



**For Immediate Release**  
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## **San Francisco Changes Zoning Code to Promote Urban Agriculture**

*San Francisco Urban Agriculture Alliance applauds city for moving to the  
forefront of US cities supporting urban farming and food access*

San Francisco, CA – Today, April 20th, Mayor Lee signed into law the new urban agricultural zoning ordinance that amends the Planning Code to encourage edible gardening and urban farming within the city and county of San Francisco. The ordinance permits gardens in all areas of the city and also allows gardeners to sell their produce.

“The Urban Agriculture Ordinance will allow for greater local food production within City limits,” said Mayor Lee. “This legislation will not only help support our community through the increased production of fresh, locally grown produce, but will also revitalize vacant arable land and create green jobs.”

San Francisco is the first major American city to modify its zoning code to encourage the sale of produce from urban gardens and farms with passage of this ordinance. The Board of Supervisors voted unanimously in support of the Ordinance on April 12. The proposal, introduced by Mayor Ed Lee and Supervisors David Chiu, was strongly supported by the San Francisco Urban Agriculture Alliance (SFUAA).

“With this change, San Francisco makes it clear that gardens and urban farms are welcome in all parts of the city. The new law not only encourages people to connect with food and build community by cultivating fruits and vegetables in their neighborhoods, but also allows entrepreneurial gardeners to earn a little extra cash or to make a living selling what they grow,” said Eli Zigas, Co-coordinator of the SFUAA. “We commend Mayor Lee, Supervisor Chiu, and the Planning Department for their leadership on urban agriculture.”

This ordinance is critical for small urban farming businesses such as Little City Gardens, which cultivates a three-quarter acre garden in the Mission Terrace neighborhood. Previously, they had been prohibited from selling any of the greens or herbs they grew because of restrictions in the existing zoning code. “We firmly believe that market gardens like ours can fit into the fabric of residential neighborhoods,” explained Little City Gardens co-owner Caitlyn Galloway. “With this new ordinance, we can finally start selling what we grow to our neighbors and restaurants in the City. We look forward to being able to test the viability of a small urban farming business here in San Francisco.”

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**San Francisco Urban Agriculture Alliance**  
[www.sfuaa.org](http://www.sfuaa.org)

The ordinance, which encourages more green spaces and improves food access, is a testament to the collaborative efforts between urban farmers, food policy organizers, and City government. "This has really been a remarkable joint effort and has brought together the vision of urban farmers and the City alike. It's a great partnership to move forward with, helping San Francisco provide more opportunities for people to learn more about their food sources and have access to healthy non-toxic produce," said Dana Perls, co-coordinator of the SFUAA and community organizer with Pesticide Watch.

The ordinance was co-sponsored by Mayor Lee and Supervisors David Chiu, Eric Mar, Ross Mirkarimi and Malia Cohen. The text of the ordinance and more information about the legislation can be found at [www.sfuaa.org](http://www.sfuaa.org).

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*The San Francisco Urban Agriculture Alliance promotes the growing of food within San Francisco and the associated goals of our member organizations, through advocacy, education, and grassroots action. We pursue our mission by leveraging the strengths of our members, from backyard farmers to social justice organizations, both within the alliance and in collaboration with outside organizations and governmental agencies.*