

In SUPPORT of CB14-0398

**Proposed Zoning Change to Allow a Home Occupation for
Sales of Fresh Produce and Cottage Foods
ORGANIZATIONAL ENDORSEMENTS
As of 6/10/2014**

Registered Neighborhood Organizations

Athmar Park Neighborhood Association
Cole Neighborhood Association
Curtis Park Neighbors
Greater Park Hill Community Inc
INC
Overland Park Neighborhood Association
RiNo, River North Art District
Sustainable North City Park
University Park Community Council
Uptown on the Hill
WeCAN
Westwood Unidos

Community and/or Business Organizations

Angelo Consulting Blake Angelo 4/16/2014
Chance Multimedia Stories Without Borders Jessica Chance 4/2/2014
Colorado Enterprise Fund Ceyl Prinster 4/1/2014
Denver Public Health William J. Burman, MD 4/7/2014
Hunger Free Colorado Victoria Treski 4/4/2014
LiveWell Colorado Noelle Melchizedek 4/22/2014
Livewell NE Denver Drew O'Connor 4/7/2014
Love Uprising
Metro CareRing Lynne Butler 4/15/2014
Mile High Business Alliance 5/22/2014
OED
Padres y Jovenes Unidos Monica Acosta 4/16/2014
Re: Vision International Eric Kornacki 4/2/2014
St. John's Episcopal Mike Orr 4/4/2016
Urban Land Conservancy Cindy Everett 4/7/2014
Walk2Connect
We Are Change

Urban Agriculture and Local Food Organizations

25 In Change Andre Roux 4/15/2014
25 Farms Andrew Roux 4/15/2014
Cow Town Grangers Penelope Zeller 4/15/2014
Denver Urban Gardens Shannon Spurlock 4/7/2014
Denver Yard Harvest Jason Barton 4/3/2014
Ekar Farm Aaron Ney 4/16/2014
Farm Yard CSA Debbie Dalrymple 4/2/2014
Feed Denver, Urban Farms and Markets Lisa Rogers 4/4/2014

GreenLeaf Cody Meinhart 5/7/2014
Grow Local Colorado Dana Miller 4/1/2014
Grower's Organic Brian Freeman 4/22/2014
Gypsy Farm Bus Katherine Cornwell 4/9/2014
Heirloom Gardens Sundari Kraft 4/2/2014
Impact Empowerment Group Bryan Butler 4/23/2014
Liberation Sequence Gardens Mya Bea 4/2/2014
Little Raven Farms Kelly Watson-Snyder 4/3/2014
Living Systems Institute David Braden 4/3/2014
Love Uprising Gerald Hamel 5/4/2014
MMLocal Foods Vanessa Rathbone 4/14/2014
Mo' Betta Green MarketPlace Beverly Grant 5/7/2014
Natural Grocers by Vitamin Cottage Alan Lewis 4/23/2014
Office of Economic Development, City and County of Denver Michael Miera 4/21/2014
Produce Denver Nick Gruber 4/3/2014
SAME Cafe Libby and Brad Birky 4/12/2014
Slow Food Denver Krista Roberts 4/3/2014
South Metro Urban Farmers Eric Belsey 4/4/2014
Sprout City Farms Meg Caley 4/9/2014
Sunnyside Urban Farm Clara Hendricks 4/9/2014
Sunshine Food Project Aleece Raw 4/17/2014
The Empowered Kitchen Katrina Brink 4/3/2014
The Garden Aleece Raw 4/17/2014
The Growhaus Adam Brock 4/1/2014
The Table Jeanine Broek 4/3/2014
Urbiculture Community Farms Candice Orlando 4/3/2014
Veterans to Farmers Jessica George 4/7/2014
Walk2Connect Jonathan Stalls 5/14/2014
Waste Farmers/Maxfield's Aron Rosenthal 4/3/2014
We Are Change Colorado Johnny Hurley 4/23/2014
Westwood Food Cooperative Eric Kornacki 4/2/2014

Support

CITY AND COUNTY OF DENVER, COLORADO REGISTERED NEIGHBORHOOD ORGANIZATION POSITION STATEMENT

Following a vote of the Registered Neighborhood Organization, please complete this form and email to rezoning@denvergov.org. You may save the form in *.pdf format if needed for future reference. Questions may be directed to planning staff at rezoning@denvergov.org or by telephone at 720-865-2974.

