

ORDINANCE NO. 4668

AN ORDINANCE to amend and reordain Section 11-2-3 (a) (ADOPTION OF THE UNITED STATES FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION/PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE 2005 FOOD CODE), Section 11-2-4 (g) (DEFINITIONS) and Section 11-2-5 (MODIFICATIONS TO FDA FOOD CODE) of Article A (GENERAL PROVISIONS) and Section 11-2-51(a) (SUBMISSION OF PLANS, SPECIFICATIONS AND OTHER DATA; INSPECTION PRIOR TO OPERATION; FEES) of Article E (REVIEW OF PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS) of Chapter 2 (FOOD AND FOOD ESTABLISHMENTS), Title 11 (HEALTH, ENVIRONMENTAL AND SANITARY REGULATIONS) of The Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1981, as amended.

WHEREAS, the health and safety of the public requires the regulation of food and food establishments located within the City of Alexandria; and

WHEREAS, existing provisions of the city code that safeguard public health in food establishments are based upon the 2005 Model Food Code of the United States Food and Drug Administration ("FDA"); and

WHEREAS, the FDA intends that its Model Food Code be updated and revised every four years, in order to incorporate the most current scientific knowledge and new technologies in the food packaging and food service industries; and

WHEREAS, the FDA has recently promulgated its 2009 Model Food Code, which incorporates nationally recognized public health standards designed to provide the greatest possible protection from and prevention of infectious and non-infectious food-borne diseases; and

WHEREAS, the regulatory scheme set out in the 2009 FDA Model Food Code is presently employed in numerous food industries, as well as the meat and poultry inspection systems of the federal government, and has been endorsed by the National Conference for Food Protection and the National Restaurant Association; and

WHEREAS, a new definition of "limited food establishment" is needed to reflect the wider array of food products and food preparation processes now being served in limited food establishments; and

WHEREAS, assessment of the food safety knowledge of Certified Food Managers should be required as part of the ongoing regulatory evaluation process,

WHEREAS, neighboring jurisdictions in Northern Virginia are planning to adopt the 2009 FDA Model Food Code, and the adoption of this code by the City of Alexandria will help to establish uniform standards for the regulation of food and food establishments in the region; now, therefore

THE CITY COUNCIL OF ALEXANDRIA HEREBY ORDAINS:

Section 1. That Subsection 11-2-3 (a) of The Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1981, as amended, be, and the same hereby is, amended and reordained to read as follows:

Sec. 11-2-3 Adoption of the United States Food and Drug Administration/Public Health Service 2009 Food Code.

(a) Chapters 1 through 8, inclusive, and all appendices and annexes of the United States Food and Drug Administration/Public Health Service 2009 Food Code ("FDA Food Code, as adopted and promulgated by the United States Food and Drug Administration/Public Health Service ("FDA/USPHS")), including such chapters, appendices and annexes as may hereafter be amended from time to time, but excepting the portions of the FDA Food Code addressed in section 11-2-5(a) and (b), are hereby adopted and incorporated in their entirety into this chapter as if fully set forth herein. In the event of conflict or inconsistency between this chapter and the FDA Food Code, the provisions of this chapter shall control. When used in the FDA Food Code, the term "Health Authority" shall mean the director or his designee.

Section 2. That Subsection 11-2-4(g) of The Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1981, as amended, be, and the same hereby is, amended and reordained to read as follows:

Sec. 11-2-4 Definitions.

(g) "Limited food establishment" means a food establishment that serves only foods that are not potentially hazardous, require no preparation, or utilize a food preparation process that presents limited food safety risk as determined by the director.

Section 3. That Section 11-2-5 of The Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1981, as amended, be, and the same hereby is, amended and reordained to read as follows:

Sec. 11-2-5 Modifications to FDA Food Code.

(a) The portions of the FDA Food Code addressed in this subsection are not adopted by incorporation into this chapter. Rather, they are modified in the manner set out below, and their modified versions shall apply in the city:

- (1) Section 6-402.11 of the FDA Food Code is modified to read as follows:
Public toilet rooms shall be provided for CONSUMERS whenever seating for CONSUMERS is provided on the premises. CONSUMERS shall not be permitted to gain access to toilet rooms by passing through a kitchen, food preparation, food storage, or utensil washing area. Toilet rooms shall be conveniently located and accessible to EMPLOYEES during all hours of operation. Toilet rooms must be entirely separate and apart from any rooms or areas used for utensil washing or for the manufacture, storage, and handling of food products. Public and employee

toilet facilities shall be installed according to and in the number required by the Virginia Uniform Statewide Building Code (VUSBC).

- (2) Paragraph 8-304.10 (A) of the FDA Food Code is modified to read as follows:
A copy of the version of FDA Food Code adopted in Section 11-2-3 above shall be maintained for public inspection in the office of the Alexandria Health Department's Environmental Health Division. A link to the full text of the version of FDA Food Code adopted in Section 11-2-3 above shall be placed on the Alexandria Health Department's website.

- (3) Paragraph 8-902.10(A) of Annex 1 of the FDA Food Code is modified to read as follows:

If admission to the PREMISES of a FOOD ESTABLISHMENT is denied or other circumstances exist that would justify an inspection order under LAW, to make an inspection that includes the recordation of information by any means of audio-visual recordation including (but not limited to) photography, tape-recording and videotaping.

(b) Paragraph 2-102.11(B) and Section 2-102.20 of the FDA Food Code are not adopted or incorporated into this chapter and shall be of no effect in the city.

Section 4. That Subsection 11-2-51(a) of The Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1981, as amended, be, and the same hereby is, amended and reordained to read as follows:

Sec. 11-2-51 Submission of plans, specifications and other data; inspection prior to operation; fees.

(a) Whenever a food establishment is constructed or remodeled or whenever an existing structure is converted to use as a food establishment, plans and specifications for such construction, remodeling, or conversion shall be submitted to the director for his review prior to commencement of such construction, remodeling or conversion. The director shall approve the plans and specifications if they meet the requirements of this chapter and the FDA Food Code. The director's approval of any plans or specifications shall not be viewed to be a determination that said plans or specifications are free from error. The owner shall have final responsibility for the accuracy and completeness of the plans and specifications, as well as for subsequent construction and installation.:-

Section 5. That this ordinance shall become effective on July 1, 2010.

WILLIAM D. EUILLE
Mayor

Final Passage: June 12, 2010