

Community Planning & Development
Packet of Comments received on
CB14-0398 (unsorted)

**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

Overland Park

Showalter, Sarah K - CPD Planning Services

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.

4/21/2014

Councilwoman Susan Shepherd
Councilwoman Robin Kniech
Councilman Albus Brooks

Dear Respected Denver City Council members;

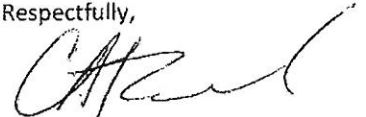
West Colfax Association of Neighbors, WeCAN, represents approximately 700 registered members that live, work and own property within the West Colfax neighborhood. At the April 8 general membership meeting of our organization, a proposal was presented to support the Amendment to Allow for Sales of Fresh 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.

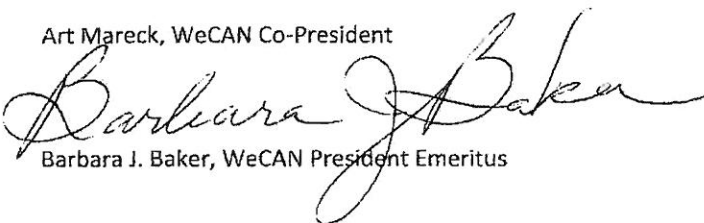
West Colfax is home to three fully utilized community gardens and a large number of home gardens. Healthy eating and building community are just two of the numerous benefits of community gardening. Being able to sell excess produce from a community garden plot or a home garden, would benefit many residents. 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



WEST COLFAX ASSOCIATION OF NEIGHBORS

April 13, 2014

Ms. Robin Kniech
Councilwomen
Denver, Co

RE: Legislation for Cottage Food sales in residential areas of Denver, Co

Dear Ms. Kniech,

This past month the Bear Valley Improvement Association had our monthly neighborhood meeting with the residents of Bear Valley. Bear Valley has approximately 1550 homes located in Southwest Denver. Councilwomen Jeanne Faatz discussed the proposed legislation for Cottage Food sales in Denver residential neighborhoods and asked for a vote on this matter. 100% of the home owners who were in attendance voted not to approve this new legislation.

Here were their concerns. Excessive traffic and trash in the neighborhood. Who will monitor the food quality? Who will be responsible if someone gets sick and decides to sue someone for food poisoning? Will the home owners leave the food stands up permanently? What will be sold? This could lead to other sales of material not closely regulated.

In conclusion we admire the "Green" approach and the idea of Urban Farming but there are too many unknowns that could create a lot of issues and we do not feel this is a good idea. So on behalf of the Bear Valley residents in Southwest Denver we do not support the proposed legislation for Cottage Food sales in residential areas in Denver.

Sincerely,

Ben Blanchard
President
BVIA

CITY COUNCIL
City and County of Denver

Councilwoman Robin Kniech
City Council At-Large
80202
kniechatlarge@denvergov.org
www.denvergov.org/robinkniech



1437 Bannock St. #488
Denver, CO
(720) 337-7712

April 23, 2014

Dear members of the Bear Valley Improvement Association,

Thank you for your letter regarding the proposed Fresh Produce and Cottage Food Sales Ordinance as a home occupation. I have been attempting to contact as many neighborhood organizations as possible in order to communicate both the intention and the logistics of the ordinance. We especially reached out to the designated contact for Bear Valley on several occasions in March in an attempt to attend the April meeting and were not successful. So we regret that we were not given the opportunity to present to your members before you discussed this ordinance in April.

Below I have addressed the questions and concerns listed in your letter and I would ask that this response be shared with all the members of your organization via any email listserv and/or newsletter you may use, or photocopied and distributed at your next meeting. I would also welcome the chance to visit an upcoming meeting in person.

The proposed ordinance is based on the Colorado Cottage Foods Act, passed by the Colorado Legislature in 2012, which allowed the sale of carefully researched, low-risk fresh produce and cottage foods by individuals in Colorado. The proposed ordinance is intended to implement the state law locally in Denver. With regard to your concerns, please find my responses below.

1. Questions about additional traffic due to the ordinance:
 - a. Many Denver residents already grow vegetables in their backyards or in community garden plots. The proposed ordinance would allow those residential producers willing to pay for a zoning permit to sell *their* own products directly to consumers, under a one producer, one consumer model. There will be no deliveries or traffic from suppliers, as these producers are only allowed to sell what they grow or prepare themselves. Employees are strictly prohibited, so there will be no traffic or parking required by employees. In addition, because producers, like all home occupations, will be strictly prohibited from displaying any signage on lawns, street corners or anywhere other than one, 100 square inch sign in their window or door, there is no mechanism by which these producers will be driving traffic from other streets to their homes.

