



# SUSTAINABLE FOOD POLICY BOARD

**Paula J. McDermott, Chairperson**  
810 West Gibson Street  
Austin, TX 78704

**Vince Cobalis, Executive Liaison**  
Austin/Travis County HHS  
P. O. Box 1088  
Austin, TX 78767



**TO:** Honorable Lee Leffingwell, Mayor  
Honorable Mike Martinez, Mayor Pro Tem  
Members of Austin City Council

**FROM:** Austin/Travis County Sustainable Food Policy Board

**DATE:** October 26, 2010

**SUBJECT:** Support for Proposed Code Amendment Regarding Temporary Food Establishment Permits at Farmers' Markets

The Sustainable Food Policy Board (SFPB) supports the Austin City Council proposal to add a subsection to chapter 10-3, article 1 of city code to allow the issuance of Temporary Food Establishment Permits at Certified Farmers' Markets. The code amendment supports the city and county goal of ensuring a vibrant local food economy, while maintaining high regard for food safety standards and working within existing Texas Food Establishment Rules (TFER). It's timely approval and implementation demonstrate the importance the City of Austin and Travis County place on creating a strong local food system.

The code amendment will allow for the regular preparation of hot food on-site in the unique setting of Austin area farmers' markets using fresh ingredients available to consumers and other vendors, significantly boosting sales of locally and sustainably produced products (including meat, grain, vegetables and fruits). While prepping some ingredients at a permitted commercial kitchen, chefs - meeting food handler requirements - safely demonstrate the use of seasonal ingredients, creating a nexus of nutritional and culinary education, awareness, and the marketing of high quality, locally produced food.

The SFPB applauds the work of Council and City/County Health and Human Services staff together with city staff specializing in legal and code issues in resolving this important matter collaboratively and with integrity, utilizing input from key stakeholders throughout the process. In particular, the board appreciates the leadership of the sponsoring councilmembers and their professional and accessible policy staff who have been a pleasure to work with.

The SFPB looks forward to continuing to collaborate with Council Members, the Mayor and city staff in the coordination of their efforts to help ensure that our region preserves our unique food culture, traditions and heritage while exploring new means for improving the local food economy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paula J. McDermott".

Paula J. McDermott  
Chairperson, Sustainable Food Policy Board

cc: Marc Ott, City Manager  
David Lurie, Director, Health & Human Services Department  
Vincent Cobalis, Executive Liaison