Application Number	CB14-0398
Location	City and County of Denver
Registered Neighborhood Organization Name	Greater Park Hill Community, Inc.
Registered Contact Name	Rebecca R. Born
Contact Address	2823 Fairfax Street
Contact E-Mail Address	director@greaterparkhill.org
Date Submitted	June 1, 2014

As required by DRMC § 12-96, a meeting of the above-referenced Registered Neighborhood Organization was held on May 1, 2014, with 14 members in attendance.

With a total of 12 members voting,

8 voted to support (or to not oppose) the application;

4 voted to oppose the application; and

 voted to abstain on the issue.

It is therefore resolved, with a total of 12 members voting in aggregate:

The position of the above-referenced Registered Neighborhood Organization is that Denver City Council

approve with comments noted Application # CB14-0398

Comments: Greater Park Hill Community, Inc. supports the proposed text amendment to allow the sale of fresh produce and Cottage Foods as an allowable Home Occupation with the following revisions:

1. Revise hours of operation from 7 am to dusk to 10 am to dusk.
2. Require a 12 month review of the sale of fresh produce and Cottage Foods in residential zoned areas by City Council for any negative impacts to neighborhoods.

Support

To Whom It May Concern:

Clayton United, a registered RNO with the city and county of Denver, took a vote regarding support of the new cottage foods zoning changes being debated and voted upon by the city council on June 16. I am happy to report that the vote was unanimous in support of the measure. Please keep our thoughts in mind as you review this opportunity to allow local, healthy food to be grown and sold in the city of Denver, and in some of our less-well supplied neighborhoods.

Thank you,

John Riecke
President, Clayton United

**CITY AND COUNTY OF DENVER, COLORADO
REGISTERED NEIGHBORHOOD ORGANIZATION
POSITION STATEMENT**

Following a vote of the Registered Neighborhood Organization, please complete this form and email to rezoneing@denvergov.org. You may save the form in *.pdf format if needed for future reference. Questions may be directed to planning staff at rezoneing@denvergov.org or by telephone at 720-865-2974.

Application Number	Fresh Produce and Cottage Foods
Location	RIno Art District - Denver
Registered Neighborhood Organization Name	RIno Art District
Registered Contact Name	Tracy Weil & Justin Croft
Contact Address	3611 Chestnut Place
Contact E-Mail Address	tracy@weilworks.com
Date Submitted	5/5/2014

As required by DRMC § 12-96, a meeting of the above-referenced Registered Neighborhood Organization was held on 4/25/2014, with 55 members in attendance.

With a total of 55 members voting,

52 voted to support (or to not oppose) the application;

3 voted to oppose the application; and

 voted to abstain on the issue.

It is therefore resolved, with a total of 52 members voting in aggregate:

The position of the above-referenced Registered Neighborhood Organization is that Denver City Council

approve Application # fresh produce/cottage food:

Comments: This was sent to an online vote for our members 4/25/14-5/1/14 - we have a total of 101 members. We are in support of Fresh Produce and Cottage Foods Application

4/21/2014

**Councilwoman Susan Shepherd
Councilwoman Robin Kniech
Councilman Albus Brooks**

Dear Respected Denver City Council members;


West Colfax Association of Neighbors, WeCAN, represents approximately 700 registered members that live, work and own property within the West Colfax neighborhood. At the April 8 general membership meeting of our organization, a proposal was presented to support the Amendment to Allow for Sales of Fresh Produce and Cottage Foods as a Home Occupation. The proposal passed with a unanimous vote of the fifty (50) members present.

As a Registered Neighborhood Organization (RNO) that set out to support sustainability at our inception over four years ago, WeCAN is proud to have been chosen to participate in the City's new pilot Neighborhood Sustainability Certification program. WeCAN already had programs in place that were supporting sustainability: community gardens, tree planting, neighborhood clean up days, a metal recycling program and an annual garage sale to raise funds for energy saving home improvement projects for low income senior citizens.

West Colfax is home to three fully utilized community gardens and a large number of home gardens. Healthy eating and building community are just two of the numerous benefits of community gardening. Being able to sell excess produce from a community garden plot or a home garden, would benefit many residents. The Amendment to Allow for Sales of Fresh Produce and Cottage Foods as a Home Occupation would bring easily accessible local produce to West Colfax and supplemental income to some of our lower income families and seniors.