Lastly, because producers can only sell what they grow or prepare, and the growing season in Colorado is short, the supply of food that residents have to sell is naturally limited (in addition to

Councilwoman Kniech

Page 2

April 23, 2014

limits in the state law for each product), further limiting the potential for traffic due to limited supply. Many cities in Colorado, including suburban communities like Wheat Ridge that are very similar to SW Denver have similar ordinances in effect and have seen no problems from traffic or parking. Most purchasers are neighbors who walk from nearby because they like the idea of buying from neighbors.

2. Questions about food quality, safety and investigation:

- a. It is important to note that whole, uncut produce is scientifically documented to be a very low risk food. All fruits and vegetables require washing as the number one method of preventing health concerns, and this rule applies the same for grocery stores, farmers markets and home grown vegetables. Due to the low risk of fresh uncut produce, there are no specific inspection requirements for fresh fruits and vegetables sellers – the government does not inspect farmers markets or community supported/delivered produce or this new home occupation.
- b. For cottage foods, the ordinance requires sellers to take food safety education classes and follow labeling rules to ensure food can be traced in case of concerns. The state law was intentionally designed to prohibit foods that are associated with risk (cheeses, canned vegetables, etc.). Foods that are allowed are scientifically proven to be low risk, such as jams that are low risk due to high degrees of acidity from the fruit.
- c. If anyone has concerns about the safety of food they bought from a home producer, they would call 311 and report it to the Dept. of Environmental Health the same way they would report concerns about a restaurant or grocery store. Public Health Inspectors have a protocol that they go through to investigate all reported food poisoning cases. Should it be determined that the item purchased from a residential sale is the cause of the food poisoning, DEH has the power to take action to protect public safety and the seller could face legal risks in the same way that any producer who fails to follow proper food handling guidelines might be at risk.

4. Questions about permanent stands:

- a. There will be NO permanent stands. The zoning code generally and this ordinance specifically both prohibit permanent structures. It also prohibits leaving any temporary outdoor furniture used during the day from being left up at night, stating that these items can only be used “during permitted hours.”

5. Concerns about what will be sold and will this lead to other retail sales:

- a. The proposed ordinance would allow the sale of fresh produce and cottage foods only. Food is a unique item, unlike any other product, in that it is essential for human life and it is a factor in major city goals such as lowering obesity and risk of disease by increasing access to healthy food. There are no similar city goals related to the need for other specific retail products. Please see the attached handout for a specific list of permitted cottage foods. Any food including marijuana is strictly prohibited.

- b. I respect that the residents who attended your meeting did not feel that they needed an ordinance like this, but we have heard from hundreds of residents in dozens of neighborhoods, including families living in Southwest Denver, who do support having this choice. I hope that the answers to these questions helps to dispel some myths that may have arisen about what the ordinance does and does not allow, and helps to alleviate some concerns, even if it does not change your position.

I do appreciate your participation in the dialogue and thank you for considering and distributing this response.

Sincerely,

Councilwoman Robin Kniech

**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	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 , with members in attendance.

With a total of members voting,

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

voted to oppose the application; and

voted to abstain on the issue.

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

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

Application #

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

withhold support

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

From: L BOGUE <reddogarts@msn.com>

Date: Wed, May 7, 2014 at 8:16 AM

Subject: Zoning Text Amendment re Cottage Foods as a Home Occupation

To: "rezoning@denvergov.org" <rezoning@denvergov.org>

Cc: "pompondana@gmail.com" <pompondana@gmail.com>, "dencc@denvergov.org" <dencc@denvergov.org>

The Board of Trustees of the Bellevue-Hale Neighborhood Association, in its regular monthly meeting on Wednesday evening, March 26th, 2014, reviewed the proposed Denver Zoning Code Text Amendment which would allow for the Sales of Fresh Produce and Cottage Foods as a Home Occupation. **After considerable discussion, our Board voted unanimously (by a vote of 10-0) to withhold our support of the proposed Zoning Text Amendment.** In reaching our decision, we discussed, among other things, the following:

