File No. 120404 Committee Item No. 3
Board Item No. 4

COMMITTEE/BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

AGENDA PACKET CONTENTS LIST

Committee: Land Use and Economic Development **Date** June 11, 2012

Board of Supervisors Meeting **Date** 7/10/12

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Completed by: Derek Evans **Date** June 8, 2012
Completed by: Alisa Miller **Date** June 13, 2012

An asterisked item represents the cover sheet to a document that exceeds 25 pages.
The complete document can be found in the file.

[Administrative Code - Urban Agriculture Program]

Ordinance amending the San Francisco Administrative Code by adding Sections 53.1 through 53.4 to: 1) establish an Urban Agriculture Program to oversee and coordinate all of the City's Urban Agriculture activities; and 2) adopt goals for the City related to Urban Agriculture.

NOTE: Additions are *single-underline italics Times New Roman*; deletions are *~~strike-through italics Times New Roman~~*. Board amendment additions are double-underlined; Board amendment deletions are ~~strikethrough normal~~.

Be it ordained by the People of the City and County of San Francisco:

Section 1. **Findings.** The Board of Supervisors finds and declares as follows:

1. Urban agriculture provides multiple benefits to San Franciscans. It connects City residents to the broader food system, provides green space and recreation, can save public agencies money, provides ecological benefits and green infrastructure, builds community, and offers food access, public health, and economic development potential.

2. San Franciscans have consistently demonstrated a demand for more space in which they can grow food. While private land offers some possibilities, public land is more likely to meet the demand. Land audits have surveyed potential sites and revealed that there is public land suitable for urban agriculture.

3. Access to land, materials, and supportive infrastructure are the top needs for people and groups interested in increasing food production within the City. Land access is critical for many residents living in apartments and other dense areas without access to open space for growing food. Access to materials would make it easier for urban gardeners and farmers to acquire basic resources such as mulch, compost, and tools. To prosper, those growing and

selling produce in the City also require supportive infrastructure, such as access to water, distribution channels, facilities for processing and serving food, and educational opportunities for aspiring gardeners.

4. At least seven City agencies provide funding for urban agriculture activities. In the past five years, total funding from the City has averaged approximately $580,000 per year. The lack of coordination among agencies has led to an overall decline in City resources for urban agriculture activities relative to the funding level of the 1990s. Additionally, agencies such as the Planning Department, Port, Library Department, and the County Agricultural Commissioner support urban agriculture, though they currently do not provide funding.

5. The City currently lacks institutional support for urban agriculture. There is no full-time staff person dedicated to this issue and no citywide cross-departmental urban agriculture agenda. This lack of cohesion and accountability has created uncoordinated and duplicative urban agriculture efforts thus far.

6. The City has taken important steps forward with the Executive Directive on Healthy and Sustainable Food in 2009 and the passage of the Urban Agriculture Zoning Ordinance in 2011. However, much more remains to be done.

Section 2. The San Francisco Administrative Code is hereby amended by adding Chapter 53, Sections 53.1 through 53.4, to read as follows:

SEC. 53.1. TITLE.

This Chapter shall be entitled "the Urban Agriculture Ordinance".

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SEC. 53.2. "URBAN AGRICULTURE" DEFINED.

"Urban Agriculture" is the growing of plants and raising of animals, usually for food or flowers. Urban agriculture can occur in many types of places in the City, including, but not limited to, home gardens, community gardens, market gardens, demonstration gardens, gardens at institutions such as schools, workplaces, and jails, urban farms, orchards, rooftops, and greenhouses.

SEC. 53.3. URBAN AGRICULTURE PROGRAM.

*(a) **Establishment.** There is hereby created an Urban Agriculture Program for the City and County of San Francisco.*

*(b) **Duties.** The Urban Agriculture Program shall:*

(1) Coordinate Urban Agriculture efforts with other public agencies operating in the City, including, but not limited to, the Recreation and Park Department, Public Utilities Commission, Department of Public Works, Department of Public Health, Department of the Environment, Planning Department, Department of Building Inspection, the San Francisco Food Security Task Force, County Agricultural Commissioner, Department of Real Estate, Public Library, Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services, City Administrator, Port, and Airport, and the San Francisco Unified School District, City College of San Francisco, California Department of Parks and Recreation, United States National Park Service Golden Gate Recreation Area, and the University of California Cooperative Extension;

(2) Be responsible for promoting the development of comprehensive programs, policies and strategies to meet the goals described in Section 53.4 and generally enhance and increase Urban Agriculture in San Francisco;

(3) Develop strategic partnerships with community organizations, schools, and others for the purpose of advancing Urban Agriculture in San Francisco, and seek public feedback from these partners in major policy decisions;

(4) Advocate for Urban Agriculture policies and funding at the State and Federal level; and,

(5) Collect data and metrics related to Urban Agriculture and make that information available to the public;

(6) Coordinate support among public agencies and community organizations for gleaning programs that collect excess produce from gardens, urban farms, and other sources in the City and distribute that produce to those in need;

(7) Explore how Urban Agriculture can enhance existing job training programs and provide new job training and employment opportunities for all San Francisco residents, including low income individuals and youth, and can create employment opportunities and incentives for employers to hire San Francisco residents for food-growing programs~~Explore how Urban Agriculture can provide job training and employment opportunities for San Francisco residents~~;

(8) Consult with the County Agricultural Commissioner and Director of Public Health to ensure that Urban Agriculture projects conform to applicable agricultural and public health laws and regulations and do not cause or contribute to public health risks, such as soil contamination and vermin infestations; and,

(9) Ensure that existing Urban Agriculture spaces are being utilized fully.

*(c) **Strategic Plan.** By December 31, 2012, the Mayor and the City Administrator, in consultation with relevant City departments and community stakeholders, shall develop a strategic plan for the Urban Agriculture Program to carry out its duties and to meet the City's stated Urban Agriculture goals, as contained in Sections 53.3 and 53.4. The strategic plan shall contain baseline data on Urban Agriculture in San Francisco, including, but not limited to, an accounting of all City funding and resources, a list of all local Urban Agriculture programs, a count of all active and inactive sites and site coordinators, a count of waiting lists, and a needs assessment of resident, organization,*

and business needs. The strategic plan shall also include a projected budget for the Urban Agriculture Program and identify potential sources of funding. The Mayor and the City Administrator shall submit the strategic plan to the Board of Supervisors for its approval by resolution, and make the plan available to the general public, by December 31, 2012. The strategic plan may set new target dates for the City to reach the Urban Agriculture Goals set in Section 53.4, and those new dates shall be deemed ratified by the Board's approval of the strategic plan.

(d) ***External Evaluation.*** *By December 31, 2012, the Mayor and the City Administrator shall evaluate which City agency or non-profit organization receiving City funds should permanently manage the coordination of Urban Agriculture activities and house the Urban Agriculture Program. The evaluation shall examine fiscal capacity to secure reasonable funding as well as programmatic capacity to implement the Strategic Plan. The Mayor and the City Administrator shall submit the results of this evaluation and their recommendation to the Board of Supervisors and make the evaluation and recommendation available to the public.*

(e) ***Annual Report.*** *By January 1, 2014 and every year thereafter, the Urban Agriculture Program shall provide a report to the Mayor and Board of Supervisors summarizing key Urban Agriculture achievements, challenges, and indicators from the previous year, including an official accounting of all City funding for Urban Agriculture and an inventory of local resources and programs relevant to Urban Agriculture in San Francisco. These annual reports shall also provide data on progress the City made in the prior year towards meeting each of the Urban Agriculture Program's goals, as contained in Section 53.4.*

(f) It shall be City policy that for Fiscal Year 2012-13, the City shall ensure that there is at least one full-time staff person assigned to support coordination of Urban Agriculture programs among City agencies and community stakeholders.

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SEC. 53.4. URBAN AGRICULTURE GOALS.

The City hereby adopts the following goals related to Urban Agriculture:

(1) To complete and publish, by January 1, 2013, an audit of City-owned buildings with rooftops potentially suitable for both commercial and non-commercial Urban Agriculture;

(2) To develop, by January 1, 2013, incentives for property owners to allow temporary Urban Agriculture projects, particularly on vacant and blighted property awaiting development;

(3) To develop, by January 1, 2013, a streamlined application process for Urban Agriculture projects on public land, with clear evaluation guidelines that are consistent across agencies;

(4) To create, by July 1, 2013, a "one-stop shop" for Urban Agriculture that would provide information, programming, and technical assistance to all San Francisco residents, businesses, and organizations wishing to engage in Urban Agriculture;

(5) To develop new Urban Agriculture projects on public land where residents demonstrate desire for the projects, with at least 10 new locations for Urban Agriculture completed by January 1, 2014;

(6) To open garden resource centers in neighborhoods across the City, either at existing or new sites, that provide residents with resources such as compost, seeds, and tools, with at least 5 completed by January 1, 2014; and,

(7) To develop sufficient Urban Agriculture resources such that by January 1, 2014, San Francisco residents seeking a community garden plot have to wait no more than a year for access to a plot.

Section 3. **Effective Date.** This ordinance shall become effective 30 days from the date of passage.

Section 4. This section is uncodified. In enacting this Ordinance, the Board intends to amend only those words, phrases, paragraphs, subsections, sections, articles, numbers, punctuation, charts, diagrams, or any other constituent part of the Administrative Code that are explicitly shown in this legislation as additions, deletions, Board amendment additions, and Board amendment deletions in accordance with the "Note" that appears under the official title of the legislation.

APPROVED AS TO FORM:
DENNIS J. HERRERA, City Attorney

By: _____
THOMAS J. OWEN
Deputy City Attorney

FILE NO. 120404

REVISED LEGISLATIVE DIGEST
(6/11/2012, Amended in Committee)

[Administrative Code - Urban Agriculture Program]

Ordinance amending the San Francisco Administrative Code by adding Sections 53.1 through 53.4 to: 1) establish an Urban Agriculture Program to oversee and coordinate all of the City's Urban Agriculture activities; and 2) adopt goals for the City related to Urban Agriculture.

Existing Law

The City does not currently have a program to survey and coordinate urban agriculture Citywide.

Amendments to Current Law

The proposal would amend the Administrative Code to create an "Urban Agriculture Program" for the City. The proposal defines "Urban Agriculture" as "the growing of plants and raising of animals, usually for food or flowers," in places such as home gardens, community gardens, market gardens, demonstration gardens, gardens at institutions such as schools, workplaces, and jails, urban farms, orchards, rooftops, and greenhouses.

The proposal would adopt a number of overarching goals for Urban Agriculture in San Francisco:

- To complete and publish, by January 1, 2013, an audit of City-owned buildings with rooftops potentially suitable for both commercial and non-commercial Urban Agriculture;
- To develop, by January 1, 2013, incentives for property owners to allow temporary Urban Agriculture projects, particularly on vacant and blighted property awaiting development;
- To develop, by January 1, 2013, a streamlined application process for Urban Agriculture projects on public land, with clear evaluation guidelines that are consistent across agencies;

- To create, by July 1, 2013, a "one-stop shop" for Urban Agriculture that would provide information, programming, and technical assistance to all San Francisco residents, businesses, and organizations wishing to engage in Urban Agriculture;

- To develop new Urban Agriculture projects on public land where residents demonstrate desire for the projects, with at least 10 new locations for Urban Agriculture completed by January 1, 2014;

- To open garden resource centers in neighborhoods across the City, either at existing or new sites, that provide residents with resources such as compost, seeds, and tools, with at least 5 completed by January 1, 2014; and,

- To develop sufficient Urban Agriculture resources such that by January 1, 2014, San Francisco residents seeking a community garden plot have to wait no more than a year for access to a plot.