WeCAN encourages all City Council members to support this amendment.

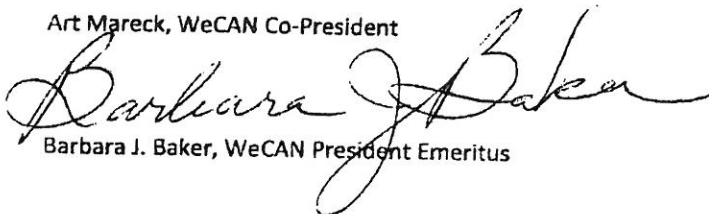
Respectfully,



Chad Reischl, WeCAN Co-President



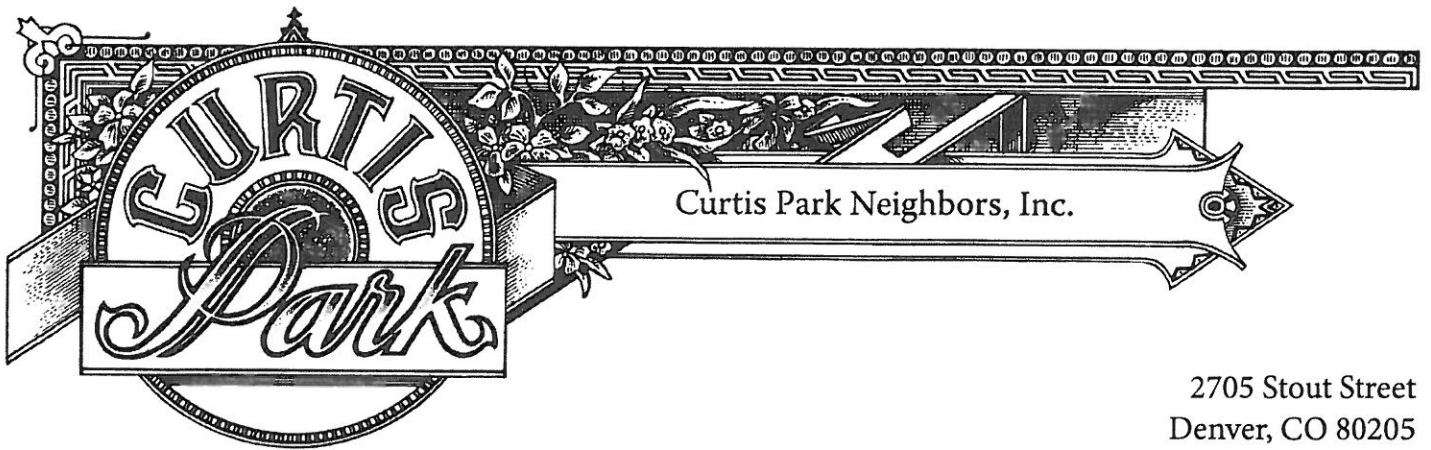
Art Mareck, WeCAN Co-President



Barbara J. Baker, WeCAN President Emeritus

West Colfax Association of Neighbors





2705 Stout Street
Denver, CO 80205

May 7, 2014

Denver Planning Board
201 West Colfax
Denver, CO 80202

CPN Supports DZC text amendment for Home Occupation sales of Fresh Produce & Cottage Foods

Curtis Park Neighbors (CPN) supports the proposed text amendment to allow sales of fresh produce and “cottage foods” as a home occupation.

We particularly appreciate the outreach of representatives from the Denver Sustainable Food Policy Council, who attended our Board meeting earlier in the year with ample time to examine the proposed policy as it was refined, and CPD staff who attended the Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation Zoning & Planning committee to talk further about the proposal in the context of existing state legislation on the matter.

This position was adopted by unanimous vote of the Curtis Park Neighbors Board of Directors at our regularly scheduled Board meeting on April 21, 2014, advertised throughout the neighborhood in the *Curtis Park Times* newsletter.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joel Noble', is written over a vertical line that extends down to the name below.

Joel Noble
President, Curtis Park Neighbors


May 15, 2014

To Whom It May Concern,

I would like to express my support on behalf of the Athmar Park Neighborhood Association for the proposed change in the zoning code in regards to residential food sales. We understand that this will soon be going to the full city council and we would like to make sure that we are helping to push this great idea forward.