- 1) Denver's current permitted Home Occupations do NOT allow the creation, display, exchange, storage, or sales of chattels or goods, and require no external evidence of the Home Occupation - in contrast to what would be allowed if this Zoning Text Amendment is approved.
- 2) How will sales of marijuana and related edibles in fact be restricted and controlled. Are there regulations and enforcement mechanisms in place to police and prevent such sales, and does the City have the financial wherewithal to control such sales?
- 3) At this point, there are insufficient standards to address all of the potential issues arising from retail sales allowed by this Amendment -- how sales will be regulated, the potential health impacts, and personal safety issues. A system that is already stretched thin with monitoring existing restaurants and food vendors would be hard-pressed to effectively monitor and ensure compliance with the high volume number of Cottage Foods permits that could be granted if this Amendment is approved.
- 4) Our goal of maintaining the integrity of our residential neighborhood is not consistent with retail sales of produce and food products.
- 5) Allowing retail sales, depending on the success of the enterprise, may result in properties developing the characteristic of retail stores.
- 6) Retail sales of any type are contrary to the residential character of our neighborhood and violate the purpose and intent of residential zoning.
- 7) Retail businesses, as opposed to customary home occupations, will increase both pedestrian and vehicular traffic and are likely to result in a more intensive use of the enterprise which may result in properties developing the characteristics of retail stores.

We concluded that the proposed Amendment has the strong potential to compromise the basic purposes of Denver's Zoning Code and presents the very real possibility of creating problems in our neighborhood that would far outweigh any benefits that might be achieved by passage of the

Amendment. We are deeply committed to preserving the residential character of our neighborhood. **Because of these very real concerns our Board voted unanimously (by a vote of 10-0) to withhold our support of the proposed Zoning Text Amendment.** We encourage you to consider our concerns as outlined above in rendering your decision on this issue.

Sincerely,

Laurie Bogue
President, Bellevue Hale Neighborhood Association

CITY COUNCIL
City and County of Denver

Councilwoman Robin Kniech
City Council At-Large
kniechatlarge@denvergov.org
www.denvergov.org/robinkniech



1437 Bannock St. #488
Denver, CO 80202
(720) 337-7712

May 19, 2014

Dear members of the Bellevue Hale Neighborhood Association,

Thank you for your letter regarding the proposed Fresh Produce and Cottage Food Sales Ordinance as a home occupation. Together with community representatives from the Denver Sustainable Food Policy Council, we have been attempting to contact as many neighborhood organizations as possible in order to communicate both the intention and the logistics of the ordinance. Specifically, we reached out to the designated contact for Bellevue Hale Neighborhood Association in March in an attempt to attend a meeting and did not receive a response, so I regret that no one involved in shaping the ordinance was present to answer your questions before the vote was taken.

Below I have addressed some of the questions and concerns listed in your letter. **I ask that this response be shared with all the members of your organization** via any email listserv and/or newsletter you may use, or photocopied and distributed at your next meeting.

The proposed ordinance is based on the Colorado Cottage Foods Act, passed by the Colorado Legislature in 2012, which allowed the sale of carefully researched, low-risk fresh produce and cottage foods by individuals in Colorado. The proposed ordinance is intended to implement the state law locally in Denver. With regard to your concerns, please find my responses below.

1. “Denver's current permitted Home Occupations do NOT allow the creation, display, exchange, storage, or sales of chattels or goods, and require no external evidence of the Home Occupation - in contrast to what would be allowed if this Zoning Text Amendment is approved.”
 - a. You are correct that in general, most current home occupations do not allow for any external evidence of the home occupation, except for the small sign that can be affixed to the home. There are however, several exceptions, including the child care home occupation which is allowed to have outdoor play and/or seating areas. The proposed Fresh Produce and Cottage Sales amendment would allow visible display of the home occupation during permitted operation hours **only**. The ordinance specifically requires any visible sign of the home occupation such as portable furniture, to be removed each evening after dusk. Failure to comply with this requirement, or use of unauthorized furniture, would be subject to NIS inspection for a zoning violation.

