

Item #4 C8-17-02
Urban Agriculture Text Amendment
Sunset Date

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

Planning Commission
Public Hearing
October 11, 2017

10/11/2017

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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



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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.
- **September 13, 2017** -Staff held Study Session on upcoming sunset date



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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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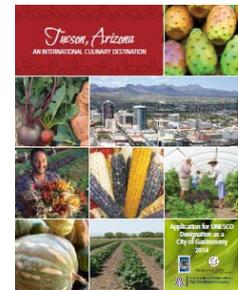
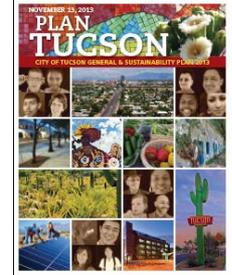
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Overview of Ordinance Passed

- 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



Overview of Feedback Received

- **21 letters of support for the removal of the sunset date from the Urban Ag Ordinance**
- **Benefits stated include:**
 - Low cost protein source
 - Therapeutic
 - Insect control
 - Fertilization of soil
 - Utilization of kitchen waste
 - Reduction of violations due to clear rules

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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 Recommend the removal of the January 9, 2017 sunset date from Ordinance #11328.