We as a neighborhood and specifically as a board feel that the zoning change will help to promote small business and invite people to better utilize their yards for themselves and for others in the community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jan Harwick", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jan Harwick
President

Athmar Park Neighborhood Association

Showalter, Sarah K - CPD Planning Services

Overland Park

From: Terry Pasqua [tpasqua@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, April 17, 2014 7:49 AM
To: pompomdana@gmail.com; Showalter, Sarah K - CPD Planning Services
Subject: Our Support for Proposed Zoning Change for the Denver Sustainable Food Policy
Attachments: friday summary final.doc

Hello Sarah,

When Dana Miller came to our Neighborhood meeting a few months ago, we were very excited to hear about the plans for changing the zoning code to allow home owners to grow in their backyard and sell from their home. It is good to see that this proposal is moving forward. On behalf of the Overland Park Neighborhood Association (OPNA), we are in support of this proposal and look forward to it becoming finalized in the near future.

Thank you,

Catherine Sandy, President OPNA
Ronnie Crawford, Vice President OPNA
Terry Pasqua, Secretary OPNA
Tracey Hardeman, Treasurer OPNA

Uptown on the Hill

Showalter, Sarah K - CPD Planning Services

From: Dana Miller [pompomdana@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 16, 2014 3:53 PM
To: Showalter, Sarah K - CPD Planning Services
Subject: Fwd: Support for residential retail produce sales

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Frank Locantore <franksiloc@gmail.com>
Date: Thu, Apr 3, 2014 at 9:33 AM
Subject: Support for residential retail produce sales
To: pompomdana@gmail.com
Cc: Arlin Raedeke <arlin@pobox.com>

Hi Dana,

Uptown on the Hill RNO voted on March 3, 2014 to support this initiative. Contact person is Arlin Raedeke (arlin@pobox.com).

Thank you for all your work on this and please let us know if we can provide further assistance.

-Frank Locantore
Uptown on the Hill pres.

June 4, 2014

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter on behalf of the Cole Neighborhood Association in full support of a proposed zoning change to allow residential sales of produce and cottage foods. Our organization recognizes that this zoning change has the ability to improve the quality of life in our neighborhood.

Please contact me with any additional questions.

Best Regards,

Cynthia Brashears-Wake

President

Cole Neighborhood Association

Support with changes



DENVER
INC

www.denverINC.org

Neighborhoods work better when they work together.

Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation

June 9, 2014

Re: Council Bill 14-398 - a bill to amend the zoning code to allow fresh produce and cottage food sales as a home occupation

Dear Members of Denver City Council

Founded in 1975, INC's mission is to advocate for Denver citizens by bringing together, informing and empowering Denver neighborhood organizations to actively engage in addressing city issues. INC is an association of approximately 100 Registered Neighborhood Organizations (RNOs) from neighborhoods throughout Denver.

In March and April, our Zoning and Planning Committee had extensive discussions about the above referenced proposal. On May 10, 2014, the Delegation of INC voted 27 for, 3 against, with 5 abstentions to urge City Council to support the ordinance with 2 changes:

- 1) Food sales from homes should be allowed to begin at 10am (instead of 7am) and
- 2) There should be a review 12 months after the ordinance is adopted, to include comments from neighborhood organizations as to any possible problems.

The twelve month review period that we now understand to be part of the Bill is appreciated.

Respectfully yours,

President, INC

Dana Miller,
Denver Sustainable Food Policy Council

Dear Dana,

The North City Park Civic Association Board whole-heartedly supports the proposed residential zoning change to allow the sale of produce and selected home-made items. As a neighborhood which was recently selected by the Denver Department of Environmental Health to pilot the Sustainable Neighborhood Network, we are actively involved in promoting urban agriculture in our neighborhood. We think this change would be a great thing for our residents—both as a local commerce benefit, but also as a community building initiative.