The target dates could be modified in the Strategic Plan for the Urban Agriculture Program, discussed below.

To achieve these goals, the proposal would create an Urban Agriculture Program for the City. The Program would have several functions:

- Coordination of Urban Agriculture efforts among City departments and other public agencies operating in the City;

- Development of comprehensive programs, policies and strategies to meet the City's Urban agriculture goals;

- Development of strategic partnerships with community organizations, schools, and others to advance Urban Agriculture;

- Advocacy for Urban Agriculture policies and funding at the State and Federal level;

- Collection and public dissemination of information related to Urban Agriculture;

- Coordination of support among public agencies and community organizations for gleaning programs that collect and distribute excess produce;

- Exploration of of how Urban Agriculture can complement existing job training programs and provide new job training and employment opportunities for San Francisco residents, and can create employment opportunities and incentives for employers to hire San Francisco residents for food-growing programs;

- Consultation with the County Agricultural Commissioner and the Director of Public Health on ensuring the safe and lawful operation of Urban Agriculture projects, and the prevention of potential public health risks that may be associated with such activities; and,

- Confirmation that existing Urban Agriculture spaces are utilized fully.

The proposal would require the Mayor and the City Administrator to develop a Strategic Plan for the Urban Agriculture Program in consultation with City departments and community stakeholders by December 31, 2012. The plan would contain baseline data on Urban Agriculture in San Francisco, including an accounting of all City funding and resources, a list of all local Urban Agriculture programs, a count of all active and inactive sites and site coordinators, a count of waiting lists, and a needs assessment of resident, organization, and business needs. The Plan would also include a projected budget for the Urban Agriculture Program and identify potential sources of funding. The Mayor and City Administrator would submit the Plan to the Board of Supervisors for its approval by resolution.

Under the proposal, the Mayor and the City Administrator would also evaluate which City agency or non-profit organization receiving City funding should permanently manage the Urban Agriculture Program. The evaluation would examine the successor agency's fiscal capacity to secure reasonable funding as well as its programmatic capacity to implement the Strategic Plan. The Mayor and the City Administrator would submit the results of this evaluation and their recommendation to the Board of Supervisors by December 31, 2012, along with the Strategic Plan.

By January 1, 2014 and every year thereafter, the Urban Agriculture Program would submit a report to the Mayor and Board of Supervisors summarizing key Urban Agriculture achievements, challenges, and indicators from the previous year, including an official accounting of all City funding for Urban Agriculture and an inventory of local resources and programs relevant to Urban Agriculture in San Francisco. These annual reports would also provide data on progress the City made in the prior year towards meeting each of the Urban Agriculture Program's goals.

The proposal would also make it City policy to ensure that for Fiscal Year 2012-13, there is at least one full-time staff person in City service assigned to support coordination of Urban Agriculture programs among City agencies and community stakeholders.

120404
6/11/12 - Received in Committee

What is an Urban Farm?

By Jay Rosenberg | June 14, 2011

So many of the people I meet at Hayes Valley Farm have said, "in designing this space, we get to design the world we want to live in."

What a great perspective!

For a brief period of time, we have been granted the opportunity to research, educate and demonstrate what an Urban Farm could be. Recently, as the city has come to an agreement to sell a portion of the farm for development, we have been engaged in a series of meetings at City Hall to scout locations for future farms.

At the same time, the San Francisco Urban Agriculture Alliance realized a tremendous success when Mayor Ed Lee signed the "Salad Bill," further advancing the city's priority on urban agriculture. This has been a very exciting time!

And once again the question is being asked, "what is an urban farm?," and I am glad to report back on some of what we've learned...

So What is an Urban Farm?

At first glance, a farm is a big space where food is grown, so, an urban farm might be a big space in a city where food is grown. That has seemed to be the generally accepted definition. The 2.2 acre vacant former freeway fit that description well enough, and many were quite excited when the idea of a farm in Hayes Valley was first proposed.

Since 2010, as Hayes Valley Farm has continued to grow, our understanding of what an Urban Farm could be has also grown. Here are some of the elements that currently make up our Urban Farm.

The Greenhouse - for raising plants from seed to baby plants and seedlings

The Plant Nursery - for raising baby plants into stronger, healthier plants ready for the outside world

The Seed Library - for providing seeds to community members as a resource, and through participation, advancing research in what grows best in the city, built from materials rescued from the landfill

The Beds - for perennial and annual food crops planted close together along with other beneficial plants. The beds are built atop the freeway with cardboard, manure, much and compost, and not laid out in traditional rows and sections, but rather are placed on the landscape to save water and avoid typical pest problems

The Freeway Food Forest - for raising dwarf fruit trees, providing beauty, habitat for birds and pollinators, and demonstration of growing food without removing the pavement

The Tool Library - for lending and providing of tools for local farm and garden projects

The Compost Freeway - collecting cubic yards of organic kitchen scraps from local kitchens and community centers, mixed with landscaper clipping and organic matter from the waste stream, organized by a dedicated group of volunteers

The Beehive Exhibit - for demonstration and pollination, as well as unique hands-on education opportunities

The Time Machine - the first retail branch of the Timebank, a local currency, also built from materials rescued from the landfill

The Little Red Schoolhouse - converted out of a parking lot attendant shed, provides a secure, dry space for storage of educational materials and equipment

The Center for Youth Education - also converted out of a parking lot attendant shed, provides a secure, dry space for storage of youth educational materials and equipment

The Blue Tape Cafe - an outdoor gathering space for coffee, tea, and snacks

The Cob Oven - an earthen stove and outdoor gathering space built from sand, straw, broken pieces of old sidewalk

The Reading Room - an indoor gathering space for reading, researching and relaxing, also built from materials rescued from the landfill

The Resource Center - a truck-accessible drop site for large deliveries of materials, and a series of storage bays built from old palettes for storing and sharing materials and supplies.

The Solar Pump - a solar panel array and battery for education and demonstration of alternative, off-the-grid, energy solutions

The Bird Cage - a garden area planted to encourage bird and pollinator habitat

The Invisible Classroom - an indoor classroom space fashioned out of three portable greenhouses

The Cob Colosseum - an outdoor classroom and gathering space built from sand, straw, and broken pieces of old sidewalk

The list of elements that make up an Urban Farm is longer that just what can be found at Hayes Valley Farm. Some of these elements may be found at other Urban Farms in San Francisco. There's the **The Project Homeless Connect Community Garden** at Growing Home with the Department of Public Health,
The Free Farm Stand at El Parque Ninos de Unidos, **The Food Processing & Preserving Workshops** at Baker's Alley with ECO-SF and**The Compost Toilet** at the Eco-center at Heron's Head Park.

and there's more...

In looking a little harder, we may find that other elements may not be in San Francisco at all yet...

Where will we find spaces for Timber and Bamboo Orchards for future construction or Biofuel Processing Centers for alternative local energy production.

An Urban Farm is more about the compilation of these various elements than a large space dedicated to growing food.

So how much space do we really need? Most of these elements are relatively small, quite a few are under 100 square feet, restored or built from our garbage at almost no cost. At Hayes Valley Farm, a lot of these elements are conveniently located within the 2.2 acre, fenced-off space. But, they don't have to all be in the same space, and that is one of the greatest lessons being learned here.

The future success of Urban Farms isn't going to be realized just because there are more big spaces to grow food. What we really need are all kinds of spaces of various shapes and sizes, and people who live nearby who want to work together.

For the thousands of people who have learned, worked and played at Hayes Valley Farm, the realization that there is a timeline to begin closing up, breaking down, and moving the farm has conjured a lot of emotions.

Someone's mom once said, "If life gives you lemons, then make lemonade."

If the lemon served up this time was the notice of the pending sale of the farm to develop apartment buildings, then the lemonade is the opportunity to design more than a single farm site, more than a couple of them, but a whole city. Looking at the amazing structures Suzanne Husky designed, I can easily imagine tool lending, seed libraries and branches of the timebank all over town, easily accessible to eager urban farmers wherever they may live, work and play.

So, small elements of Urban Farms are now popping up all over town. We opened another branch of The Time Machine at San Francisco State, helped The Veggie Table at 3rd and Palou get started on their version of the free farm stand in the Bay View.

And getting closer and closer to the dream, designing the farms, the city, and the world we want to live in... well that's some sweet lemonade.

120404
6/11/12-Received in Committee

June 11, 2012

Dear Supervisors:

I am a Community Organizer focusing on issues of food security and food justice with Tenderloin Neighborhood Development Corporation. I urge you to support the urban agriculture legislation introduced in April (Ordinance 120404) along with a few important amendments.

We at TNDC strongly support the use of Urban Agriculture as a means to provide a source of income as well as access to fresh and healthy produce to the low-income families and communities of color living in San Francisco. We as San Franciscans must lead the way in addressing issues surrounding food security and food justice. This Legislation provides an important step in moving San Francisco to the forefront of a Global Urban Agriculture Movement.

While we support the proposal, we also wish to see the amendments put forward by the San Francisco Urban Agriculture Alliance included in the final legislation.

Specifically, we urge you to support the following changes to the proposal:

1) **This legislation should hold space to prioritize job creation and food security for low-income residents living in the more underserved neighborhoods of San Francisco.**
- In section 53.4, Goals numbered 1, 6 and 7 should include language that puts priority in locating and mobilizing these resources in low-income communities and for the benefit of San Franciscans with less access to healthy affordable produce.
- In section 53.3, Goal number 7 should incorporate how green jobs along with Urban Agriculture can be expanded and improved to address foremost, the still-pressing issues of hunger, food access inequity, and diet-related disease in San Francisco, especially in low income communities and communities of color.

2) **Ensure that the new urban agriculture program is adequately funded.**

3) **Incorporate an oversight body, such as an advisory board or citizen's advisory committee, for the new program.**

4) **Require that the evaluation and strategic plan for the urban agriculture program include a budget, identified funding, and input from community groups.**

5) **Explicitly include mention that the new program should explore how urban agriculture can provide job training and/or employment opportunities**

We hope you will support the proposal with the amendments outlined above.

Sincerely,

Ryan Thayer
Community Organizer

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NeighborWorks®
CHARTERED MEMBER

120404
6/11/12 - Submitted in Committee

A REPORT FROM AN URBAN FARMER
May 31, 2012

My name is Rob Joyce, and I am an urban farmer. Urban agriculture projects in San Francisco have been a primary focus for me during the last 28 months, first at Hayes Valley Farm, and more recently at Please Touch Community Garden, with my interest and activity including projects across the City. As the Board of Supervisors begins considering key urban agriculture legislation, I believe my experience creating, coordinating, and implementing these types of projects enables me to provide a helpful perspective.

First, I would like to applaud Supervisor David Chiu for introducing legislation to establish a program and goals for urban agriculture in our city. And I would like to express my gratitude to SPUR and Eli Zigas for the April 2012 report "Public Harvest: Expanding the Use of Public Land for Urban Agriculture in San Francisco." I am also grateful for all the people within San Francisco City government who have provided assistance and resources for urban agriculture. There is tremendous opportunity to create more resilient structures and support for urban agriculture in our city, and to leverage resources for increased positive effect. It is important that this opportunity not be squandered.

