



SUSTAINABLE FOOD POLICY BOARD

MARLA CAMP, CHAIRPERSON

1415 Newning Ave
Austin, TX 78704



Vince Cobalis, Executive Liaison
Austin/Travis County Health and Human Services
P.O. Box 1088
Austin, TX 787

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and Council
Travis County Commissioners

FROM: Marla Camp

DATE: March 26, 2010

SUBJECT: Recommendation for Selling Ungraded Eggs in the City of Austin and Travis County

A local farmer brought to the attention of the Sustainable Food Policy Board (SFPB) an issue he was experiencing being able to sell ungraded eggs to retail outlets in Austin and Travis County. He claimed undue hardship in adhering to the law as it is currently written relating to licensing and grading of eggs.

The matter was referred to the SFPB Food Production and Business Standing Committee. After receiving staff presentations and discussing with multiple parties, the Committee recommended to the full SFPB the following findings:

The current egg laws regulating the retail sale of ungraded eggs are not causing undue hardship for local egg producers. We strongly support the participation of local farmers and producers in the marketplace. We encourage clear communication of current laws to all producers, restaurants, and retailers so there is a common understanding of the requirements for licensing, grading and wholesaling of eggs to retail markets and restaurants as set forth by the United States Department of Agriculture, the Texas Department of Agriculture, the Texas Department of State Health Services, and the food rules included in the Austin City Code and enforced by the Austin/Travis County Health and Human Services Department (HHSD) Environmental and Consumer Health Unit (ECHU).

The SFPB concurred with the findings of the Committee and by motion at the December 14, 2009 meeting directed that you be notified that no recommendations for changes by the Austin City Council or the Travis County Commissioners Court are being made regarding this matter.

Should you have questions regarding this communication, please contact Chair Marla Camp at (512-441-3971) or Allison Beadle, Chair of the Food Production and Business Standing Committee, at (512-963-6930).

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