Most Sincerely,

Karen Derrick-Davis, Chair
Sustainable North City Park
North City Park Civic Association Board Member

From: Jody Distad [<mailto:jody.distad@gmail.com>]
Sent: Monday, June 02, 2014 10:43 PM
To: Council District 10 - Internet Email
Subject: Re: e-Talk in 10 - June 2014

Dear Councilwoman Robb,

I strongly support the ordinance allowing people to sell whole, uncut fruits and vegetables; certain baked goods that don't require refrigeration; teas, herbs and spices; nuts and seeds; jams, jellies, and preserves; honey; dehydrated produce; whole, fresh eggs.

I live in Bellevue-Hale so we don't all agree with the board.

Sincerely,

Jody Distad
1290 Cherry St
720.353.4780

On Mon, Jun 2, 2014 at 5:34 PM, Council District 10 - Internet Email
<Council.District10@denvergov.org> wrote:



e-Talk in 10

Showalter, Sarah K - CPD Planning Services

From: Ozzy [ozzy_osborn43@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 23, 2014 8:54 AM
To: Showalter, Sarah K - CPD Planning Services
Subject: support for zoning change to allow home sales of produce

Hello:

As a Denver resident, living in the City Park West neighborhood, I want to register my full throated support for the zoning change proposed by the Sustainable Food Policy Council that lifts the restrictions on selling produce from local gardens. I very much would encourage you to throw your full support behind this almost absurdly beneficial measure!

Allowing people to earn extra income by selling produce from their gardens is just common sensical. A society that would seek to prevent this is not consistent with this ideals of this freedom upon which this nation was founded.

This move not only makes fresh and healthful food available at the neighborhood level, but in so doing reduces the 'carbon miles' of food being purchased, thus helping to reduce the pollution and other societal ills associated with long distance food distribution. It also seems clear that the impact on public health would be positive. This is especially true for residents of Denver's numerous 'food deserts' who have limited access to fresh produce. It will reduce not only the terrible human burden of food related afflictions like diabetes and obesity, but also the costs, public and private, associated with these diseases.

What could be more sensible?

Finally, as I am sure you are aware, this change will provide much needed incentive for neighbors to meet each other and an opportunity to build community in a society increasingly atomized, where people all too often feel isolated from each other, frequently not even knowing their neighbor's names - a situation with far reaching and dire implications. This change represents a move against atomization, and toward community. So let's prove ourselves worthy of the name 'sapiens' - let's get this zoning change onto the books ASAP.

Cordially,

Oz Osborn
2109 E 16th Ave
Denver, CO 80206

Showalter, Sarah K - CPD Planning Services

From: Armon, Joan R [jarmon@regis.edu]
Sent: Wednesday, April 23, 2014 7:56 AM
To: Showalter, Sarah K - CPD Planning Services
Subject: Support of Neighborhood Produce Sales

Dear Sarah,

I wholeheartedly support Denver citizens' opportunities to sell fresh products they produce in yards and gardens. This initiative puts Denver on the cutting edge of sustainability and food security efforts in this country. The initiative is essential because it:

Provides access to fresh, healthy foods, particularly for the elderly, those who have mobility difficulties, and those who live in a food desert

-Fosters food security for all community members, with consideration for economic viability and environmental sustainability

Anchors neighborhood resiliency and community connections by providing opportunities for neighbors to get out and meet each other and to survive natural or other disasters

Best, Joan Armon, 4505 W. 31st Ave., Denver, CO 80212

Showalter, Sarah K - CPD Planning Services

From: Andre Roux [andre@25inchange.org]
Sent: Wednesday, April 23, 2014 11:55 AM
To: Showalter, Sarah K - CPD Planning Services
Subject: Denver Sustainable Food Council's proposed Zoning Amendment

Hello Ms. Showalter,

My name is Andre Roux and I'm the Executive Director of 25 in Change. I have the great opportunity of overseeing this Denver-based 501(c)3 non-profit organization which seeks to empower individuals to live healthier and more sustainable lives in order to repair our global broken food system. Last year, we coordinated over 3,000 citizens in Denver to begin healthier eating habits while at the same time having them financially partner with us to provide over 300,000 school meals to hungry children around the world. We also launched a for-profit company called 25 Farms which grows all of its fruits and vegetables in the Denver area and delivers them the same day to people's homes around town. We're currently in the process of building a greenhouse with Mile High Ministries at 6th and Kalamath in order to provide jobs to formerly homeless people as well as more local, fresh, and sustainable produce to people living in that neighborhood.

