



Homeless Feeder Ordinance Update

Presented to the
City Council Quality of Life Committee

Environmental & Health Services
Food Protection & Education Division
October 23, 2006



Purpose

- To provide an update on public information, educational and enforcement activities related to the Homeless Feeder Ordinance

Background

- Ordinance

- The Dallas City Council amended Chapter 17 “Food Establishments” on June 8, 2005
 - Adopted minimum standards established by State Law
- As part of the changes to the Food Ordinance, food service providers are required to complete Safe Food Handling Training
 - EHS hosted six public information forums in order to inform the public about the Homeless Feeder Ordinance

Background

- To be in compliance with the ordinance Sect 17-1.6(a)(5) homeless feeder must:
 - Attend the Homeless Feeder Food Safety Training Class annually
 - Register annually
 - Serve meals from designated locations approved by the EHS director

Background

- Two EHS programs coordinate activities related to the ordinance
 - Food Protection & Education (FPE) enforces registration of homeless feeders, complaints, issues relating to food safety, and education/training
 - Homeless Services approves feeder locations

Registration

- Feeders complete registration at food handler class or submit the registration form to FPE office prior to the class date
 - Feeders receive a carbon copy of the registration form as proof that they have attended the class
- Certificate of completion is mailed to feeders
 - 120 organizations are registered



Education

- To date, 21 classes have been held
 - After hours food safety classes added to meet demand
- 471 people have attended the classes and are registered
- Public forums continue as requested

Enforcement

- Feeders required to carry the registration certificate at feeding locations during feedings
 - Class registration form may be used as proof of completion of the class in lieu of certificate for those who have taken the class but had not yet received the certificate in the mail

Enforcement

- Approved Locations
 - Feeders may only feed from designated locations approved by the EHS director
 - Listing of sites is provided to the feeders
 - Feeding in any other location other than those sites is prohibited

Approved Locations

| Agency/Church | Contact Name | Tel. Number | Area |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|---|-----------|
| 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 | Rubben Henderson | (214) 670-0184 | 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) | Hope Steadman | (214) 939-3933 | Oak Cliff |

Enforcement

○ Complaints

- As of October 13, 2006, 20 complaints have been received/processed
 - 8 complaints have been confirmed
 - 12 complaints have been unconfirmed
 - 5 notices of violations have been written
 - 0 citations have been issued

Challenges

- Food Safety Classes
 - Some indifference toward food safety class by homeless feeders
 - Request for after-hour presentations requires overtime by FPE staff
 - Need for more class locations; currently all classes are at MLK Community Center
- Enforcement
 - Inability to proactively monitor feeding activities
 - Complaints normally occur after working hours and require staff overtime
 - Requests for more approved sites



Summary

- Program has been successful due to the high number of people and organizations that have been trained and registered with the city
- Enforcement continues on complaint-driven basis
- No citations issued to date



Contact Information

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