

Michael B. Hancock
Mayor



City and County of Denver

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July 8, 2014

Members of Council

Dear Members of Council:

My administration has placed a premium on community sustainability, setting bold goals within the 2020 Sustainability Goals to enhance our quality of life today and in the future by preserving our resources.

The Fresh Produce and Cottage Foods Sales Home Occupation ordinance will work to meet Denver's community goal for food, which is to grow or process at least 20% of the food purchased in Denver entirely within Colorado.

By giving Denverites the opportunity to grow and sell produce and low-risk, value-added products from their residences, at the most basic level, we promote gardening: a skill that contributes to a healthy lifestyle with increased access to fresh, locally grown produce. Throughout the City and County of Denver, many of our families are food-insecure and struggle to access fresh, locally-grown food. This new home occupation will help address some of this inequity and ensure that this opportunity is available city-wide, to all Denverites.

Additionally, this new home occupation will also promote neighbor-to-neighbor interactions via direct sales and provide a new source of income for residents; in turn, this creates a localized economic driver. Increasing healthy food options for families and adding new opportunities for supplemental earnings can make a real difference in the economic and physical health of lower income residents.

I want to recognize the Denver Sustainable Foods Policy Council for recommending this policy change and I want to thank Council members Robin Kniech, Susan Shepherd and Albus Brooks for leading the passage of this ordinance.

It is my hope that Members of Council will join me in supporting the Fresh Produce and Cottage Foods Sales Home Occupation ordinance. It benefits our community, our economy, and our people.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael B. Hancock", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

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