San Francisco directs very little of its public funding to urban agriculture. The SPUR report presents a chart called "How Much Does San Francisco Spend on Urban Agriculture?" on page 18. It indicates that an average of $580,923 was spent annually over a five year period from 2006-2011, and that funding has been increasing. Yet $234,764 - over 30% of what is shown as Capital/One-Time Expense during that period - is a grant from the Recreation and Park Department for a quarter-acre site that has not been activated or improved at all. To include this as money "spent" by the Recreation and Park Department on urban agriculture may be misleading.

Within San Francisco City government, there are no paid staff members with urban agriculture as their primary responsibility. The SPUR report claims on page 16 that "the combined partial staff time of numerous individuals in city agencies and city-funded nonprofits equals approximately 3.5 full-time employees." Without seeing the various duties which have been cobbled together to reach this 3.5 employee figure, it is hard to make an accurate assessment. Spending by the Department of the Environment represents over 30% of what is shown in the report as Ongoing Expenses (characterized on page 19 as primarily staff time, maintenance and programming) from 2006-2011. Yet none of the 87 staff members listed on the SF Environment website have urban agriculture in their job title, nor is there an urban agriculture program. The SPUR report indicates that urban agriculture grants are being awarded by this department, but there is no mention of specifics on the department website.

My concern is that the conclusions presented in the SPUR report may be interpreted to mean that simply reorganizing existing funding and personnel within existing organizations can adequately support an effective urban agriculture program. The

proposed legislation states that "by December 31, 2012, the Mayor and the City Administrator shall evaluate which entity within the City or which non-profit organization partially funded by the City should permanently manage the coordination of Urban Agriculture activities and house the Urban Agriculture Program." Existing departments like Recreation and Park and SF Environment do great work, but they have not taken the opportunity to lead and to expand urban agriculture efforts effectively on the ground. Without a demonstrated propensity or desire to create an urban agriculture program proactively, why should the stewardship of such a program be foisted upon them?

Diverting City funding to a non-profit organization presents problems as well. The NPO's that are fiscal sponsors of existing programs are already typically absorbing 15% of funding as administrative fees, and I question whether an appropriate return for this cost is being provided. I am concerned about additional layers of bureaucracy and administration that could delay and detract from actual timely implementation, and could be barriers to transparency. Additional concerns can be illustrated by San Francisco's experience with SLUG, which provides plenty of cautionary tales.

In reality, the vibrant urban agriculture projects that have provided so much benefit to our City have been created in large part by the leadership, coordination, and labor of volunteers. The fact that these efforts are largely of a volunteer nature offers one indication about why there is not better coordination between the various successful volunteer-led projects. When a person donates 10-20 hours per week at a project for which they have a personal passion, it is understandably hard to find an additional 3-5 hours to coordinate with other projects throughout the City.

I would like to emphasize that great urban agriculture projects have been implemented throughout San Francisco, but that the successes to this point have come largely from the selfless work of volunteers, with very little in the way of focussed efforts from the public sector. To sustain these projects and to create more like it, a fully funded Office of Urban Agriculture with dedicated staff members is appropriate. I recommend that this new Office be staffed as following:

One full-time staff member and one half-time staff member to oversee the Program. They will staff "a "one-stop shop" for Urban Agriculture that would provide information, programming, and technical assistance to all San Francisco residents, businesses, and organizations wishing to engage in Urban Agriculture" that is described in the proposed legislation.

Four half-time staff members, to act as Resource Coordinators at four Resource Centers to be located on existing urban agriculture sites that are on public land, "that provide residents with resources such as compost, seeds, and tools" as described in the proposed legislation.

Together, these positions total 3.5 full-time positions, the same staffing level the SPUR report claims are currently being publicly funded.

The goals outlined in both the SPUR report and the proposed legislation are admirable. However, I question whether some of those goals are appropriate at this time, and for this legislation. How was the goal of ten new urban agriculture projects reached? Are new sites the appropriate focus when there is so little publicly-funded support and staff for existing projects? I would welcome more rooftop gardens, but is an audit of public buildings (listed as the first goal in the proposed legislation) the best use of limited resources at this point? Fundamentally, I question the wisdom of legislating goals and timelines in the absence of any funding or staffing parameters.

I support the urban agriculture legislation that Supervisor Chiu has introduced. I welcome a cohesive program to support urban agriculture and the many benefits it provides for our city - healthy food, community, habitat creation, storm water runoff mitigation, recreation, education, blight reduction, and the positive transformation of urban space. I know that within the urban agriculture community, people have a wide range of opinions, ideas, and experiences. I hope many of these community members come forward to share their views, and that together we can help shape truly effective legislation that provides for a fully funded, fully staffed, effective urban agriculture program for the City of San Francisco.

Thank you for your consideration.

Support for Urban Agriculture Legislation
David Glober to: Malia Cohen, Eric.L.Mar, Scott.Wiener 06/08/2012 07:16 PM
Cc: Alisa.Miller, David.Chiu, MayorEdwinLee, info

Greetings,

I am writing as a 25-year plus resident and citizen of San Francisco and as some one active in community and neighborhood issues generally, and food security and urban farming and gardening activities specifically. There are many individuals in San Francisco trained in growing food and we have one established working microfarm. There are more skilled and semi-skilled workers in this area than there is land available, and many of the urban farms in place face a nomadic future.

Sup. Chiu's legislation addresses the many services urban agriculture does and can provide to the city, which range from healthful outdoor activity to helping to ensure adequate nutrition going forward. The role of petroleum in current farming methods, and of trucks bringing food into the city, is significant given that over time, pricing and supplies of petroleum may be insufficient to guarantee an accessible food economy. Supplementation of currently relied-upon sources of food to fill our shelves and pantries, may become essential.

This is to express gratitude to the City of San Francisco and Mayor Lee for all the initiatives and support for urban agriculture to date. This is also to urge adoption of Sup. Chiu's legislation with the additional consideration of the SFUAA's recommendations regarding specifics of this legislation in the letter from the SFUAA to the Land Use and Economic Development Committee dated May 14, 2012.

thank you,

David Glober
Potrero Hill / District 10

Letter of Support for Urban Ag Ordinance
community gardeners to: Malia.Cohen, Eric.L.Mar, Scott.Wiener 06/10/2012 02:19 PM
Cc: Alisa.Miller, david.chiu, mayoredwinlee, info, David.Campos, melanie.nutter, lauren.lester, phil.ginsburg

Sunday, June 10, 2012

Dear City of San Francisco Supervisors:

Friends of Alemany Farm urges you to support the urban agriculture legislation introduced in April (Ordinance 120404) along with an important amendment. The new urban agriculture program proposed in the legislation will coordinate efforts among agencies on specific, measurable targets with timelines; increase accountability by placing responsibility for coordination and reaching the goals with a specific person and agency; and begin a strategic planning process and evaluation that will help make better use of existing city resources that support city gardeners and farmers.

Alemany Farm (www.alemanyfarm.org) is San Francisco's largest food production site, a three-acre organic garden and orchard on Recreation and Park Department (RPD) property on the south side of Bernal Hill, adjacent to the San Francisco Housing Authority's Alemany Dwellings. Each year Friends of Alemany Farm produces several thousand pounds of fruit and vegetables as healthy and free nutrition for San Francisco residents; hosts dozens of field trips for classes ranging from kindergarteners to college students; manages instructional workdays for individuals as well as nonprofit, corporate and faith-based groups; and sponsors horticultural workshops and community celebrations. As the City's "urban food park," Alemany Farm is a unique place for recreation, education, and community-building.

We are proud of the work that we are able to accomplish. But we regret we can't do more — and we are frustrated that the City's disorganized approach to managing the community gardens program is holding us back. Our all-volunteer group has been operating under a RPD-mandated moratorium (no new programs, no fundraising, maintenance only) for almost three years as RPD slowly moves forward to develop a management plan for the site.

Plans for expanded food production, grants for education programs, work programs for low-income youth, etc. have all had to stand idle as we wait for the City to slowly move through

its process. By forming a dedicated office for urban farming, the proposed ordinance would streamline the process that has prevented us from creating new programs for the farm — programs that the farm's neighbors have said repeatedly they desperately need.

There is currently a multi-stakeholder process underway to develop a new plan for the site and to create a community advisory council to oversee programs. We are optimistic about the outcome of this process. But, once again, this process should not have taken three years. Although we have benefited from the hard work of diligent public servants in RPD and San Francisco Environment (SFE), it is clear that without any one agency focused on community farming and gardening, San Francisco will not be a national leader when it comes to urban food production on public lands.

We are enthusiastic about the proposed ordinance. It is the first step toward a long-overdue coordination of City agencies on issues related to community gardens and community farms like ours.

While we support the proposal, we also wish to see the amendments put forward by the San Francisco Urban Agriculture Alliance included in the final legislation.

Specifically, we urge you to support the following change to the proposal:

Incorporate an oversight body, such as an advisory board or citizen's advisory committee, for the new program. This will help ensure that more San Franciscans are invested in the new program, a wider range of voices are heard, and help provide accountability.

We hope you will support the proposal with the amendments outlined above.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

Friends of Alemany Farm

www.alemanyfarm.org

community.gardeners@gmail.com

CC: Phil Ginsburg, Melanie Nutter, Supervisor David Chiu, Supervisor David Campos, Mayor Ed Lee

Urban agriculture ordinance comments
Eli Zigas to: Alisa.Miller 06/10/2012 09:44 PM

Dear Ms. Miller,

Attached is a copy of SPUR's letter to the members of the Land Use and Economic Development Committee that I sent to the individual supervisors on Friday. I wanted to send you a copy for inclusion with the record of the legislation and, in case it's not too late, to include with any packet of public comments that gets distributed to the committee members prior to Monday's meeting. I realize I may be too late on this, but I hope not!

Sincerely,
--Eli

Eli Zigas
Food Systems and Urban Agriculture Program Manager
SPUR :: San Francisco Planning + Urban Research Association
415.644.4881
ezigas@spur.org

Ideas + action for a better city >> spur.org
Join us for the SPUR Member Party Thursday, June 14 >> spur.org/memberparty

SPUR comments urban agriculture legislation june 8.pdf

SPUR

SPUR URBAN CENTER
654 Mission Street
San Francisco, California
94105
415.781.8726
www.spur.org

SPUR SAN JOSE
38 West Santa Clara Street
San Jose, California
95113
408.510.5688
www.spur.org/sanjose

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Steve Vettel
Debra Walker
Cynthia Wilusz-Lovell
Cindy Wu

June 8, 2012

Land Use and Economic Development Committee
San Francisco Board of Supervisors
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
City Hall, Room 244
San Francisco, CA 94102-4689

Re: Urban Agriculture Legislation (Ordinance 120404)

Dear Members of the Land Use and Economic Development Committee:

SPUR supports the urban agriculture legislation (Ordinance 120404) introduced by Supervisor David Chiu, including the revisions submitted on June 5. The proposed urban agriculture program will provide transparency, improve coordination of city resources, and lead to more opportunities for people to farm and garden on public land.

