



SMALL BUSINESS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF SMALL BUSINESS



CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO  
EDWIN M. LEE, MAYOR

March 23, 2011

Ms. Angela Calvillo, Clerk of the Board  
Board of Supervisors  
City Hall room 244  
1 Carlton B. Goodlett Place  
San Francisco, CA 94102-4694

**Re: File No. 101537 [Amending Planning Code Controls for Urban Agriculture]**

Small Business Commission Recommendation: **Approval with Modification**

Dear Ms. Calvillo:

On February 15, 2011, the Small Business Commission voted to recommend approval of Board of Supervisors File No. 101537 with modification.

The SBC is very supportive of increasing the number of Urban Farms in San Francisco, many of which will be small businesses, and encourages your approval of this ordinance. The Commission requests the following modifications. The Commission understands that Mayor Lee and Supervisor David Chiu will be introducing amendments at the Land Use and Economic Development Committee. As communicated to Commission staff, amendments related to the below recommendations satisfy the criteria that the Commission provided. The Commission has no comment on unrelated amendments that may be introduced.

*Sec. 102.34 (a) (2)*

*If the farmed area is enclosed by fencing, the fencing must be wood fencing or ornamental fencing as defined by Planning Code Section 102.32*

The Commission recognizes the need to have consistency in fencing across various uses. Urban Farms however, have unique factors which warrant consideration to amend this proposed section. Therefore, the SBC requests that the ordinance be amended to specifically allow green fencing or permit the zoning administrator to approve alternate types of fencing as deemed appropriate. The SBC also requests that consideration be made for temporary garden uses of several years or less, in which cases it may be cost prohibitive to install permanent ornamental fencing.

*Sec. 102.34 (a) (6)*

*The sales of processed or value added goods is prohibited.*

The sale of processed or value added goods will serve as an important revenue source and avenue to distribute products such as jellies, jams, and other preserves. The SBC requests that the ordinance be amended to remove this section of the proposed code or insert language that will permit the limited or accessory sale of value added goods at Urban Agriculture sites. The Commission believes that limited sales of these products will maintain the character of these businesses and will have a positive benefit in



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the communities that these sites are located in. Just as it is important to create land use controls that will permit Urban Farms, it is equally important to ensure that they will be successful. Accommodating for the sale of value added products in appropriate zoning categories will help ensure that these farms remain viable.

The SBC commends the Mayor and Supervisor Chiu, and their staffs, for working with the Urban Agriculture Alliance and other interested parties to craft amendments that address the above recommendations. This ordinance is an ideal example of how legislators can work with stakeholders to craft strong legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Regina Dick-Endrizzi". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Regina Dick-Endrizzi  
Director, Office of Small Business

cc. Johanna Partin, Mayor's Office  
Supervisor David Chiu  
AnMarie Rogers, San Francisco Planning Department