I'm emailing you in support of the zoning amendment proposed by the Denver Sustainable Food Council. Allowing for people to grow and sell food from their homes can positively influence neighborhoods by fostering better local community connections while also improving the health of individuals through the physical activity of gardening and through eating the nutrient-dense foods such activity produces.

I cannot stress enough how important it is that a cultural food-change occurs in the Denver area. While we are one of the healthiest cities in the nation, we have one of the biggest gaps in the country between those who are healthy and those who suffer from a form of malnutrition. This gap is due primarily to differences in income. This zoning amendment would allow homes in underserved neighborhoods to better utilize their properties to sell healthy food to one another. We would see SNAP recipients gaining both income and dignity from producing and selling their food to their neighbors. This amendment can have positive changes throughout all neighborhoods in the Denver area. It is vital to health of our communities that the Denver City Council pass this zoning amendment.

Thank you for your time.

All the Best,

Andre Roux
Executive Director
25 in Change

Showalter, Sarah K - CPD Planning Services

From: Mya Bea [mya.b.living@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, April 28, 2014 2:38 PM
To: Showalter, Sarah K - CPD Planning Services
Subject: I support home-sales of garden produce & cottage foods!

A warm hello! ~ i'm writing in support of the ordinance change to allow fresh produce and cottage foods sales in the city of Denver.

There are so many reasons why i believe that residential-based market stands are a brilliant idea, but i'll just share my experience of building street/sidewalk level gardens for/with our neighbors in the Clayton neighborhood (80205): in a ramping-up-to-be gentrified part of NNE Denver, where a confluence of diverse residents come together in sometimes uncomfortable or alienating ways, growing and sharing food at the street/sidewalk level makes the streets safer, more pleasant, lays the groundwork for hyper-local micro-economies and community resiliency, and is a natural invitation to engage with those who live around you.

Since the gardens, the drug deals outside on the corner have stopped. Some of the weedy parkways (the space between the sidewalk and the road) have been reclaimed with the growing of fresh food -- and we plan to expand and see even more people bring the food out front in this way. As a result of interfacing with our neighbors (via car/bike/walk/stumble), we've witnessed the almost magical power that our semi-public gardens have had on people's otherwise guarded -- even hostile -- demeanors: folks of such clearly different life-experiences meet in conversation, while picking tomatoes, and that's precisely what our communities need at this Point in Time.

Community resiliency is ESSENTIAL if we are to weather the turbulent Times around and in front of us. It's important that more people are growing their own food, as well as a surplus to sell/barter/etc. for their neighbors who don't. It's important for people to learn how to navigate these older forms of economy (like barter, setting their own market value), to develop a craft (e.g. growing squash or making jam) that has immediate and tangible value to the people around them. i support an entire culture-shift in the way Denver residents are *able* and choose to get more fresh food in their daily lives. i support residential/neighborhood/block-based markets because it allows each micro-climate of a community to experiment with what it is to be *more open*, *more generous*, and to live a "slower" life, where walking across the street to get tomatoes and some lettuce for the evening's salad is their *regular* choice.

There is no way to project or completely measure the qualitative benefits where residents choose to engage this civic sphere -- but i thank you all for looking at legitimizing this incredible opportunity, so we can discover what's possible! While this sort of ordinance has passed in other cities around the nation, none (that i have found) are taking the practice of home-based market stands into the cultural mainstream, the way i believe we could, here; with all the incredible urban-agriculture knowledge, leadership, and talent in Denver, i'm confident that we can be a national leader in building more resilient, vibrant communities through supporting and promoting residential-based, fresh produce/cottage foods sales.

In Peace & Respect ~ Mya Bea, Liberation Sequence Gardens

★ *Mya Bea* ★ MPA

humane food advocate

discover: food justice, sovereignty & integrity

Denver-Boulder

email: mya.b.living@gmail.com

mobile: 720.808.1164

[about my work](#)



2 May 2014

Love Uprising is a strong supporter of the initiative before the City Council of Denver to allow retail sales of produce/food grown at residential homes.

The mission of Love Uprising is to promote organic community development. Love Uprising develops urban farms; reinvests in community assets; promotes cultural educational events to expand the neighborhood economy for goods & services that increase gross national happiness & sustain a secure & walk-able community.

