



# SUSTAINABLE FOOD POLICY BOARD




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## M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Mayor and Council

FROM: Marla Camp, Chair   
Austin/Travis County Sustainable Food Policy Board

DATE: May 13, 2010

SUBJECT: Support for Expedited Action for Serving Hot Food at Austin Farmers' Markets

The Sustainable Food Policy Board (SFPB) applauds the Austin City Council's support for strengthening Austin's local food economy and encourages a timely resolution to any barriers to preparing and serving hot food at Austin farmers' markets.

This relates to the charge of the SFPB to assist city departments 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.

Businesses impacted by this resolution include those that source locally and sustainably produce ingredients (including meat, grain, vegetables and fruits) and prepare hot food in the unique setting of the farmer's market. This provides a critical opportunity for both producers and consumers by creating a nexus of nutritional and culinary education, environmental awareness, and marketing of high quality, locally produced food. The aromas and tastes of hot food attract Austin's citizens and they buy more of all of the food products offered. Simply put, without the hot food, vendors sell less of the other products they offer; with the hot food they sell significantly more.

It is our belief that having freshly prepared hot food at farmers markets is key to both the success of the markets and the success of their vendors, critical to helping our local food economy thrive in Austin.

The SFPB would also like to acknowledge their appreciation for time and efforts that the health and human services department staff have taken to report to and receive input from our board concerning this matter. While we understand their safety and legal concerns, we are confident they can expedite a working solution within state regulations as council notes nearby Texas cities have done.

cc: Marc A. Ott, City Manager  
H. G. (Bert) Lumbreras, Assistant City Manager  
David Lurie, Director, Austin/Travis County Health and Human Services  
Vince Cobalis, Asst. Director, Austin/Travis County Health and Human Services  
Shannon Jones, Asst. Director, HHSD, Public Health