



# Environmental and Health Services Department Food Protection and Education Division

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## Update on Homeless Feeder Ordinance Implementation

Presented to the  
Quality of Life Committee  
May 22, 2006



## Purpose of Briefing

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To provide an update on:

- The enforcement and effectiveness of the Homeless Feeder Ordinance

# Background

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- Ordinance
  - The Dallas City Council approved amendments to Chapter 17-1.6 “Food Establishments” on June 8, 2005, which included the following related to homeless feeders:
    - A church, civic, or other charitable organization serving or distributing food, without charge, to homeless individuals on public or private property, provided that the organization:
      - (A) was conducting that activity at a location approved by the director
      - (B) had written consent from the property owner to conduct that activity on the property
      - (C) was currently registered with the director (on a form provided by the director that is required to be completed on an annual basis) to conduct that activity on the property;
      - (D) conducted the activity in accordance with all terms and conditions of the registration as required by the director; and
      - (E) had met annual training requirements for safe food handling as required by the director.
    - (b) a person commits an offense if he violated, or fails to comply with, a term or condition of a homeless feeding registration issues pursuant to section 17-1.6(a)(5)



## Purpose of Public Forums

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- The department hosted 6 public information forums in order to inform the public about the Homeless Feeder Ordinance prior to enforcement
- Forums were held at City Hall and in community centers across the city in order to reach out to feeders in their communities



# Requirements

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- Feeders may only feed from designated locations approved by the director. (A listing of these sites are provided to the feeders.)
  - It is recommended that low hazardous foods be served (i.e., lunch meat type sandwiches and fruit)
  - Restrict high hazardous foods (i.e., plate lunches, tuna/chicken salads, seafood and other food that require extensive handling)
  - Food must be transported and served within four hours of preparation
  - Soap and paper towels must be available for hand washing
  - All waste generated must be disposed of properly in accordance with the Dallas City Code
  - Trash must be disposed of properly in garbage bags or trash receptacles or removed from the site
  - Restroom availability or port-o-potties are required on site
- Feeding in any other location other than those sites is prohibited.

## How Are Additional Sites Added?

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- The following are steps necessary to add homeless feeder sites:
  - Contact Homeless Services at (214) 671-8530
  - Provide the name of the organization, address, telephone number and the address of the site
  - Staff from Homeless Services provides the information to Food Protection & Education at (214) 670-8083
  - Staff from Food Protection & Education audits the site using the following criteria:
    - Restroom access or port-o-potties on site
    - Notarized letter with property owners permission
    - Handwash set-up and trash receptacles
  - Homeless Services is then notified of the results and a memo is forwarded to the Director of Environmental and Health Services to request approval of the site
  - If approved by the Director, Food Protection & Education is notified and the site is added to the list and the organization is notified of the approval
  - This process is a one-time registration process

## Current List of Approved Locations

Agency/Church	Contact Name	Contact Number	Part of Town
ABC Behavioral Health	Administration	(214) 275-8500	East
Concord Church	Rev. D. Halliday	(214) 331-8522(2666)	Oak Cliff
Dallas Life Foundation	Rev. Sweeny	(214) 421-1380	Downtown
Day Resource Center	Dy'Shaun Johnson	(214) 670-4881	Downtown
Family Gateway	Leah Burke Dot Brown-LaSalle	(214) 741-6515 (117) (214) 823-2266	Downtown
Turtle Creek Manor	Administration	(214) 522-7930	North
Vogel Alcove	Marla Bardfield	(214) 565-9706	Downtown
We Live Again, Inc.	Linda Brown	(214) 893-3116	South
Dallas Metro Care (Safe Haven)	TBA		



## Food Class Registration Process

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- The feeders may fill out a registration form on the day of class or submit the registration form to our office prior to the class date
- At the end of the class feeders receive a carbon copy of the registration form as proof that they have attended the class
- A certificate of completion is mailed out to feeders
- Feeders are required to carry the registration form and certificate at the feeding locations during the times of feeding
- However, a registration form may be used as proof of completion of the class in lieu of the certificate for those who have taken the class but had not yet received the certificate in the mail
- A list of those individuals who have completed the class is maintained by Food Protection & Education Division





## Homeless Feeder Food Safety Training Class

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- Classes are held monthly and are free of charge
- Those who hold a current RFSM Certificate (Registered Food Service Manager) are exempt from the class
- Covers basic principles of food safety and Homeless Feeder Ordinance requirements
- Requires annual registration

# Homeless Feeder Food Safety Training Class (Cont'd)

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- Learning objectives of the class include:
  - Food safety
  - Foodborne Illnesses
  - Food handler responsibilities
  - Preventing contamination
  - Cleaning and sanitizing
  - Personal hygiene
  - Food protection and storage
  - Temporary handwash setup
  - Proper disposal of wastewater



## Enforcement and Audits

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- Enforcement
  - Enforcement and audits are conducted by Food Protection and Education sanitarian staff
  - Failure to comply with any of the items in the ordinance results in the issuance of violations and/or citations
  - Violators receive two notices of violations before they are issued a citation.
  
- Audits
  - An internal checklist has been designed for use when auditing Homeless Feeder sites
  - Feeders may receive a Notice of Violation form, if a violation is found

## Enforcement and Audits (Cont'd)

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- Areas sanitarians focus on during audits include:
  - Whether the feeder holds a registration form and certificate
  - Whether the feeder is feeding from a location approved by the director which include the following criteria:
    - Hand-wash stations and gloves are provided
    - Trash is picked up and trash receptacles are provided
    - Wastewater is disposed of properly



## Effectiveness

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- The program has been successful due to the high number of people and organizations that have been trained and registered with the city
- To date 10 classes have been held
- 398 people have attended the classes and are registered
- 109 organizations are registered with Food Protection and Education Division while providing feeding services to homeless people

# Complaints

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- Some examples of the most frequent complaints received include:
  - Feeding without a registration or certificate
  - Feeding from an unapproved location such as from under the bridge, or feeding from a lot without owners permission
- At this time we have received and worked **16** complaints
- **7** complaints have been confirmed
  - **4** notices of violations have been written
  - **3** verbal warnings were given
- **9** complaints have been unfounded
- **0** citations have been issued



## Contact Info

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City of Dallas  
Environmental and Health Services  
Food Protection and Education  
7901 Goforth Rd  
Dallas, TX 75206  
(214) 670-8083