Love Uprising supports the Denver Sustainable Food Policy Council's SFPC) proposed change to allow retail sales of fruits and vegetables and limited food products (e.g. teas, herbs & spices) that are grown or produced on residentially zoned property, with sales occurring at the grower's property with all sales direct to consumers.

The SFPC initiative strongly aligns with the mission of Love Uprising to expand neighborhood economies. Love Uprising supports mutual visions for community development.

Respectfully,

Gerald W Hamel

Gerald Hamel
Executive Director
Love Uprising
3540 E. 31st Avenue
Denver, Colorado 80205
720.276.1386
Ghamel@LoveUprising.org
www.LoveUprising.org



2 May 2014

Impact Empowerment Group is a supporter of the initiative before the City Council of Denver to allow retail sales of produce/food grown at residential homes.

Impact Empowerment Group continues the mission of the Prodigal Son Initiative strengthening and building our communities by providing youth and families the positive tools and knowledge they need to succeed.

Our vision is to see thousands of children will grow up in safe, beautiful communities where they can become highly successful leaders of peace by helping build their community through Servant Leader principles: self esteem, listening, empathy, healing, awareness, persuasion, conceptualization, foresight, stewardship, commitment and building community.

Impact Empowerment Group supports the Denver Sustainable Food Policy Council's (SFPC) proposed change to allow retail sales of fruits and vegetables and limited food products (e.g. teas, herbs & spices) that are grown or produced on residentially zoned property, with sales occurring at the grower's property with all sales direct to consumers.

The SFPC initiative strongly aligns with the mission of Impact Empowerment Group to strengthen youth and families by creating economic opportunity for youth and access to healthy & convenient food for families.. Impact Empowerment Group supports shared mutual visions for community building.

Respectfully,

Bryan Butler

Bryan Butler
Executive Director
Impact Empowerment Group
Nancy P. Anschutz Center
3399 Holly Street
Denver, Colorado 80207
720.612.2199
BButler@ImpactEmpowerment.org
www.ImpactEmpowerment.org



May 6, 2014

Brad Buchanan, Executive Director
Community Planning and Development
201 W. Colfax Ave., Dept. 205
Denver, CO 80202

Dear Mr. Buchanan,

On behalf of the Denver Sustainable Food Policy Council (SFPC), we would like to formally endorse the proposed change to the Denver Zoning Code that would create a home occupation allowing the sale of produce and limited cottage foods. This is a policy priority of the Denver Sustainable Food Policy Council.

This zoning code amendment would greatly benefit Denver residents in several ways:

- Create neighbor-to-neighbor direct sales that would help to build community
- Increase availability of fresh, affordable, locally grown produce
- Provide a new source of income for local residents
- Encourage gardening

The mission of the SFPC is to influence policy that fosters food security for all community members, and promotes a healthy, equitable, and sustainable local food system, with consideration for economic vitality and environmental impact. We believe many of these considerations will be achieved with the passage and implementation of this amendment. The SFPC is committed to working with community partners to educate the public, and promote and implement this amendment to the Denver Zoning Code.

Sincerely,


Shannon Spurlock
Co-Chair


Dana Miller
Co-Chair

cc: Sara Showalter
cc: Denver Planning Board

The Denver Sustainable Food Policy Council is a City of Denver Board and Commission.

June 9, 2014



Dear Denver City Council Members,

With your upcoming vote on the zoning change which would allow Denver residents to sell their homegrown, fresh produce and cottage foods directly to consumers, I wanted to reach out to ensure that you all understand the importance of providing easy access to fresh, healthy foods in our collective efforts to reduce and prevent obesity in Colorado.

LiveWell Colorado believes that this increased access will give Denver residents opportunities to consume more fruits and vegetables, thereby allowing them opportunities to make healthier food choices. A 2011 local study published in the *American Journal of Public Health* even found that 56% of gardeners consume fruits and vegetables at least five times a day, compared to 25% of non-gardeners.

We believe the zoning changes will also serve to help decrease hunger among Denver residents, particularly those in neighborhoods that do not have easy access to grocery stores and farmer's markets.

LiveWell Colorado supports this zoning change as a way to provide easy access to fresh, homegrown foods. We hope you will vote in favor of this change to allow the City of Denver to join other municipalities like Wheat Ridge and Arvada as statewide leaders in the movement to encourage the consumption of healthy, local foods.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gabriel Guillaume".

