

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 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.