



# Municipality of Anchorage

Ethan Berkowitz, Mayor

## Department of Health and Human Services

March 28, 2017

Dear Food Vendor,

Farmer's markets and vendors of locally grown produce, as well as cottage foods, are an important part of our business community. This emerging industry provides an exciting opportunity for people to sell fresh and artisan products through home-based businesses. These specialty foods are incredibly appealing to Alaskans and out-of-state visitors alike and are a wonderful benefit to the community, the vendors and consumers.

The Municipality of Anchorage supports farmer's markets and the growing cottage food industry and seeks to work cooperatively with vendors to provide a clear and efficient licensing process and promote safe operations. Currently, the Anchorage Food Code does not include cottage foods and, until the food code is amended to allow for cottage foods, the Municipality requires cottage food vendors to apply for a permit variance in order to sell products in Anchorage. We appreciate your patience with the planning process to revise the new food code. In the meantime, we would like you to have a very successful season. In order to support your endeavors, we have established the following plan for the 2017 season:

- Provide produce vendors and cottage food vendors with clear guidelines for selling their products while the food code is being revised (see attached guidelines for the 2017 season).
- Engage vendors and other community members in the process of amending the code related to cottage foods. Listen to stakeholder questions, concerns, and ideas throughout the process.
- Offer multiple methods to provide input and recommendations.
- Take sufficient time needed to draft code amendments that reflect participant feedback.
- Keep farmer's markets and cottage food vendors informed along the way during the process.
- Offer cottage food informational talks, website and materials including allowable activities, how to apply for a license, safe sampling, fact sheets, etc.
- Provide consistent communication and enforcement in Anchorage Department of Health and Human Services cottage food inspections.

I want to assure you that we are committed to forging positive community partnerships with vendors as we move forward with the above plan. We will be sending out details about the proposed food code revisions and opportunities to comment in the coming months. In the interim, we are offering current information for you to prepare for the upcoming season. Please reference the following guidelines for the 2017 season.

I am excited to visit many of you at farmer's markets and other venues throughout the summer and wish you a bountiful season. Please contact our Public Information Officer Shannon Kuhn with any questions you may have regarding this issue at 907.343.4622 or send an email to [KuhnSK@muni.org](mailto:KuhnSK@muni.org).

Regards,

Melinda Freemon  
Director