



**Request for City Council Committee Action
Health Department**

Date: October 20, 2014

To: HEALTH, ENVIRONMENT & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
COMMITTEE

Subject: PUBLIC HEARING TO AMEND FOOD CODE ORDINANCE RELATED
TO STAPLE FOODS REQUIREMENTS FOR GROCERY STORES AND
SPECIALTY FOOD STORES

Recommendation:

Public hearing on amending Title 10, Chapter 203 of the Minneapolis Code of Ordinances relating to *Food Code: Grocery Stores and Specialty Food Stores*, amending various provisions including those related to staple food requirements and specialty food store exemptions.

Previous Directives: Referred to staff from City Council on May 10, 2013.

Prepared or Submitted by: Becky McIntosh, Director of Planning & Administration
Phone: x2884

Approved by:

Gretchen Musicant, Commissioner of Health

Permanent Review Committee (PRC): Approval ____ Not Applicable X
Policy Review Group (PRG) Approval ____ Date of Approval ____ Not Applicable X

Presenters in Committee: Gretchen Musicant, Commissioner, Minneapolis Health Department; Kristen Klingler, Senior Public Health Specialist, Minneapolis Health Department; Dr. Melissa Laska, Associate Professor, University of Minnesota School of Public Health

Financial Impact (Check those that apply)

X No financial impact (If checked, go directly to Background/Supporting Information).

Background/Supporting Information Attached

The Minneapolis Code of Ordinances, Title 10 Food Code, Chapter 203, Food Code: Grocery Stores and Specialty Food Stores, contains language that requires licensed grocery stores to maintain a continuous stock of five categories of staple food items and allows exemptions for stores classified as specialty food stores. The public hearing is set to authorize the following amendments 1) the number of required staple food categories, and the quantities and varieties required within each category; 2) elimination of the current specialty food store definition and creation of a new accessory use grocery store definition.

In Minneapolis, many low-income residents and communities of color face significant health disparities in part because of poor nutrition caused by lack of access to healthy foods. While it's easy to find healthy foods at a supermarket, residents in some communities must shop at corner stores, gas stations, dollar

stores, and pharmacies where soda, chips, and candy are abundant but wholesome choices are limited. The proposed ordinance amendments will help ensure that all Minneapolis residents have access to healthy food choices no matter where they shop.

Licensed grocery stores will be required to stock minimum quantities and varieties of items for eleven staple food categories as outlined in Section 1, Chapter 203.10 of the revised ordinance. In general, stores will be required to stock a certain number of items from the following categories: milk/milk alternatives, cheese, eggs, canned fish and meat or vegetable proteins, nut butter, fresh and/or frozen fruits and vegetables, 100% juice, whole grains including whole grain cereals, canned beans, and dried peas, beans, and lentils.

To clarify which stores must meet the staple foods requirements and which stores are exempt, the current “specialty food store” definition will be replaced by the proposed “accessory use grocery” definition. An accessory use grocery is defined as a retail establishment that sells staple foods as an accessory use to its primary business, or sells only specialized types or classes of staple foods and accessory foods, and does not accept government supplemental nutrition programs.

During the first year of implementation, the City will focus on monitoring store compliance with the new standards and providing comprehensive training and support to interested business owners, without issuing warning letters, violations, or citations. Stores that are not in compliance during this time will receive written notification and referrals to resources and support. During the second year of implementation, the City will continue to monitor compliance and provide education, training, and assistance, but will also issue warning letters, violations, and citations in accordance with standard City regulatory procedures.

The Minneapolis Health Department will provide free support and resources to interested store owners to help them successfully meet the staple foods requirements including:

- Healthy food merchandising and marketing trainings and consultations
- In-store promotional supplies
- Written reference materials in multiple languages
- Connections to model stores/mentors
- Recommendations for affordable healthy food procurement options
- Citywide outreach to increase the demand for healthy foods

An objective evaluation will be conducted by a research team at the University of Minnesota and will provide data on store inventory, sales, and changes related to customer food purchasing and consumption. The data will be provided to the City on an ongoing basis to allow for real-time feedback regarding the impact of the ordinance amendments.