SPUR's new report, *Public Harvest* (April 2012), found that demand for space in San Francisco to grow food is strong, and that many community gardens have wait lists more than two years long. To meet this demand and to better utilize public land for urban agriculture, we recommended that the city expand and coordinate its institutional support, increase funding, and provide a clearer process for accessing and activating public land for urban agriculture. This legislation is an important first step in this direction.

Urban agriculture provides San Franciscans with many benefits: vibrant green spaces and recreation, education about fresh food and the effort it takes to produce it, ecological benefits for the city, sites that help build community, and a potential source of modest economic development. But the city will not fully capture these benefits unless it responds to the growing interest and energy behind the issue with more resources and better institutional support.

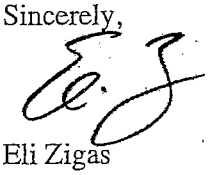
SPUR recommends, and this legislation creates, a "one-stop-shop" which would provide urban agriculture information and resources to the public. Currently, at least seven city agencies provide monetary support—averaging $580,000 per year—and 11 agencies provide land to city gardeners and farmers. Although the funding supports many important projects, there are no clear goals or accountability for how it is spent. Multiple agencies spend staff time responding to inquiries from the public regarding urban agriculture, writing leases to activate new gardens or farms on their land, and responding to requests for technical assistance. Still, city residents interested in gardening do not know where to turn to add their name to a community garden wait list, how to access garden resources, or how to activate an underutilized, publicly-owned parcel to grow food.

Supervisor Chiu's legislation will begin to address these issues by creating a program that is responsible for reaching specific goals with timelines. Importantly, the

legislation requires the Mayor and City Administrator to create a strategic plan for how to achieve the goals of the legislation and also determine, by the end of 2012, whether a city agency or a non-profit partially funded by the City best serves as the main institutional support for urban agriculture. This type of planning will begin much-needed coordination of agency efforts and aligns with one of SPUR's top recommendations.

We appreciate your consideration of SPUR's comments and encourage you to approve this legislation without delay.

Sincerely,



Eli Zigas
Food Systems and Urban Agriculture
Program Manager

Support for Urban Agriculture, Ordinance 120404
Stephanie Ciancio to: Malia.Cohen, Eric.L.Mar, Scott.Wiener 06/10/2012 11:59 PM
Cc: Alisa.Miller, david.chiu, mayoredwinlee, vid.Campos, info

June 10, 2012

Dear Supervisors:

I urge you to support the urban agriculture legislation introduced in April (Ordinance 120404) along with a few important amendments. The new urban agriculture program proposed in the legislation will coordinate efforts among agencies on specific, measurable targets with timelines; increase accountability by placing responsibility for coordination and reaching the goals with a specific person and agency; and begin a strategic planning process and evaluation that will help make better use of existing city resources that support city gardeners and farmers.

I often notice and share the feeling that San Francisco is a city to be escaped from in search of greenery and bucolic escape. With a proper system in place, we can heal the land and community, meeting needs through greater efficiency and connection with our land and its capabilities.

While Isupport the proposal, Ialso wish to see the amendments put forward by the San Francisco Urban Agriculture Alliance included in the final legislation.

Specifically, I urge you to support the following changes to the proposal:

1) Ensure that the new urban agriculture program is adequately funded. For the new program to succeed, at least one staff person must be dedicated full-time to coordinating the already existing efforts happening in agencies and neighborhoods across the city. More broadly, additional urban agriculture funding is needed for educational programming, site maintenance, and the development of resource centers.

2) Incorporate an oversight body, such as an advisory board or citizen's advisory committee, for the new program. This will help ensure that more San Franciscans are invested in the new

program, a wider range of voices are heard, and help provide accountability.

3) Require that the evaluation and strategic plan for the urban agriculture program include a budget, identified funding, and input from community groups.

4) Explicitly include mention that the new program should explore how urban agriculture can provide job training and/or employment opportunities

I hope you will support the proposal with the amendments outlined above.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Ciancio

Certified Green Building Advisor

CC: Supervisor David Chiu, Mayor Ed Lee

San Francisco Landscapes
CA Lic # 932022
PO Box 170182
San Francisco, CA 94117
Office: 415-585-9137
Web: SFLandscapes.com

6/10/12

Dear Supervisors:

San Francisco Landscapes urges you to support the urban agriculture legislation introduced in April (Ordinance 120404) along with a few important amendments. The new urban agriculture program proposed in the legislation will coordinate efforts among agencies on specific, measurable targets with timelines; increase accountability by placing responsibility for coordination and reaching the goals with a specific person and agency; and begin a strategic planning process and evaluation that will help make better use of existing city resources that support city gardeners and farmers.

SF Landscapes is a C-27 Landscape Contractor and a for profit corporation that designs, installs and maintains gardens in San Francisco. We also have a small but growing CSA – Community Supported Agriculture program where we grow food in folks gardens here in SF and trade the produce among the members. We are about to take on land-less clients as subscribers for weekly delivery of food grown in SF. We would like to expand our CSA program and hire more workers to helps us meet our goals.

It has been hard to find people to hire that have been trained in food production as it applies to SF, which has a unique climate and conditions. It would be great if there was a robust training program that we could hire from.

While **SF Landscapes** supports the proposal, we also wish to see the amendments put forward by the San Francisco Urban Agriculture Alliance included in the final legislation.

Specifically, we urge you to support the following changes to the proposal:

1) Ensure that the new urban agriculture program is adequately funded. For the new program to succeed, at least one staff person must be dedicated full-time to coordinating the already existing efforts happening in agencies and neighborhoods across the city. More broadly, additional urban agriculture funding is needed for educational programming, site maintenance, and the development of resource centers.

2) Incorporate an oversight body, such as an advisory board or citizen's advisory committee, for the new program. This will help ensure that more San Franciscans are invested in the new program, a wider range of voices are heard, and help provide accountability.

3) Require that the evaluation and strategic plan for the urban agriculture program include a budget, identified funding, and input from community groups.

4) SF Landscapes would like this ordinance to go beyond explicitly including mention that the new program should explore how urban agriculture can provide

San Francisco Landscapes
CA Lic # 932022
PO Box 170182
San Francisco, CA 94117
Office: 415-585-9137
Web: SFLandscapes.com

job training and/or employment opportunities. Change the wording to state: Enhance existing job training programs for all SF residents including low income and youth persons and create employment opportunities and incentives for employers to hire SF residents for their food growing programs.

San Francisco Landscapes hopes you will support the proposal with the amendments outlined above.

Sincerely,

Casey Allen

Permaculture Designer, Landscape Maintenance Manager, SF Naturalist
SAN FRANCISCO LANDSCAPES C-27 CA Lic#932022
PO Box 170182, San Francisco, CA 94117
Email: Casey@SFLandscapes.com Cell Phone: 415-572-1144 Office: 415-585-9137 Website: SFLandscapes.com

CC: Supervisor David Chiu, Mayor Ed Lee

Urban Ag Ordinance 120404

Nora Roman to: malia.cohen, Alisa.Miller, david.chiu, mayoredwinlee, Eric.L.Mar, Scott.Wiener, david.campos

06/06/2012 09:54 AM

Dear Supervisors et all:

I am writing to urge you to support the urban agriculture legislation introduced in April (Ordinance 120404) along with a few important amendments. The new urban agriculture program proposed in the legislation will coordinate efforts among agencies on specific, measurable targets with timelines; increase accountability by placing responsibility for coordination and reaching the goals with a specific person and agency; and begin a strategic planning process and evaluation that will help make better use of existing city resources that support city gardeners and farmers.

I am a home organic gardener and I've had the pleasure of being involved with rescuing the Alemany Farm from oblivion after SLUG fell apart and that garden (which is right below my home) was abandoned. I am thrilled and hopeful about the new upsurge in interest in urban agriculture and gardening. As a registered nurse and a community activist for health and other important issues, I feel it is very important that we provide organized official support for this legislature, which represents a people's movement toward health and sanity for our sick society.

While I support the proposal, I also wish to see the amendments put forward by the San Francisco Urban Agriculture Alliance included in the final legislation.

Specifically, I urge you to support the following changes to the proposal:

1) Ensure that the new urban agriculture program is adequately funded. For the new program to succeed, at least one staff person must be dedicated full-time to coordinating the already existing efforts happening in agencies and neighborhoods across the city. More broadly, additional urban agriculture funding is needed for educational programming, site maintenance, and the development of resource centers.

2) Incorporate an oversight body, such as an advisory board or citizen's advisory committee, for the new program. This will help ensure that more San Franciscans are invested in the new program, a wider range of voices are heard, and help provide accountability.

3) Require that the evaluation and strategic plan for the urban agriculture program include a budget, identified funding, and input from community groups.

4) Explicitly include mention that the new program should explore how urban agriculture can provide job training and/or employment opportunities

I hope you will support the proposal with the amendments outlined above.

Sincerely,

Nora Roman, RN
68 Arnold Ave.
SF, CA 94110

SAN FRANCISCO
Parks Alliance

P.O. Box 170160
San Francisco, CA 94117-0160
415.621.3260
www.sfparksalliance.org

June 4, 2012

Dear Supervisors:

The San Francisco Parks Alliance (SFPA) urges you to support the urban agriculture legislation introduced in April (Ordinance 120404) along with the important amendments put forward by the San Francisco Urban Agricultural Alliance.

SFPA's mission is to inspire and promote civic engagement and philanthropy to protect, sustain, and enrich San Francisco parks and green open spaces. Our parks and open spaces are critical public resources that enhance urban life. Residents utilize parks and open space for relaxation, recreation, and contemplation of nature, among other uses. More and more, San Franciscans have shown an interest in urban agriculture, and SFPA acknowledges that urban agriculture offers multiple benefits to city dwellers, including increasing their access to fresh and healthy food; providing recreational opportunities; fostering the creation of community; and providing ecological benefits such as the absorption of rainwater and providing habitat for birds and insects.

SFPA supports the urban agriculture legislation proposed, we also wish to see the amendments put forward by the San Francisco Urban Agriculture Alliance included in the final legislation. Specially, these amendments are:

1) Ensure that the new urban agriculture program is adequately funded. For the new program to succeed, at least one staff person must be dedicated full-time to coordinating the already existing efforts happening in agencies and neighborhoods across the city. More broadly, additional urban agriculture funding is needed for educational programming, site maintenance, and the development of resource centers.

2) Incorporate an oversight body, such as an advisory board or citizen's advisory committee, for the new program. This will help ensure that more San Franciscans are invested in the new program, a wider range of voices are heard, and help provide accountability.

3) Require that the evaluation and strategic plan for the urban agriculture program include a budget, identified funding, and input from community groups.

4) Explicitly include mention that the new program should explore how urban agriculture can provide job training and/or employment opportunities

The San Francisco Parks Alliance encourages you to support the proposal with the amendments outlined above.

Sincerely,

Matt O'Grady

Matthew O'Grady
Executive Director

CC: Mayor Ed Lee, Supervisor David Chui, Supervisor Christina Olague, Committee Clerk Alisa Miller, SF Urban Agriculture Alliance

Ordinance 120404: Urban Agriculture Legislation

Brie Mazurek to: Malia.Cohen@sfgov.org, Eric.L.Mar@sfgov.org, Scott.Wiener@sfgov.org

06/01/2012 09:45 AM

Cc: "Alisa.Miller@sfgov.org", "mayoredwinlee@sfgov.org", "info@sfuaa.org"

Please respond to Brie Mazurek

June 1, 2011

Dear Supervisors:

I urge you to support the urban agriculture legislation introduced in April (Ordinance 120404) along with a few important amendments. The new urban agriculture program proposed in the legislation will coordinate efforts among agencies on specific, measurable targets with timelines; increase accountability by placing responsibility for coordination and reaching the goals with a specific person and agency; and begin a strategic planning process and evaluation that will help make better use of existing city resources that support city gardeners and farmers.