Gabriel Guillaume
Interim CEO and
Vice President of Community Investments

From: [Mickki Langston](#)
To: [dencc - City Council](#)
Cc: [Kniech, Robin L. - City Council](#); [Dana Miller](#); [Jennifer Billig](#)
Subject: Letter of support for Residential Food Sales
Date: Saturday, May 24, 2014 12:51:56 PM
Attachments: [Residential sales letter of support.pdf](#)

Dear Council Members,

Please find attached a letter of support for the Zoning Change to Allow Residential Sales of Fresh Produce and Cottage Foods in Denver. Mile High Business Alliance represents nearly 300 local business members, nearly 50% of which are food-related producers, farmers, retailers and restaurateurs.

Please don't hesitate to contact us with any questions and thanks very much for supporting local food production and sales in Denver!

--

Mickki Langston
Fearless Leader
Mile High Business Alliance
(303) 872-5646 x 401



milehighbiz.org | coloradocalfirst.com

Connect via [facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [LinkedIn](#)

Mile High Business Alliance | Office: 1750 Gilpin St. Denver | Mail: PO Box 9372 | Denver, CO 80209



PO BOX 9372 Denver, CO 80209

5/22/2014

Dear Council Members,

It is with great enthusiasm that the Mile High Business Alliance supports the Zoning Change to Allow Residential Sales of Fresh Produce and Cottage Foods in Denver.

A healthy economy is one which allows all people to provide for their needs while nurturing the other things we value, such as connected families, safe neighborhoods, and self-reliance. There's nothing more fundamental to a household's economy than the food we eat.

As a network of locally-owned businesses, we see this change in zoning as an opportunity to nurture new food entrepreneurs while making it easier for people to access local food. We know how critical it is for people to be supported in building their capacity to create and share value in the context of their community. This zoning change is just one part of that effort, and a positive step in creating a thriving local economy.

We appreciate the work of Council members and the Denver Sustainable Food Policy Council in identifying barriers for Denverites to access healthy food (and generate an income), and then working to address those challenges with the input and support of a broad cross-section of our neighbors and civil servants.

Thank you for the work you do.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Micki Langston". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Micki Langston
Co-Founder and Executive Director
Mile High Business Alliance

milehighbiz.org

Let Denver residents sell food from their homes

By The Denver Post Editorial Board

POSTED: 03/27/2014 05:01:00 PM MD19 COMMENTS | UPDATED: 3 MONTHS AGO



A Denver woman checks lettuce in her garden in this 2012 file photo. The city is considering a change to zoning laws in order to allow residents to sell homegrown produce and other homemade food items out of their homes. (Karl Gehring, Denver Post file)

Sometimes you wonder how it is that some activities were ever outlawed — such as selling a few jars of jam you make in your kitchen to a family down the street. But until the [Colorado Cottage Foods Act](#) cleared the path for such transactions a couple of years ago, such sales were out of bounds.

In fact, they still can't be conducted in many communities because of local zoning codes.

That's why Denver Councilwoman Robin Kniech is proposing a zoning change that would free Denverites to sell their own jams and a whole lot more — nuts and seeds; spices; honey; fresh eggs; uncut fruits and vegetables; fruit butter; baked goods that don't require refrigeration — to consumers.

If her proposal is adopted later this spring — and we hope it is — Denver will follow cities like Wheat Ridge and Arvada into the cozy world of cottage foods.

The list of items that can be sold is embedded in state law, not in zoning, and the state makes certain demands related to food safety. Eggs must be labeled with the date of packaging, for example, as well as the producer's address.

And if you're wondering whether neighborhoods will be festooned with signs advertising retail sale of food from homes, rest at ease.

First of all, this is a niche activity in which most of us won't participate. More importantly, only small, non-illuminated signs of the sort already legal for home occupations would be allowed — and they would have to be attached to a dwelling to be unobtrusive.

We're in an era in which local production of food is habitually lauded — and frankly overhyped. We're not about to go back to pioneer times when most people grew or made their own foodstuffs or bought them from a neighbor. That would be horribly inefficient and impractical.

But in the case of cottage foods, the urge for localism is also a movement for personal freedom that can engender a sense of community along the way.

Denver is right to join the parade.