
 - Monitoring number of sale days to determine whether to increase

– Allow alternative food delivery mechanisms

- *Chapter 50-157 defines vendor as a person selling or offering for sale goods or services from any structure or vehicle that is not affixed to the ground or from no structure or vehicle*
- **Stakeholders seeking to clarify if manual carts may be used for fresh produce delivery**

Opportunities to Grow – CONSUMPTION & WASTE RECOVERY



- **Consumption**

- Greater access to fresh food choices can help improve community health
- Stakeholders discussions continue to explore opportunities to increase access

- **Waste Recovery**

- City of Dallas Local Solid Waste Management Plan 2011-2060 to address elements of resource/waste recovery through Organics Collection and Plan Update Implementation 2031-2040

Zoning Ordinance Committee

- Next meeting January 22, 2015
- Proposed changes:
 - **COMMUNITY GARDEN**
 - Allow off-site sales in residential, onsite sales in non-residential
 - Allow 200 square foot structure exemption in residential districts
 - Allow aquaponics/aquaculture and sales
 - Allow chicken by-product sales
 - **FARM**
 - No changes
 - **ANIMAL PRODUCTION**
 - Allow SUP in non-residential
 - Remove minimum size when SUP required

Proposed Timeline

- Meet with stakeholders – **November 2014 - January 2015**
- Present suggested code changes to Economic Development Committee – **January 2015**
- Move to full Council for consideration – **March 2015**
- Adoption of minor code amendments – **March 2015**
- Changes effective for spring season – **April 2015**
- Adoption of further code amendments – **to be determined based on need/significance**

Questions