- b. I also respect that you may have concern about sale of food leading to any other home sales. We debated this matter in the City Council Land Use committee, and there is a strong and unique case to be made for access to fresh food that cannot be made for other products. It is a necessity for human life, and we have specific city goals related to health and local sourcing of food that this ordinance advances. We have no other city goals related to access to crafts or other products, and there is no intention on the part of the Council sponsors nor the CPD staff that reviewed the ordinance to consider any further expansions.
2. “How will sales of marijuana and related edibles in fact be restricted and controlled. Are there regulations and enforcement mechanisms in place to police and prevent such sales, and does the City have the financial wherewithal to control such sales?”
 - a. There are currently regulations and enforcement mechanisms in place, which prohibit anyone, regardless of this ordinance, from selling products that include marijuana absent a retail license from the city and the state. The proposed ordinance explicitly emphasizes the prohibition of any sale of marijuana products.
 - b. Anyone reported for selling a marijuana infused product would be investigated for three or more violations: 1) Zoning code violation, 2) Operating a business without a license – city and state, and 3) criminal violations.
 - c. Denver Police have already received reports and investigated reports of unauthorized marijuana edibles, demonstrating both that enforcement resources and capabilities exist, but also that these issues are largely unrelated to the proposed ordinance. I share deep concerns about marijuana edible safety and regulation, and believe we need greater restrictions from the state to complement our local enforcement efforts. But I believe the potential for illegal sale of edibles is far greater in private, unregulated markets than it would be in a home occupation that is operated with a public zoning permit.
 3. “At this point, there are insufficient standards to address all of the potential issues arising from retail sales allowed by this Amendment -- how sales will be regulated, the potential health impacts, and personal safety issues.”
 - a. It is important to note that public health experts at the state and city conclude that whole, uncut produce is a very low risk food. All fruits and vegetables require washing as the number one method of preventing health concerns, and this rule applies the same for grocery stores, farmers markets and home grown vegetables. Growing of vegetables in foreign countries with different chemical standards than the United States, transportation of fruits and vegetables over long distances, and handling by machinery all introduce far greater risk of food safety in the food purchased from grocery stores than the scientific risk of human-handled, uncut fruits and vegetables.

- b. Due to the low risk of fresh uncut produce, there are no specific inspection requirements for *any* fresh fruits and vegetables sellers. Denver does not inspect farmers markets or community supported/delivered produce cooperatives, which sell directly to consumers and restaurants, so we have not proposed a new/higher inspection regime for this new occupation. The proposed ordinance applies the same standards to all growers and sellers, based on solid scientific analysis of extremely low risk.
 - c. For cottage foods, the ordinance requires sellers to take food safety education classes and follow labeling rules to ensure food can be traced in case of concerns. The state law was intentionally designed to prohibit foods that are associated with risk (cheeses, canned vegetables, etc.). Foods that are allowed are scientifically proven to be low risk, such as jams that are low risk due to high degrees of acidity from the fruit.
 - d. Denver *does* have resources and a method for investigating any concerns that may arise in spite of these considerations. If anyone has concerns about the safety of food they bought from a home producer, they would call 311 and report it to the Dept. of Environmental Health the same way they would report concerns about a restaurant or grocery store. Public Health Inspectors have a protocol that they go through to investigate all reported food poisoning cases. Should it be determined that the item purchased from a residential sale is the cause of the food poisoning, DEH has the power to take action to protect public safety and the seller could face legal risks in the same way that any producer who fails to follow proper food handling guidelines might be at risk. All affected department in fact have been handling such cases since the passage of the Cottage Food Sales Act, Denver is simply taking steps to formally legalize what is already allowed in Colorado through this proposed ordinance
4. “Our goal of maintaining the integrity of our residential neighborhood is not consistent with retail sales of produce and food products. Allowing retail sales, depending on the success of the enterprise, may result in properties developing the characteristic of retail stores. Retail sales of any type are contrary to the residential character of our neighborhood and violate the purpose and intent of residential zoning.”
- a. The Cottage Food Sales Act, on which this ordinance is largely based, restricts the sale of individual products to \$5,000, limiting the scale of production. Since the ordinance only allows producers to become sellers, individuals are limited to their own home or plot at a community garden for cultivatable land. Furthermore, Colorado’s weather and short growing season is a natural limitation on the volume of food that residents could grow and sell. These limiting factors will naturally mitigate the potential for some of the concerns you describe, such as traffic or parking.
 - b. Please see my response under 1.b above regarding the sale of *any* products.

In conclusion, I hope that these responses have quelled some of your concerns regarding the details of the proposal. As I described above, I understand and respect your concerns about allowing *any* sales in a residential zone district. The City Council has heard from many other neighborhoods and residents, however, who feel that the kind of small-scale, food access and neighbor-to-neighbor interaction this ordinance will foster are *positives* for their community. We have also heard from families for whom this food, or extra income, will make a difference in their lives and health. Additionally, the City and County of Denver has a long-standing policy of requiring a uniformity of zone districts across the city. For these reasons I believe it is important for the City Council to support this zoning text amendment.

