

Agenda Report

December 13, 2010

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council
FROM: Public Health Department
SUBJECT: PREPARATION OF AN ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZING THE PASADENA PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT TO CONDUCT WHOLESALE FOOD INSPECTIONS

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council:

1. Direct the City Attorney to prepare and present within 30 days and ordinance authorizing the Pasadena Public Health Department to conduct inspections of wholesale food operations in a manner consistent with California Health and Safety Code – Food Sanitation Act - Sections: 11950-112055 and the Sherman Food, Drug and Cosmetic Law (California Health & Safety Code).

BACKGROUND:

The Pasadena Public Health Department has the authority to permit, inspect and monitor retail food establishments within the City of Pasadena. However, the Department is not authorized to inspect establishments that produce food for wholesale such as the Chef's Center located on 45 North San Gabriel Blvd. The Chef's Center and other small business incubators like it, enable small businesses an opportunity to develop, produce and market food products for resale at local restaurants, grocery and specialty stores. Currently, the authority to permit such establishments resides with the California Department of Public Health, Food and Drug Branch.

The State has been slow in deciding whether or not to permit the small businesses operating out of kitchen incubators which has had a negative impact on those operating within Pasadena. By authorizing the Pasadena Public Health Department to conduct food inspections of wholesale food operations, the City can not only facilitate the further development of local, small businesses, it can better insure overall food safety.

The Environmental Health Division would be the Local Enforcement Agency (LEA) that would better serve the City with improved inspection oversight, production, management and permitting of wholesale food facilities currently under the jurisdiction of the California Department of Public Health Food and Drug Branch.

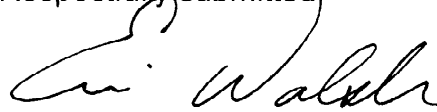
CITY COUNCIL POLICY CONSIDERATION:

The proposed ordinance is consistent with the City Council's Strategic Plan goals of ensuring public safety, through enhanced oversight of food preparation facilities, and supporting and promoting the quality of life and local economy, by assisting small businesses in marketing their products. This ordinance may also help to promote existing wholesale food processors that used to work in Pasadena back into the City of Pasadena for increased employment and economic benefits to the City.

FISCAL IMPACT:

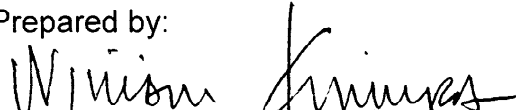
Any costs associated with the administration of this ordinance and related program will be recaptured through applicable fees.

Respectfully submitted



Dr. Eric Walsh
Director of Public Health/Health Officer

Prepared by:



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Approved by:



Michael J. Beck
City Manager