As a supporter of local food and urban farm projects such as Hayes Valley Farm and the Urban Permaculture Guild, I have witnessed the growth and passion of San Francisco's urban agriculture community. I have written about the city's needs for more coordinated urban agriculture efforts in Grist: http://grist.org/urban-agriculture/san-franciscos-urban-ag-spansion/ Waiting lists for community gardens exceed 20 years in some neighborhoods. The city should provide the infrastructure to support citizens to grow their own food, utilize and beautify public space, and build community.

While I support the proposal, I also wish to see the amendments put forward by the San Francisco Urban Agriculture Alliance included in the final legislation.

Specifically, I urge you to support the following changes to the proposal:

1) Ensure that the new urban agriculture program is adequately funded. For the new program to succeed, at least one staff person must be dedicated full-time to coordinating the already existing efforts happening in agencies and neighborhoods across the city. More broadly, additional urban agriculture funding is needed for educational programming, site maintenance, and the development of resource centers.

2) Incorporate an oversight body, such as an advisory board or citizen's advisory committee, for the new program. This will help ensure that more San Franciscans are invested in the new program, a wider range of voices are heard, and help provide accountability.

3) Require that the evaluation and strategic plan for the urban agriculture program include a budget, identified funding, and input from community groups.

4) Explicitly include mention that the new program should explore how urban agriculture can provide job training and/or employment opportunities

I hope you will support the proposal with the amendments outlined above.

Sincerely,

Brie Mazurek
2211 Mission Street, Apt. C
San Francisco, CA 94110

CC: Supervisor David Chiu, Mayor Ed Lee

Urban Agriculture Legislation : You have my support!

Meredith Buck to: malia.cohen, eric.l.mar, scott.wiener 06/01/2012 10:26 AM
Cc: alisa.miller, david.chiu, mayoredwinlee, christina.olague, info

Hayes Valley, San Francisco
May 24, 2012

Dear Supervisors:

I, Meredith Buck, urge you to support the urban agriculture legislation introduced in April (Ordinance 120404) along with a few important amendments. The new urban agriculture program proposed in the legislation will coordinate efforts among agencies on specific, measurable targets with timelines; increase accountability by placing responsibility for coordination and reaching the goals with a specific person and agency; and begin a strategic planning process and evaluation that will help make better use of existing city resources that support city gardeners and farmers.

While I am in support of the proposal, I also wish to see the amendments put forward by the San Francisco Urban Agriculture Alliance included in the final legislation.

Specifically, I would urge you to support the following changes to the proposal:

1) Ensure that the new urban agriculture program is adequately funded. For the new program to succeed, at least one staff person must be dedicated full-time to coordinating the already existing efforts happening in agencies and neighborhoods across the city. More broadly, additional urban agriculture funding is needed for educational programming, site maintenance, and the development of resource centers.

2) Incorporate an oversight body, such as an advisory board or citizen's advisory committee, for the new program. This will help ensure that more San Franciscans are invested in the new program, a wider range of voices are heard, and help provide accountability.

3) Require that the evaluation and strategic plan for the urban agriculture program include a budget, identified funding, and input from community groups.

4) Explicitly include mention that the new program should explore how urban agriculture can provide job training and/or employment opportunities

I hope you will support the proposal with the amendments outlined above.

Sincerely,

Meredith Buck
Hayes Valley Farm
http://www.meredithbuck.com/

CC: Supervisor David Chiu, Mayor Ed Lee

Please support the proposed urban agriculture legislation !

Ashley Meyer to: Malia.Cohen, Eric.L.Mar, Scott.Wiener, David.Campos

06/01/2012 02:13 PM

Cc: mayoredwinlee, Alisa.Miller, david.chiu, info

Hi there,

As a San Francisco resident (district 9), I would like to ask you to support the proposed urban agricultural legislation, proposed by David Chiu, that would help improve our city's parks, gardens, and farms. San Francisco is known for being a green, nature-friendly city, and we should do everything we can to keep it that way and make it even greener!

Thanks for your consideration!

-ashley

--
Ashley Meyer
312-753-8843
ashleybmeyer@gmail.com

CUESA
the Center *for* Urban Education *about* Sustainable Agriculture

One Ferry Building, Suite 50
San Francisco, CA 94111
tel (415) 291-3276
fax (415) 291-3275
www.cuesa.org
info@cuesa.org

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Desmond Jolly
Mary Powell
Joel Schirmer
June Taylor
Minh Tsai

Executive Director
Dave Stockdale

June 1, 2012

Dear Supervisors:

The Board and staff of the Center for Urban Education about Sustainable Agriculture (CUESA) urge you to support the urban agriculture legislation introduced in April (Ordinance 120404) along with a few important amendments. The new urban agriculture program proposed in the legislation will coordinate efforts among agencies on specific, measurable targets with timelines; increase accountability by placing responsibility for coordination and reaching the goals with a specific person and agency; and begin a strategic planning process and evaluation that will help make better use of existing city resources that support city gardeners and farmers.

While CUESA supports the proposal, we also wish to see the amendments put forward by the San Francisco Urban Agriculture Alliance included in the final legislation.

Specifically, we urge you to support the following changes to the proposal:

1) *Ensure that the new urban agriculture program is adequately funded.* For the new program to succeed, at least one staff person must be dedicated full-time to coordinating the already existing efforts happening in agencies and neighborhoods across the city. More broadly, additional urban agriculture funding is needed for educational programming, site maintenance, and the development of resource centers.

2) *Incorporate an oversight body, such as an advisory board or citizen's advisory committee, for the new program.* This will help ensure that more San Franciscans are invested in the new program, a wider range of voices are heard, and help provide accountability.

3) *Require that the evaluation and strategic plan for the urban agriculture program include a budget, identified funding, and input from community groups.*

4) *Explicitly include mention that the new program should explore how urban agriculture can provide job training and/or employment opportunities*

The Board and staff of CUESA hope you will support the proposal with the amendments outlined above.

Sincerely,

Dave Stockdale
Executive Director

CC: Supervisor David Chiu, Mayor Ed Lee

RECEIVED
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
SAN FRANCISCO
2012 JUN -4 AM 8:47

6-1-2012

Dear Supervisors:

As a native San Franciscan who has been involved in Urban Agriculture for 8 years as an educator, gardener, and advocate, I urge you to support the urban agriculture legislation introduced in April (Ordinance 120404) along with a few important amendments. The new urban agriculture program proposed in the legislation will coordinate efforts among agencies on specific, measurable targets with timelines; increase accountability by placing responsibility for coordination and reaching the goals with a specific person and agency; and begin a strategic planning process and evaluation that will help make better use of existing city resources that support city gardeners and farmers.

I also wish to see the amendments put forward by the San Francisco Urban Agriculture Alliance included in the final legislation.

Specifically, I urge you to support the following changes to the proposal:

1) Ensure that the new urban agriculture program is adequately funded. For the new program to succeed, at least one staff person must be dedicated full-time to coordinating the already existing efforts happening in agencies and neighborhoods across the city. More broadly, additional urban agriculture funding is needed for educational programming, site maintenance, and the development of resource centers.

2) Incorporate an oversight body, such as an advisory board or citizen's advisory committee, for the new program. This will help ensure that more San Franciscans are invested in the new program, a wider range of voices are heard, and help provide accountability.

3) Require that the evaluation and strategic plan for the urban agriculture program include a budget, identified funding, and input from community groups.

4) Explicitly include mention that the new program should explore how urban agriculture can provide job training and/or employment opportunities

I hope you will support the proposal with the amendments outlined above.

Sincerely,

Antonio Roman-Alcalá
Co-founder, SFUAA
Farm Programs Manager, Potrero Annex and Terrace Low Income Housing REBUILD
Ecological Horticulture Instructor, Alemany Farm

CC: Supervisor David Chiu, Mayor Ed Lee

RECEIVED
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
SAN FRANCISCO
2012 JUN -4 AM 8:47
BY

RECEIVED
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
SAN FRANCISCO
2012 JUN -4 AM 8:47
BY

Argonne Community Garden Member
Bonnie Kirkland
109 21st Ave #2
San Francisco, CA 94121
6/2/12

Dear Supervisors:

I, Bonnie Kirkland, urge you to support the urban agriculture legislation introduced in April (Ordinance 120404) along with a few important amendments. The new urban agriculture program proposed in the legislation will coordinate efforts among agencies on specific, measurable targets with timelines; increase accountability by placing responsibility for coordination and reaching the goals with a specific person and agency; and begin a strategic planning process and evaluation that will help make better use of existing city resources that support city gardeners and farmers.

Community Gardens in San Francisco are an incredibly valuable resource for the city and the people. Community Gardens allow a neighborhood and/or many neighborhoods to come together for a common goal. It is a rewarding part of life to be able to grow a vegetable or flower and realize that you helped this beautiful creation to thrive. Children are awed by this process and it empowers them. It is incredibly rewarding to think that a person can feed friends or family from their garden. Gardens allow people to choose to be independent and resourceful with their food source. It is a valuable skill that needs to be shared and passed down to others. Community gardens bring together people of many ages and cultures. These gardens need to be supported so they can thrive and enhance the people and neighborhoods of San Francisco.

While I support the proposal, I also wish to see the amendments put forward by the San Francisco Urban Agriculture Alliance included in the final legislation.

Specifically, I urge you to support the following changes to the proposal:

1) Ensure that the new urban agriculture program is adequately funded. For the new program to succeed, at least one staff person must be dedicated full-time to coordinating the already existing efforts happening in agencies and neighborhoods across the city. More broadly, additional urban agriculture funding is needed for educational programming, site maintenance, and the development of resource centers.

2) Incorporate an oversight body, such as an advisory board or citizen's advisory committee, for the new program. This will help ensure that more San Franciscans are invested in the new program, a wider range of voices are heard, and help provide accountability.

3) Require that the evaluation and strategic plan for the urban agriculture program include a budget, identified funding, and input from community groups.

4) Explicitly include mention that the new program should explore how urban agriculture can provide job training and/or employment opportunities

I hope you will support the proposal with the amendments outlined above.

Sincerely,

Bonnie Kirkland
Argonne Community Garden Research/Resource

CC: Supervisor David Chiu, Mayor Ed Lee

SF Urban Agriculture Legislation 2012 - GRA supports it

Jeanette Arpagaus to: Scott.Wiener, Eric.L.Mar, Malia.Cohen 06/03/2012 05:19 PM

Cc: mayoredwinlee, david.chiu, Alisa.Miller, info

Green Roof Alliance

June 3, 2012

Dear Supervisors:

The Green Roof Alliance urges you to support the urban agriculture legislation introduced in April (Ordinance 120404) along with a few important amendments. The new urban agriculture program proposed in the legislation will coordinate efforts among agencies on specific, measurable targets with timelines; increase accountability by placing responsibility for coordination and reaching the goals with a specific person and agency; and begin a strategic planning process and evaluation that will help make better use of existing city resources that support city gardeners and farmers.