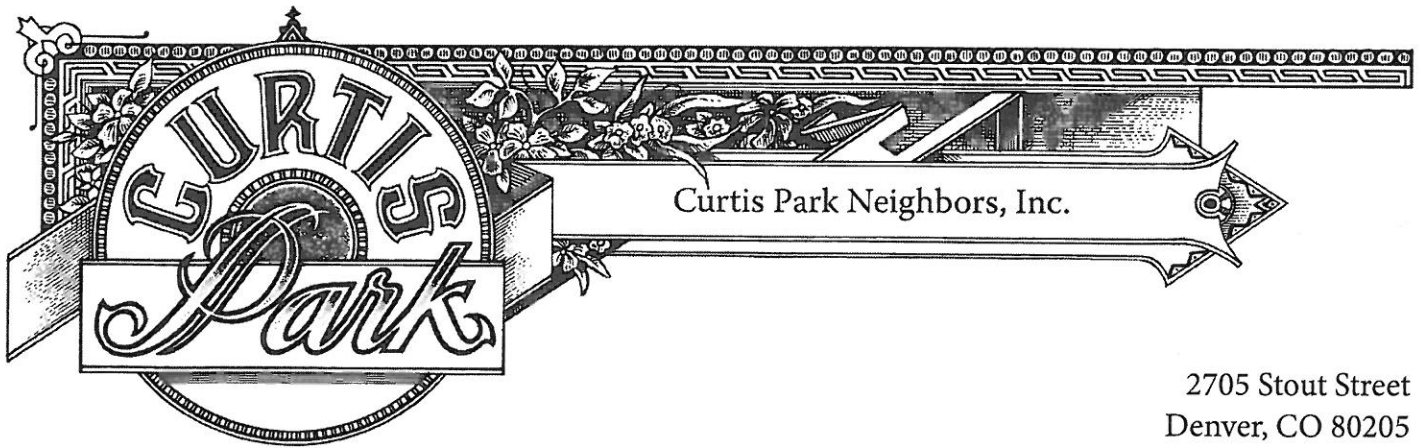
In an attempt to address concerns like yours, I have worked with city departments to create a tracking system in the 3-1-1 system for the various kinds of complaints we may receive – compliance with zoning limitations on hours, traffic, signage, furniture, food quality etc. I am committed to sharing the results of these complaints at the close of one year and will address any systematic concerns if they arise through amendments or other approaches.

I do appreciate your participation in the dialogue and thank you for considering and distributing this response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robin Kniech".

Councilwoman Robin Kniech



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 light-colored background.

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 "Ian Harwick", written over a horizontal line.

Ian Harwick
President
Athmar Park Neighborhood Association

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

And why are we passing an ordinance for a small minority-example; allowable animals for food ordinance that was passed in 2010? The question came up; How many actual chickens and goats are in yards in Lowry, Hilltop, Crestmoor, Mayfair Park, Mayfair, Montclair, Bellevue Hale, Congress Park and Cherry Creek North? The answer is obvious-very little to none, which is why we don't have problems.

The majority of our members (80%) feel this is not a good ordinance to approve as its purpose does not support a majority need or benefit.

IMO, I concur with most of our members. We like the separation between residential and commercial and ask that you vote no on this ordinance or amend this ordinance to restrict its allowable areas.

Thank you for listening to our concerns.

Troy

Troy Moore
President-Mayfair Park RNO

From: troy moore [mailto:Troy@tkproperties.org]
Sent: Monday, June 02, 2014 11:11 PM
To: Kniech, Robin L. - City Council
Cc: Susman, Mary Beth - City Council; troy@tkproperties.org
Subject: RE: Residential Food Sales
Importance: High

Hello Councilwoman Kniech;

Thank you for taking time out and addressing some of the concerns we have with this proposed ordinance. I appreciate your attachment and it's good to see that other neighborhoods share similar concerns.

I will not dispute that our City has done a great job at handling complaints. Our 311 system works very well and our inspectors have done and continue to do a fabulous job at addressing concerns when they arise.

I was asked by several people why this has to be a "for profit" ordinance and not one of sharing? Those same people are skeptic that someone or more others would capitalize on this ordinance and go beyond its regulatory guidelines and intentions. There are a lot of people (including myself) that think worst case scenarios or play devil's advocate. When you are introducing something new that can potentially change our living experiences from what we bought into to something that we haven't agreed to, can make it very unsettling to those who like to keep their neighborhoods as neighborhoods. Each year, someone wants to add more and more allowable home based ideas to what someone can do from home. Many residents in our community are worried that we are getting away from what residences are intended for and tightening the separation between commercial and residential.

