



# SUSTAINABLE FOOD POLICY BOARD

**Marla Camp, Chairperson**  
1415 Newning Avenue  
Austin, TX 78704

**Vince Cobalis, Executive Liaison**  
Austin/Travis County HHSD  
P. O. Box 1088  
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## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Austin City Council

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

**DATE:** February 22, 2010

**SUBJECT:** Support for Planning Commission's letter recommending a review by APD of procedures for investigating complaints of Animal Noise and for issuing citations for infractions of same.

This letter is in support of recommendation number one contained in a letter from the Planning Commission that requests a review by APD of its policies and procedures regarding the investigation of Animal Noise complaints and the issuance of citations where warranted.

The past actions of the Planning Commission have been very helpful in promoting food production within the City limits – a major objective and charter of the Sustainable Food Policy Board. We appreciate past actions which allow for Urban Gardens/Farms and for having small animals, such as Chickens, as an “Accessory Use” under the City’s Zoning Ordinance. The Zoning Ordinance refers to the Animal Ordinance in regard to Noisy Animals and issuance of citations for violations.

Just as the Planning Commission has supported our efforts to increase the production of Local Food and its value for nutrition, food safety, food security, and self-reliance, the Sustainable Food Policy Board supports the Planning Commission’s need and objective to have a satisfactory Animal Noise Ordinance and enforcement of same via APD. Our position is that the current Zoning and Animal Ordinances are sufficient to allow the keeping of small animals such as Chickens, including Roosters, while also safeguarding neighbors’ rights for quiet for “a person of normal sensibilities” (quote from Animal Ordinance).

Thus, we support the request of the Planning Commission to the City Council that APD be asked to review its process and procedures for handling Animal Noise complaints and the issuance of citations for offenses. We also support their request for data on Animal Noise Complaints which would include the type of animal, the finding, and the resulting action by APD. We do not support any other recommendation such as banning or limiting Roosters.

We appreciate this opportunity to work with the Planning Commission to bring forward a recommendation to which both Board and Commission agree.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marla Camp".

Marla Camp, Chair SFPB

cc: H.G. (Bert) Lumbreras, Assistant City Manager  
David Lurie, Director, Austin/Travis County HHSD  
Vince Cobalis, Asst. Director HHSD, Executive Liaison  
Shannon Jones, Asst. Director HHSD, Public Health & Community Services