While we support the proposal, we also wish to see the amendments put forward by the San Francisco Urban Agriculture Alliance included in the final legislation.

Specifically, we urge you to support the following changes to the proposal:

1) Ensure that the new urban agriculture program is adequately funded. For the new program to succeed, at least one staff person must be dedicated full-time to coordinating the already existing efforts happening in agencies and neighborhoods across the city. More broadly, additional urban agriculture funding is needed for educational programming, site maintenance, and the development of resource centers.

2) Incorporate an oversight body, such as an advisory board or citizen's advisory committee, for the new program. This will help ensure that more San Franciscans are invested in the new program, a wider range of voices are heard, and help provide accountability.

3) Require that the evaluation and strategic plan for the urban agriculture program include a budget, identified funding, and input from community groups.

4) Explicitly include mention that the new program should explore how urban agriculture can provide job training and/or employment opportunities

We hope you will support the proposal with the amendments outlined above.

Sincerely,

Jeanette Arpagaus

Co Founder, Green Roof Alliance

info@greenroofalliance.com

arpagaus@aol.com

CC: Supervisor David Chiu, Mayor Ed Lee

Land Use Agenda Item 2: 120191 [Building Code - Definition of Efficiency Unit] - Please refer to Planning Commission

Paul Wermer to: Eric.L.Mar, malia.cohen, Scott.Wiener 06/04/2012 08:29 AM
Cc: Alisa.Miller, mark.farrell, "'Christina Olague'"
Please respond to paul

Subject: 120191 [Building Code - Definition of Efficiency Unit]

Dear Supervisor Mar, Supervisor Cohen and Supervisor Wiener:

Please refer this legislation to the Planning Commission to assess broader land use issues associated with the proposed legislation.

It is unclear what urgent need precludes seeking broader assessment of how this proposed legislation might have unintended consequences. Unit size has significant impacts in areas other than Building Codes, yet only the BIC has considered this legislation.

After brief inspection, I note two major points of concern (there are probably many more, which is why a Planning Department review followed by a Planning Commission hearing is needed):
1. This legislation reduces unit size, in the absence of considering compensatory common or open space, and without considering the increased demands on public amenities that very small units create. In light of the proposal in the Student Housing legislation to reduce open space requirements associated with very small units to 1/3 the present mandated open space, this is cause for concern. It has the potential to have adverse impacts on low income seniors, low-income single parents, and people with special needs.

2. This legislation restricts occupancy to 2 persons, meaning that efficiencies could no longer be occupied by a couple with an infant or small child, let alone a 2 child household. This further reduces the housing opportunities for low-income or homeless families, and could lead to the breakup of families.

As it stands the legislation, the BIC review, and the letters do not show any evidence that the potential for unintended consequences has been adequately considered.

Please do not forward this to the full Board of Supervisors for action until a more thorough assessment has been completed.

Sincerely yours,
Paul

Paul Wermer
2309 California St
San Francisco, CA 94115

415 929 1680

Pesticide Watch Education Fund

369 Broadway, Suite 200
San Francisco, CA 94133

415-622-0036 (ph)
415-622-0016 (fx)

info@pesticidewatch.org
www.pesticidewatch.org

May 31, 2012

Dear Supervisors:

On behalf of Pesticide Watch Education Fund (PWEF), a local non-profit grassroots organization which promotes healthy food access and pesticide reform, I would like to urge you to support the urban agriculture legislation introduced in April (Ordinance 120404) along with some important amendments. We understand that the new urban agriculture program proposed in the legislation will coordinate efforts among agencies on specific, measurable targets with timelines; increase accountability by placing responsibility for coordination and reaching the goals with a specific person and agency; and begin a strategic planning process and evaluation that will help make better use of existing city resources that support city gardeners and farmers.

As an organization that works directly with community members to better engage in and understand the City's policies and regulations around urban agriculture and pesticide use, we would find it ideal to have a specific person to which direct urban agriculture questions. More coordinated support from City agencies would be a great support for San Francisco residents and organizations which are working towards a more local and healthy food system.

While PWEF supports the proposal, we would like to see the amendments put forward by the San Francisco Urban Agriculture Alliance included in the final legislation.

Specifically, PWEF urges you to support the following changes to the proposal:

1) Ensure that the new urban agriculture program is adequately funded. For the new program to succeed, at least one staff person must be dedicated full-time to coordinating the already existing efforts happening in agencies and neighborhoods across the city. More broadly, additional urban agriculture funding is needed for educational programming, site maintenance, and the development of resource centers.

2) Incorporate an oversight body, such as an advisory board or citizen's advisory committee, for the new program. This will help ensure that more San Franciscans are invested in the new program, a wider range of voices are heard, and help provide accountability.

3) Require that the evaluation and strategic plan for the urban agriculture program include a budget, identified funding, and input from community groups.

4) Explicitly include mention that the new program should explore how urban agriculture can provide job training and/or employment opportunities

We hope you will support the proposal with the amendments outlined above.

Sincerely,

Dana Perls
Northern California Community Organizer, Pesticide Watch Education Fund

CC: Supervisor David Chiu, Mayor Ed Lee

Free Farm Stand/Free Farm
projects of the No Penny Opera

May 31, 2012

Dear Supervisors:

I urge you to support the proposed urban agriculture legislation introduced in April (Ordinance 120404) with some amendments included in a letter and report from Robert Joyce. At the end of my letter I have summarized his recommendations which I think are good ones and that I support. I do not at this time have any wisdom to know if the proposed Office of Urban Agriculture should be run by the city or a non-profit.

I started the Free Farm Stand in 2008 and the Free Farm in 2010 with a number of other non-profits . It is located on private land at Gough and Eddy and recently the land is being sold for development. I believe my voice and over 30 years of experience involved with urban gardening and hunger issues (running soup kitchens and food pantries) will also give you all a valuable perspective in considering this legislation.

Besides agreeing with the recommendations by Robert Joyce whom I have met and talked to considering this matter, I have one of my own personal concerns that I think the legislation should address and that I think it is weak on. That is the issue of what is now being called "Food Justice" and "Food Sovereignty". I have always just thought I was working on making sure people don't go hungry and that everyone should have access to local organic produce, especially those who have low incomes and tight budgets.

In San Francisco, 1 in 5 adults struggles to feed their family (http://www.sffoodbank.org/about_hunger/local_study.html-- A look at hunger in San Francisco: neighborhood profiles of hunger and food pantries). Through the process of being disconnected from our food and our communities we have become disempowered and often disenfranchised We believe that between the Free Farm and the Free Farm Stand we take steps towards rebuilding communities by bringing people back into the commons for the Free Farm Stand, creating space for communities to talk, learn, and work together at the Free Farm, and of course, to engage people in the process of growing their own food. Our project teaches people that they can be a part of the solution. Together, we take steps to fight hunger.

So any legislation that encourages urban agriculture should also strongly address the issue of hunger and poverty in our city. That an effort should be made to make sure that people without much money have access to resources for free to grow their own food if necessary. In other words, the neighborhood garden resource centers should be free. That the city should encourage the creation of not only more community gardens, but also farms that feed people in need like ours does. For example, I have been involved in the creation of a new park in my neighborhood at 17th and Folsom on a PUC owned parking lot that the city is buying. This would be a great opportunity to create a non-profit farm there that is run by volunteer neighbors and is modeled after Alemany Farm which gives away it's produce to its low income neighbors. However, I see no effort by the city to encourage this kind of enterprise. Another great example is Growing Home Garden that shows how gardens can be healing for homeless people and also people with mental and emotional issues. Urban Agriculture legislation needs to address that as well.

Sincerely,

Tree
Project Coordinator

RECEIVED
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
SAN FRANCISCO
2012 MAY 31 AM 10: 38

Phone: 415 824-5193 http://freefarmstand.org/ http://thefreefarm.org/ 937 Shotwell St., San Francisco CA 94110

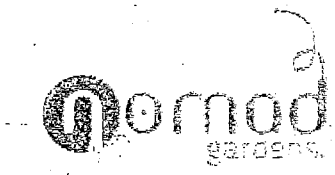
Excerpt from REPORT FROM AN URBAN FARMER
May 31, 2012

...To sustain these projects and to create more like it, a fully funded Office of Urban Agriculture with dedicated staff members is appropriate. I recommend that this new Office be staffed as following:

One full-time staff member and one half-time staff member to oversee the Program. They will staff "a "one-stop shop" for Urban Agriculture that would provide information, programming, and technical assistance to all San Francisco residents, businesses, and organizations wishing to engage in Urban Agriculture" that is described in the proposed legislation.

Four half-time staff members, to act as Resource Coordinators at four Resource Centers to be located on existing urban agriculture sites that are on public land, "that provide residents with resources such as compost, seeds, and tools" as described in the proposed legislation...

The goals outlined in both the SPUR report and the proposed legislation are admirable. However, I question whether some of those goals are appropriate at this time, and for this legislation. How was the goal of ten new urban agriculture projects reached? Are new sites the appropriate focus when there is so little publicly-funded support and staff for existing projects? I would welcome more rooftop gardens, but is an audit of public buildings (listed as the first goal in the proposed legislation) the best use of limited resources at this point? Fundamentally, I question the wisdom of legislating goals and timelines in the absence of any funding or staffing parameters.



RECEIVED
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
SAN FRANCISCO
2012 MAY 31 AM 8:52

30 May 2012

Dear Supervisors:

We of NOMAD gardens encourage you to support the urban agriculture legislation introduced in April (Ordinance 120404) along with a few important amendments. The new urban agriculture program proposed in the legislation will coordinate efforts among agencies on specific, measurable targets with timelines; increase accountability by placing responsibility for coordination and reaching the goals with a specific person and agency; and begin a strategic planning process and evaluation that will help make better use of existing city resources that support city gardeners and farmers.

Our garden in San Francisco's Mission Bay neighborhood would benefit greatly from better coordinated city agencies, including the Planning and Building Departments, Public Utilities Commission, Department of Public Works and Parks Alliance, to name a few. We would be able to spend less time on duplicating information for each permit application and instead be able to spend more time getting our garden up and running.

While we support the proposal, we also wish to see the amendments put forward by the San Francisco Urban Agriculture Alliance included in the final legislation.

Specifically, we urge you to support the following changes to the proposal:

1) Ensure that the new urban agriculture program is adequately funded. For the new program to succeed, at least one staff person must be dedicated full-time to coordinating the already existing efforts happening in agencies and neighborhoods across the city. More broadly, additional urban agriculture funding is needed for educational programming, site maintenance, and the development of resource centers.

2) Incorporate an oversight body, such as an advisory board or citizen's advisory committee, for the new program. This will help ensure that more San Franciscans are invested in the new program, a wider range of voices are heard, and help provide accountability.

3) Require that the evaluation and strategic plan for the urban agriculture program include a budget, identified funding, and input from community groups.

4) Explicitly include mention that the new program should explore how urban agriculture can provide job training and/or employment opportunities.

