

Prince George's County Council

Agenda Item Summary

Meeting Date: 9/9/2014
Reference No.: CB-010-2014
Draft No.: 1
Proposer(s): County Executive
Sponsor(s): Franklin, Lehman, Toles, Turner, Davis, Patterson
Item Title: An Act establishing a Farmer's Market Sampler's License permit and fee for farmers offering cut samples of their produce at County based farmer's markets

Drafter: LaKeecia R. Allen, Office of Law
Resource Personnel: Susan Thweatt, Health Department

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY:

Date Presented:	4/1/2014	Executive Action:	9/19/2014 S
Committee Referral:	4/1/2014 - HEHS	Effective Date:	11/4/2014

Committee Action: 7/15/2014 - FAV

Date Introduced: 7/23/2014
Public Hearing: 9/9/2014 - 1:30 PM

Council Action (1) 9/9/2014 - ENACTED
Council Votes: WC:A, DLD:A, MRF:A, AH:A, ML:A, EO:A, OP:A, IT:A, KT:A
Pass/Fail: P
Remarks:

AFFECTED CODE SECTIONS:

12-110

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

HEALTH, EDUCATION AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

Date 7/15/2014

Committee Vote: Favorable, 4-0 (In favor: Council Members Patterson, Davis, Lehman and Turner)

Staff provided a summary of the legislation and referral comments that were received. CB-10-2014 amends Subtitle 12, Section 12-110 of the Prince George's County Code to establish a permit and fee for a Sampler's License in County based Farmer's Markets. The proposed Bill adds to the Food Service Facility permit fee schedule a Farmer's Market Sampler's License that can be issued for a time period of fourteen (14) to fifty (50) days to a holder of a Farmer's Market permit for a fee of Twenty-Five (\$25.00). The permit's fee is currently \$175.00 which could potentially be a burden for a local farmer making a living from selling produce.

The Farmer's Market Sampler's License would allow the licensee to offer samples of their farm products for immediate human consumption. The Farmer's Market Sampler's License does not apply to whole uncut produce or products produced with an On Farm Processing License.

The Health Officer indicated that regulations currently exist to protect the sanitation of the food; inspections and sanitary facilities for on-site food preparation; and acquiring a permit as cut produce samples may cause

contamination of cutting instruments and cross-contamination of food. Violators are shut down and the market manager explaining the appropriate procedure.

The Office of the County Executive has reviewed the legislation and has provided a favorable recommendation.

The Office of Audits and Investigations determined that CB-10-2014 if enacted will ease the burdens placed on local famers supports the local economy and should provide a positive fiscal impact.

The Office of Law reviewed the Bill and finds it to be in proper legislative form.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION/FISCAL IMPACT:

(Includes reason for proposal, as well as any unique statutory requirements)

This legislation will amend the County Code to establish a permit and fee for a Farmer's Market Sampler's License pursuant to a change to the Code of Maryland Regulations governing Food Service Facilities (COMAR) 10.15.03.28.B2. This amendment will add the license and fee to the existing fee table and provide an affordable license option for farmer's offering samples of their farm products for immediate human consumption.

CODE INDEX TOPICS:

INCLUSION FILES:
