

**Item #5 C8-17-02**  
**Urban Agriculture Text Amendment**  
**Sunset Date**

***Review of 24-month Sunset Date for the  
Urban Agriculture Text Amendment***

**Planning Commission**  
Study Session  
September 13, 2017

09/13/2017

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# Urban Agriculture Text Amendment Sunset Date

***Goal: Removal or extension of Urban Agriculture Text Amendment sunset date so long as the amendment is determined to have not caused significant increase in nuisance violations in residential areas.***

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# What is Urban Agriculture?

- The practice of cultivating, processing, and distributing food in a town or city.
- A policy that implements a food security strategy for the City of Tucson.
- Tailored to better define the different scales and intensity (such as home garden, community garden, and urban farm) to be compatible with surrounding land uses.



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# Background

- **2009** – Direction provided from Sustainable Code Project
- **2012-2014** – Development of Draft Ordinance
- **2014** – Staff held four public meetings related to Draft Ordinance



# Background

- **September 16, 2015** – Planning Commission Hearing
- **December 8, 2015** – Mayor and Council Public Hearing – Ordinance approved with two year sunset date to review whether the amendments cause a significant increase in nuisance violations in residential areas.



# Overview of Ordinance Passed

- Created urban agriculture zoning standards per Plan Tucson;
- Used local agricultural traditions;
- Established reasonable mitigation standards;
- Kept Chapter Four standards on animal cruelty and neglect and Neighborhood Preservation Ordinance standards on noise, odors, waste, offal, nuisances in place;
- Did not make current civil infractions into misdemeanors; and,
- Crop production remained a permitted use in residential zones.



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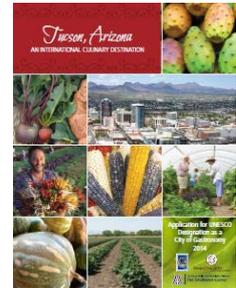
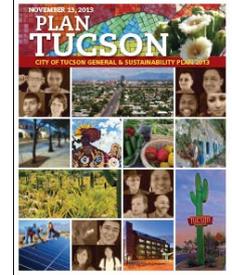
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# Overview of Ordinance Passed

- Implemented two Urban Agriculture Policies in Plan Tucson, the City's General & Sustainability Plan, ratified by the voters in 2013
- Complements the City of Tucson designation in 2015 as a UNESCO City of Gastronomy
- Has increased inquiries at Planning and Development Services from potential backyard "farmers," who can contribute to the city's self-sufficiency and food security
- Has led to inquiries from other jurisdictions about regulating urban agriculture



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# Review of Violations

## Pre-Urban Agriculture Ordinance (2012-2015) and Post-Urban Agriculture Ordinance (2016-present):

Year	Animal complaints excluding dog waste
2012	23
2013	16
2014	25
2015	21
Urban Agriculture Ordinance effective on January 8, 2016	
2016	21
2017 YTD	3



# Findings

**Staff has reviewed code violations related to the urban agriculture text amendment and has determined there has been no significant increase in nuisance violations in residential areas.**



# Proposal

**Staff proposes that the sunset date of January 9, 2017 be removed from Ordinance #11328**



# Recommendation

**Staff recommends that the Planning Commission set this item for Public Hearing on October 11, 2017**