We hope you will support the proposal with the amendments outlined above.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Houston
Founder

Katie Crepeau
Project Director

CC: Supervisor David Chiu, Mayor Ed Lee

Proposed Urban Agriculture Legislation

robert joyce to: Malia.Cohen@sfgov.org, Eric.L.Mar@sfgov.org, Scott.Weiner@sfgov.org 05/31/2012 08:16 AM

Cc: "Christina.Olague@sfgov.org", "david.chiu@sfgov.org", "John.Avalos@sfgov.org", "mayoredwinlee@sfgov.org", "Alisa.Miller@sfgov.org"

Please respond to robert joyce

Good Morning Supervisors –

I urge you to support the proposed legislation to create an Urban Agriculture Program (Ordinance 120404), and to include amendments that ensure proper funding and staffing levels for an independent Office of Urban Agriculture. Please find attached and inline a brief report that I hope you will find useful.

Sincerely,
Rob Joyce
Resident, San Francisco District 5

REPORT FROM AN URBAN FARMER
May 31, 2012

My name is Rob Joyce, and I am an urban farmer. Urban agriculture projects in San Francisco have been a primary focus for me during the last 28 months, first at Hayes Valley Farm, and more recently at Please Touch Community Garden, with my interest and activity including projects across the City. As the Board of Supervisors begins considering key urban agriculture legislation, I believe my experience creating, coordinating, and implementing these types of projects enables me to provide a helpful perspective.

First, I would like to applaud Supervisor David Chiu for introducing legislation to establish a program and goals for urban agriculture in our city. And I would like to express my gratitude to SPUR and Eli Zigas for the April 2012 report "Public Harvest: Expanding the Use of Public Land for Urban Agriculture in San Francisco." I am also grateful for all the people within San Francisco City government who have provided assistance and resources for urban agriculture. There is tremendous opportunity to create more resilient structures and support for urban agriculture in our city, and to leverage resources for increased positive effect. It is important that this opportunity not be squandered.

San Francisco directs very little of its public funding to urban agriculture. The SPUR report presents a chart called "How Much Does San Francisco Spend on Urban Agriculture?" on page 18. It indicates that an average of $580,923 was spent annually over a five year period from 2006–2011, and that funding has been increasing. Yet $234,764 – over 30% of what is shown as Capital/One-Time Expense during that period – is a grant from the Recreation and Park Department for a quarter-acre site that has not been activated or improved at all. To include this as money "spent" by the Recreation and Park Department on urban agriculture may be misleading.

Within San Francisco City government, there are no paid staff members with urban agriculture as their primary responsibility. The SPUR report claims on page 16 that "the combined partial staff time of numerous individuals in city agencies and city-funded

nonprofits equals approximately 3.5 full-time employees." Without seeing the various duties which have been cobbled together to reach this 3.5 employee figure, it is hard to make an accurate assessment. Spending by the Department of the Environment represents over 30% of what is shown in the report as Ongoing Expenses (characterized on page 19 as primarily staff time, maintenance and programming) from 2006-2011. Yet none of the 87 staff members listed on the SF Environment website have urban agriculture in their job title, nor is there an urban agriculture program. The SPUR report indicates that urban agriculture grants are being awarded by this department, but there is no mention of specifics on the department website.

My concern is that the conclusions presented in the SPUR report may be interpreted to mean that simply reorganizing existing funding and personnel within existing organizations can adequately support an effective urban agriculture program. The proposed legislation states that "by December 31, 2012, the Mayor and the City Administrator shall evaluate which entity within the City or which non-profit organization partially funded by the City should permanently manage the coordination of Urban Agriculture activities and house the Urban Agriculture Program." Existing departments like Recreation and Park and SF Environment do great work, but they have not taken the opportunity to lead and to expand urban agriculture efforts effectively on the ground. Without a demonstrated propensity or desire to create an urban agriculture program proactively, why should the stewardship of such a program be foisted upon them?

Diverting City funding to a non-profit organization presents problems as well. The NPO's that are fiscal sponsors of existing programs are already typically absorbing 15% of funding as administrative fees, and I question whether an appropriate return for this cost is being provided. I am concerned about additional layers of bureaucracy and administration that could delay and detract from actual timely implementation, and could be barriers to transparency. Additional concerns can be illustrated by San Francisco's experience with SLUG, which provides plenty of cautionary tales.

In reality, the vibrant urban agriculture projects that have provided so much benefit to our City have been created in large part by the leadership, coordination, and labor of volunteers. The fact that these efforts are largely of a volunteer nature offers one indication about why there is not better coordination between the various successful volunteer-led projects. When a person donates 10-20 hours per week at a project for which they have a personal passion, it is understandably hard to find an additional 3-5 hours to coordinate with other projects throughout the City.

I would like to emphasize that great urban agriculture projects have been implemented throughout San Francisco, but that the successes to this point have come largely from the selfless work of volunteers, with very little in the way of focussed efforts from the public sector. To sustain these projects and to create more like it, a fully funded Office of Urban Agriculture with dedicated staff members is appropriate. I recommend that this new Office be staffed as following:

One full-time staff member and one half-time staff member to oversee the Program. They will staff "a .one-stop shop. for Urban Agriculture that would provide information, programming, and technical assistance to all San Francisco residents, businesses, and

organizations wishing to engage in Urban Agriculture" that is described in the proposed legislation.

Four half-time staff members, to act as Resource Coordinators at four Resource Centers to be located on existing urban agriculture sites that are on public land, "that provide residents with resources such as compost, seeds, and tools" as described in the proposed legislation.

Together, these positions total 3.5 full-time positions, the same staffing level the SPUR report claims are currently being publicly funded.

The goals outlined in both the SPUR report and the proposed legislation are admirable. However, I question whether some of those goals are appropriate at this time, and for this legislation. How was the goal of ten new urban agriculture projects reached? Are new sites the appropriate focus when there is so little publicly-funded support and staff for existing projects? I would welcome more rooftop gardens, but is an audit of public buildings (listed as the first goal in the proposed legislation) the best use of limited resources at this point? Fundamentally, I question the wisdom of legislating goals and timelines in the absence of any funding or staffing parameters.

I support the urban agriculture legislation that Supervisor Chiu has introduced. I welcome a cohesive program to support urban agriculture and the many benefits it provides for our city – healthy food, community, habitat creation, storm water runoff mitigation, recreation, education, blight reduction, and the positive transformation of urban space. I know that within the urban agriculture community, people have a wide range of opinions, ideas, and experiences. I hope many of these community members come forward to share their views, and that together we can help shape truly effective legislation that provides for a fully funded, fully staffed, effective urban agriculture program for the City of San Francisco.

Thank you for your consideration.

ReportFromAnUrbanFarmer5-31-12.pdf

Urban Agriculture Program : Support Proposed Amendments

Nelle Ward to: Malia.Cohen, Eric.L.Mar, Scott.Wiener 05/30/2012 09:28 AM

Cc: Alisa.Miller, david.chiu, mayoredwinlee, info

May 25th, 2012

Dear Supervisors:

On behalf of 18th and Rhode Island, a local permaculture cite affiliated with the Urban Permaculture Institute, I urge you to support the urban agriculture legislation introduced in April (Ordinance 120404) along with a few important amendments. The new urban agriculture program proposed in the legislation will coordinate efforts among agencies on specific, measurable targets with timelines; increase accountability by placing responsibility for coordination and reaching the goals with a specific person and agency; and begin a strategic planning process and evaluation that will help make better use of existing city resources that support city gardeners and farmers.

Not only would the proposed legislation provide our growing community at 18th and Rhode Island with the opportunity to develop partnerships with schools, relevant youth outreach educational programs, and other organizations pursuing urban agriculture in the city, but it would also provide resources for sharing information and tools, while creating accountability through which to direct specific proposals related to funding and development of potential new cites and programs. The creation of the program alone will spur momentum in the expansion of the urban agriculture community, enabling the city of San Francisco to maintain its position at the forefront of sustainable development efforts, ultimately encouraging prospects of an even greener workforce and economy.

While I support the proposal, I also wish to see the amendments put forward by the San Francisco Urban Agriculture Alliance included in the final legislation.

Specifically, I urge you to support the following changes to the proposal:

1) Ensure that the new urban agriculture program is adequately funded. For the new program to succeed, at least one staff person must be dedicated full-time to coordinating the already existing efforts happening in agencies and neighborhoods across the city. More broadly, additional urban agriculture funding is needed for educational programming, site maintenance, and the development of resource centers.

2) Incorporate an oversight body, such as an advisory board or citizen's advisory committee, for the new program. This will help ensure that more San Franciscans are invested in the new program, a wider range of voices are heard, and help provide accountability.

3) Require that the evaluation and strategic plan for the urban agriculture program include a budget, identified funding, and input from community groups.

4) Explicitly include mention that the new program should explore how urban agriculture can provide job training and/or employment opportunities

I hope you will support the proposal with the amendments outlined above.

Sincerely,

Nelle Ward

Volunteer Manager at 18th and Rhode Island

Andrew Gentile
771 Guerrero Street, Apt 6
San Francisco, CA 94110

May 27, 2012

Dear Supervisors:

I urge you to support the urban agriculture legislation introduced in April (Ordinance 120404) along with a few important amendments. The new urban agriculture program proposed in the legislation will coordinate efforts among agencies on specific, measurable targets with timelines; increase accountability by placing responsibility for coordination and reaching the goals with a specific person and agency; and begin a strategic planning process and evaluation that will help make better use of existing city resources that support city gardeners and farmers.

Along with a group of other volunteers, I am converting an unused private lot in the Glen Park neighborhood into a garden. It will provide produce to the low-income, immigrant family who owns the property as well as neighbors and others in the community of volunteers. As pedestrians, transit users and bicyclists, we had to expend nearly a thousand dollars in vehicle rentals over a period of 6 weeks to procure the manure and mulch that would serve as the material for the raised beds that would sit atop the very poor and non-fertile onsite soils. I would encourage the final legislation to include:

- **The availability of city-generated finished compost to gardeners and urban farmers**. We have been diligently filling our green bins for years, but none of it ever comes back to us!
- **A city-funded or subsidized delivery service for compost (generated from green bins), manure (from Mar Vista stables near Fort Funston, who is happy to see their material taken away), and mulch (from Bayview Greenwaste) to any location within the City and County of San Francisco**. Many urban farmers have very low incomes and the movement of such materials can often be cost prohibitive for those who have the most time and best skills and education use those materials.

While I support the proposal, I also wish to see the amendments put forward by the San Francisco Urban Agriculture Alliance included in the final legislation.

Specifically, I urge you to support the following changes to the proposal:

1) Ensure that the new urban agriculture program is adequately funded. For the new program to succeed, at least one staff person must be dedicated full-time to coordinating the already existing efforts happening in agencies and neighborhoods across the city. More broadly, additional urban agriculture funding is needed for educational programming, site maintenance, and the development of resource centers.

2) Incorporate an oversight body, such as an advisory board or citizen's advisory committee, for the new program. This will help ensure that more San Franciscans are invested in the new program, a wider range of voices are heard, and help provide accountability.

3) Require that the evaluation and strategic plan for the urban agriculture program include a budget, identified funding, and input from community groups.

4) Explicitly include mention that the new program should explore how urban agriculture can provide job training and/or employment opportunities

I hope you will support the proposal with the amendments outlined above.

