

RESOLUTION NO. 20091119-065

WHEREAS, the Sustainable Food Policy Board (SFPB) exists to advise City policy makers on ways to enhance local production of quality food and its accessibility to residents in Austin; and

WHEREAS, the SFPB was charged to:

- (1) explore new means for the city to improve the local food economy, including availability, sustainability, accessibility, and quality of food and our environment; and
- (2) assist city departments in the coordination of their efforts; and
- (3) review availability and recommend measures to promote the preservation of agricultural land in the City of Austin; and
- (4) recommend to the city adoption of measures that will improve existing local food production by adding new programs, incentives projects, regulations, or services; and

WHEREAS, urban farms and community gardens provide access to nutritious foods produced with less carbon resources than those shipped in from other regions, supporting the City's Climate Protection and Zero Waste initiatives; and

WHEREAS, urban farms and community gardens contribute to food security for the city, support the local economy and provide educational opportunities for urban residents; **NOW, THEREFORE**,

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

The Austin City Council supports sustainable urban agriculture and community gardening in Austin and directs the City Manager to:

(1) Streamline the process to establish a qualified community garden and responsible urban farm.

(a) Initiate necessary code amendments to define “qualified” community gardens and urban farms as those which will include using water conservation practices, composting, and non-polluting growing practices.

(b) Identify and map public lands that would be appropriate for urban agriculture and qualified community gardens.

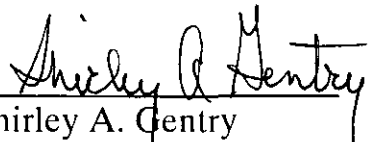
(c) Support efforts to gauge interest and publicize urban agriculture and community gardens through the SFPB.

(2) Name a single point of contact within the City of Austin to support community members in establishing and sustaining urban farms and qualified community gardens.

(3) Direct appropriate Watershed Protection Department staff to discuss with the SFPB their recommendations for riparian buffers, integrated pest management and fertilizer use on public land.

4) Present the plan for sustainable urban agriculture and community gardens to the SFPB at their February 22, 2010, meeting for recommendations prior to presenting to Council on March 11, 2010.

ADOPTED: November 19, 2009

ATTEST: 
Shirley A. Gentry
City Clerk