While the growing season may be short, and you don't expect any problems, you cannot guaranty that problems will arise from these types of businesses or that people will follow the guidelines set forth in the ordinance. Example of this is when we had a resident that starting growing lots of tomato plants in their yard, then one day, they put out 2 signs that said TOMATOES \$.25, then the following weekend, there were 5 signs that said TOMATOES AHEAD-TOMATOES AT NEXT TURN-CHEAP TOMATOES-FRESH TOMATOES-STOP HERE FOR TOMATOES and we had people parking all over Monaco and 4th trying to get cheap tomatoes. This little enterprise was causing problems and people felt like they lived on a rural road in Alabama. We ultimately had to call code enforcement and get them to stop. This was a problem. The ordinance you are speaking of opens this door and we will again be complaining about traffic, parking and other issues.

The general consensus is that this ordinance does not fit for all neighborhoods. Example of this is East Denver. Majority of people I speak to DO NOT want this ordinance. They do not want people coming into their neighborhoods to buy food or goods. They don't want to worry when cars pull up to figure out who is parking in front of their house and they don't want to look at "signage" staring at them when they view from their residence. I can totally relate to these concerns. Most people agree that neighborhoods should not be an attraction for purpose of retail on any level.

Someone asked me why is this ordinance not restricted for areas within 5 blocks of a commercial zone? People who live within 5 blocks are adapted to commercial works including traffic, parking, pedestrian flow and signage's. Why can't this ordinance be tested in areas of the City rather than made city wide?

**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 , with members in attendance.

With a total of members voting,

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

voted to oppose the application; and

voted to abstain on the issue.

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

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

.

Comments:	<p>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:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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.
-----------	--

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.

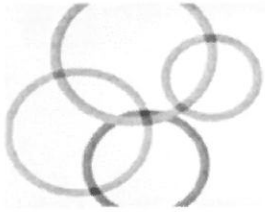
Best Regards,

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

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

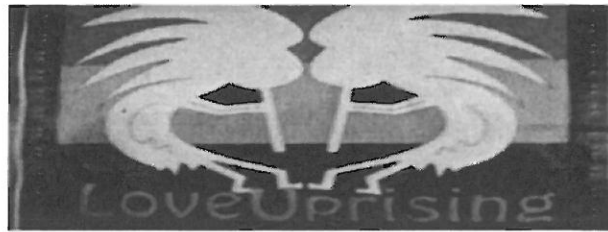
discover: food justice, sovereignty & integrity

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.

From: Troy Moore [<mailto:troy@milehighcomp.com>]
Sent: Thursday, May 15, 2014 9:53 AM
To: dence - City Council
Cc: troy@milehighcomp.com
Subject: Opposed to Cottage Food Amendment (East Denver)
Importance: High

Dear Hon City Council Members;

After reviewing the proposed Cottage Food Amendments, I would like to express my opposition to such an amendment. "Adding" such to a list of already allowable home based business that attract consumers into a neighborhood only adds to more frustration of residents trying to enjoy their home and peace without the constant flow of vehicle traffic, unknown pedestrians and other inherent issues that come with having a "home based" business that allows people to sale goods and services FROM their resident.

Zoning Ordinances were established to separate business from residential. Every time someone adds another "allowable" business to be run out of their resident, it shortens the separation between "residential" and "commercial" areas.

It has been proven in the past, that even with the already allowable businesses from within a residents household, that abuses take place. Illegal Signage's, Operation Hours (cars coming in at all hours of the day and night), other services not permitted to operate but cloaked by the permitted operation, etc.

It's found more common that regulatory enforcement is not in place or able to correct non-compliant permits because lack of time and money to investigate and handle complaints from neighbors.

Next, someone will want to sell Chicken and goat milk from their home. Where does it stop?

I HIGHLY recommend that you vote NO to the Cottage Food Amendment.

Thank you.

Troy Moore
President
www.milehighcomp.com
230 Columbine Street
Denver, Colorado 80206
Toll Free: (800) 880-4361
Direct: (303) 591-9822
Fax: (303) 333-1709

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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

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

EDITORIAL

Let Denver residents sell food from their homes

By The Denver Post Editorial Board

POSTED: 03/27/2014 05:01:00 PM MDT

UPDATED: 03/28/2014 01:52:01 PM MDT



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. (Kari 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.

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