Sincerely,

Andrew Gentile
Permaculture Designer, urban gardener

CC: Supervisor David Chiu, Mayor Ed Lee

support for urban agriculture legislation
LittleCity Gardens to: Malia.Cohen, Eric.L.Mar, Scott.Wiener 05/27/2012 08:42 PM
Cc: Alisa.Miller, mayoredwinlee, John Avalos, David.Chiu

Little City Gardens

5/26/12

Dear Supervisors:

Little City Gardens urges you to support the urban agriculture legislation introduced in April (Ordinance 120404) along with a few important amendments. The new urban agriculture program proposed in the legislation will coordinate efforts among agencies on specific, measurable targets with timelines; increase accountability by placing responsibility for coordination and reaching the goals with a specific person and agency; and begin a strategic planning process and evaluation that will help make better use of existing city resources that support city gardeners and farmers.

While we are in support of the proposal, we also wish to see the amendments put forward by the San Francisco Urban Agriculture Alliance included in the final legislation.

Specifically, we urge you to support the following changes to the proposal:

1) Ensure that the new urban agriculture program is adequately funded. For the new program to succeed, at least one staff person must be dedicated full-time to coordinating the already existing efforts happening in agencies and neighborhoods across the city. More broadly, additional urban agriculture funding is needed for educational programming, site maintenance, and the development of resource centers.

2) Incorporate an oversight body, such as an advisory board or citizen's advisory committee, for the new program. This will help ensure that more San Franciscans are invested in the new program, a wider range of voices are heard, and help provide accountability.

3) Require that the evaluation and strategic plan for the urban agriculture program include a budget, identified funding, and input from community groups.

4) Explicitly include mention that the new program should explore how urban agriculture can provide job training and/or employment opportunities

We hope you will support the proposal with the amendments outlined above.

Sincerely,

Caitlyn Galloway and Brooke Budner

Co-owners, Little City Gardens

--
http://www.littlecitygardens.com

May 25, 2012

Dear Supervisors:

I urge you to support the urban agriculture legislation introduced in April (Ordinance 120404) along with a few important amendments. I appreciate that the new urban agriculture program proposed will coordinate efforts among agencies on measurable targets with timelines, increase accountability, and begin a strategic planning process and evaluation that will help make better use of existing city resources that support city gardeners and farmers.

I am a Public Health professional and backyard gardener. I have recently begun volunteering and learning at Alemany Farm, The Free Farm, and other sites where San Franciscans proudly display their unwavering commitment to food justice and local, organic food. San Francisco can become a world leader in Urban Agriculture, starting with adopting this legislation, and thereby a world leader in building a resilient, healthy community. Corporate control of the majority of the food that people have access to in the city is leading to obesity, diabetes, and serious health problems for many community members. Please support the legislation and proposed amendments to protect people's rights to healthy food and support those already on the ground doing this important work.

While I support the proposal, I also wish to see the amendments put forward by the San Francisco Urban Agriculture Alliance included in the final legislation.

Specifically, I urge you to support the following changes to the proposal:

1) Ensure that the new urban agriculture program is adequately funded. For the new program to succeed, at least one staff person must be dedicated full-time to coordinating the already existing efforts happening in agencies and neighborhoods across the city. More broadly, additional urban agriculture funding is needed for educational programming, site maintenance, and the development of resource centers.

2) Incorporate an oversight body, such as an advisory board or citizen's advisory committee, for the new program. This will help ensure that more San Franciscans are invested in the new program, a wider range of voices are heard, and help provide accountability.

3) Require that the evaluation and strategic plan for the urban agriculture program include a budget, identified funding, and input from community groups.

4) Explicitly include mention that the new program should explore how urban agriculture can provide job training and/or employment opportunities

I hope you will support the proposal with the amendments outlined above.

Sincerely,

Kendra Shanley

CC: Supervisor David Chiu, Mayor Ed Lee

Support the urban agriculture legislation
Adriana Johnson
to:
Scott.Wiener, Eric.L.Mar
05/25/2012 01:12 AM
Cc:
Alisa.Miller, david.chiu, mayoredwinlee, info
Hide Details
From: Adriana Johnson <adriana.johnson@gmail.com>
To: Scott.Wiener@sfgov.org, Eric.L.Mar@sfgov.org,
Cc: Alisa.Miller@sfgov.org, david.chiu@sfgov.org, mayoredwinlee@sfgov.org, info@sfuaa.org

May 24, 2012

Dear Supervisors:

I urge you to support the urban agriculture legislation introduced in April (Ordinance 120404) along with a few important amendments. The new urban agriculture program proposed in the legislation will coordinate efforts among agencies on specific, measurable targets with timelines; increase accountability by placing responsibility for coordination and reaching the goals with a specific person and agency; and begin a strategic planning process and evaluation that will help make better use of existing city resources that support city gardeners and farmers.

While I support the proposal, I also wish to see the amendments put forward by the San Francisco Urban Agriculture Alliance included in the final legislation.

Specifically, I urge you to support the following changes to the proposal:

1) Ensure that the new urban agriculture program is adequately funded. For the new program to succeed, at least one staff person must be dedicated full-time to coordinating the already existing efforts happening in agencies and neighborhoods across the city. More broadly, additional urban agriculture funding is needed for educational programming, site maintenance, and the development of resource centers.

2) Incorporate an oversight body, such as an advisory board or citizen's advisory committee, for the new program. This will help ensure that more San Franciscans are invested in the new program, a wider range of voices are heard, and help provide accountability.

3) Require that the evaluation and strategic plan for the urban agriculture program include a budget, identified funding, and input from community groups.

4) Explicitly include mention that the new program should explore how urban agriculture can provide job training and/or employment opportunities

I hope you will support the proposal with the amendments outlined above.

Sincerely,

Adriana Johnson

CC: Supervisor David Chiu, Mayor Ed Lee

In support of urban agriculture.
Johanna Silver
to:
Malia.Cohen, Eric.L.Mar, Scott.Wiener, Alisa.Miller, david.chiu, mayoredwinlee
05/24/2012 01:09 PM
Hide Details
From: Johanna Silver <johanna.silver@gmail.com> Sort List...
To: Malia.Cohen@sfgov.org, Eric.L.Mar@sfgov.org, Scott.Wiener@sfgov.org, Alisa.Miller@sfgov.org, david.chiu@sfgov.org, mayoredwinlee@sfgov.org,

May 24, 2012

Dear Supervisors:

I, Johanna Silver, you to support the urban agriculture legislation introduced in April (Ordinance 120404) along with a few important amendments. The new urban agriculture program proposed in the legislation will coordinate efforts among agencies on specific, measurable targets with timelines; increase accountability by placing responsibility for coordination and reaching the goals with a specific person and agency; and begin a strategic planning process and evaluation that will help make better use of existing city resources that support city gardeners and farmers.

While **I** support the proposal I also wish to see the amendments put forward by the San Francisco Urban Agriculture Alliance included in the final legislation.

Specifically, I urge you to support the following changes to the proposal:

1) Ensure that the new urban agriculture program is adequately funded. For the new program to succeed, at least one staff person must be dedicated full-time to coordinating the already existing efforts happening in agencies and neighborhoods across the city. More broadly, additional urban agriculture funding is needed for educational programming, site maintenance, and the development of resource centers.

2) Incorporate an oversight body, such as an advisory board or citizen's advisory committee, for the new program. This will help ensure that more San Franciscans are invested in the new program, a wider range of voices are heard, and help provide accountability.

3) Require that the evaluation and strategic plan for the urban agriculture program include a budget, identified funding, and input from community groups.

4) Explicitly include mention that the new program should explore how urban agriculture can provide job training and/or employment opportunities

I hope you will support the proposal with the amendments outlined above.

Sincerely,

Johanna Silver

Proud resident of San Francisco

Associate garden editor at Sunset Magazine

CC: Supervisor David Chiu, Mayor Ed Lee

May 24, 2012

Dear Supervisors:

On behalf of Bay Localize, a local environmental justice and community development organization, it is my pleasure to urge your support the urban agriculture legislation introduced in April (Ordinance 120404) along with a few important amendments. The new urban agriculture program proposed in the legislation will coordinate efforts among agencies on specific, measurable targets with timelines; increase accountability by placing responsibility for coordination and reaching the goals with a specific person and agency; and begin a strategic planning process and evaluation that will help make better use of existing city resources that support city gardeners and farmers.

As an organization whose mission is to build resilient communities where people can provide for more of their own vital needs locally, we believe that more coordinated support for urban agriculture from city agencies would greatly support Bay Area neighborhood gardens and farms.

While we support the proposal, we also wish to see the amendments put forward by the San Francisco Urban Agriculture Alliance included in the final legislation.

Specifically, we urge you to support the following changes to the proposal:

1.) Ensure that the new urban agriculture program is adequately funded. For it to succeed, at least one staff person must be dedicated to coordinating the already existing efforts happening in agencies and neighborhoods across the city. More broadly, additional urban agriculture funding is needed for educational programming, site maintenance, and the development of resource centers.

2.) Incorporate an oversight body, such as an advisory board or citizen's advisory committee, for the new program. This will help ensure that more San Franciscans are invested in the new program, a wider range of voices are heard, and help provide accountability.

3.) Require that the evaluation and strategic plan for the urban agriculture program include a budget, identified funding, and input from community groups.

4.) Explicitly include mention that the new program should explore how urban agriculture can provide job training and/or employment opportunities

We hope you will support the proposal with the amendments outlined above.

Thank you for supporting equitable, resilient communities in San Francisco!

Aaron Lehmer
Campaigns Director, Bay Localize

CC: Supervisor David Chiu, Mayor Ed Lee

Support for Ordinance 120404
Sean Gibson to: Malia.Cohen, Eric.L.Mar, Scott.Wiener 05/23/2012 08:21 PM
Cc: david.chiu, mayoredwinlee, Alisa.Miller, info

Dear Supervisors:

I write to request your support of the urban agriculture legislation introduced in April (Ordinance 120404) along with a few important amendments. The new urban agriculture program proposed in the legislation will coordinate efforts among agencies on specific, measurable targets with timelines; increase accountability by placing responsibility for coordination and reaching the goals with a specific person and agency; and begin a strategic planning process and evaluation that will help make better use of existing city resources that support city gardeners and farmers.

My interest in this legislation stems from my current volunteer involvement with the urban agriculture community and my intent to establish a commercial urban farm along the central waterfront. The economics of urban farming are tight and the streamlining of services and improved access to resources will help eliminate barriers to market entry and foster a local farming industry.

While I support the proposal, I also wish to see the amendments put forward by the San Francisco Urban Agriculture Alliance included in the final legislation.

Specifically, I urge you to support the following changes to the proposal:

1) Ensure that the new urban agriculture program is adequately funded. For the new program to succeed, at least one staff person must be dedicated full-time to coordinating the already existing efforts happening in agencies and neighborhoods across the city. More broadly, additional urban agriculture funding is needed for educational programming, site maintenance and the development of resource centers.

2) Incorporate an oversight body, such as an advisory board or citizen's advisory committee, for the new program. This will help ensure accountability and that a wider range of perspectives are represented.

3) Require that the evaluation and strategic plan for the urban agriculture program include a budget, identified funding and input from community groups.

4) Explicitly include mention that the new program should explore how urban agriculture can provide job training and/or employment opportunities.

I hope you will support the proposal with the amendments outlined above and look forward to attending the hearing on Monday, June 4 at 1:00 PM in City Hall Room 263.

Sincerely,

Sean M Gibson

President
The Gus Factor Inc.
875 Indiana Street, # 515
San Francisco, CA 94107