

February 9, 2022

To: Mayor and Members of City Council 202200268
From: John C. Curp, Interim City Manager
Subject: Ordinance – Text Amendments – Urban Agriculture Chapter 1422

Transmitted is a Resolution captioned:

MODIFYING Title XIV, “Zoning Code of the City of Cincinnati, “of the Cincinnati Municipal Code, by AMENDING the provisions of Sections 1403-05, “Land Use Regulations,” 1405-05, “Land Use Regulations,” 1422-03, “Land Use Regulations,” and 1422-05, “Development Regulations,” to modify the process for establishing certain agricultural facilities in residential zoning districts.

Summary

In May and June 2017, Cincinnati City Council passed two motions requesting that the City Administration, working cooperatively and interdepartmentally, create a plan for incorporating urban agriculture into City plans and to allow urban agriculture, both indoor and outdoor, in appropriate zoning districts throughout the City. The goal was to make urban agriculture more accessible, yet also have regulations that protect neighboring property owners and provide clarity for enforcement.

On November 19, 2021, staff gave an update to the CPC regarding gardens and farms to further explain accessory structures in Chapter 1422 of the Zoning Code. The CPC requested that staff of the Department of City Planning and Engagement and the Law Department prepare text amendments to require a Conditional Use hearing on accessory agricultural structures on vacant lots in residential areas.

The goal of the proposed modifications to the specific sections of Title XIV, “Zoning Code of the City of Cincinnati,” is to continue to build streamlined and cohesive development processes and add transparency to City requirements and development procedures. These additional Conditional Use hearings will provide the public input requested by communities prior to these accessory agricultural structures being installed.

On December 17, 2021, the City Planning Commission voted to recommend approval of the proposed text amendments for Urban Agricultural Chapter 1422 of the Cincinnati Zoning Code to City Council.

City Planning Commission and the Administration recommends approval of this Ordinance.

cc: Katherine Keough-Jurs, AICP, Director, Department of City Planning and Engagement