

A BILL

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Councilmember Mary M. Cheh introduced the following bill, which was referred to the Committee on _____.

To establish a Farmers’ Market Nutrition Incentive Fund to increase the value of federal nutrition assistance dollars at farmers’ markets; to designate a farmers’ market ambassador to assist farmers’ markets with the permitting process; to require the development of a central registration of farmers’ markets and an advertising campaign to promote farmers’ markets in the District; and to amend Title 12A of the District of Columbia Municipal Regulations to allow farmers’ markets to install permanent and temporary signs promoting farmers’ markets.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this act may be cited as the “Farmer’s Markets Act of 2013”.

Sec. 2. Definitions.

For the purposes of this act, the term:

(1) “DHS” means the District Department of Human Services.

(2) “Farmers’ market” means an open market on public or private space for the sale of locally grown and produced agricultural goods and other farm products.

(3) “Locally grown” shall have the same meaning as in section 101(3) of the Healthy Schools Act of 2010, effective July 27, 2010 (D.C. Law 18-209; D.C. Official Code § 38-821.01(4)).

1 Sec. 3. Establishment of the Farmers' Market Nutrition Incentive Fund.

2 (a) There is established as a nonlapsing fund the Farmers' Market Nutrition Incentive
3 Fund, which shall be used solely as provided in this section and administered by DHS. The Fund
4 shall be funded by annual appropriations, which shall be deposited into the Fund.

5 (b) All funds deposited into the Fund, and any interest earned on those funds, shall not
6 revert to the unrestricted fund balance of the General Fund of the District of Columbia at the end
7 of a fiscal year, or at any other time, but shall be continually available for the uses and purposes
8 set forth in subsection (c) of this section without regard to fiscal year limitation, subject to
9 authorization by Congress.

10 (c) The funds in the Fund shall be administered by DHS to increase the value of federal
11 nutrition assistance dollars received through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program,
12 Women, Infants and Children program, and Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program, at
13 farmers' markets in the District.

14 Sec. 4. Farmers' market ambassador program.

15 The Mayor shall designate a District employee as the farmers' market ambassador to
16 assist existing farmers' markets in applying for all District permits required to operate a farmers'
17 market and aid the development of new farmers' markets by:

18 (1) Providing assistance in obtaining and expediting regulatory procedures and
19 approvals;

20 (2) Simplifying the permitting process for starting and maintaining farmers'
21 markets;

22 (3) Creating informational materials that explain the regulatory approval process
23 for farmers' markets;

1 (4) Coordinating and sharing information with District agencies connected to the
2 farmers' market permitting process; and

3 (5) Providing other assistance as needed.

4 Sec. 4. Promotion of farmers' markets.

5 (a) There is hereby established a central registration of farmers' markets which shall be
6 maintained by the Mayor. Such central registration of farmers' markets shall be for the purpose
7 of encouraging and promoting farmers' markets across the District and shall assist the Mayor in
8 promoting farmers' markets by more efficiently connecting producers with consumers. Any
9 farmers' market operator may register with the Mayor on forms provided by the Mayor. There
10 shall be no charge for registration, and registration by farmers' markets shall be voluntary. The
11 Mayor shall maintain a list of such registered entities for dissemination to members of the public.

12 (b) The Mayor may apply for any federal, state, local, or private grant programs or other
13 funding opportunities as the Mayor may determine will assist in the creation or promotion of
14 farmers' markets in the District.

15 (c) The Mayor shall (1) provide for the design, plan and implementation of a District-
16 wide marketing and advertising campaign promoting the availability of, and advantages of
17 purchasing, locally-grown produce through farmers' markets in the District, and (2) establish and
18 continuously update a web site connected with such advertising campaign that includes, but is
19 not limited to, a comprehensive listing of District farmers' markets selling locally grown and
20 produced agricultural goods and other farm products.

21 Sec. 5. Title 12A of the District of Columbia Municipal Regulations (12A DCMR) is
22 amended as follows:

1 (a) Section 3107.3.5 (12A DCMR § 3107.3.5) is amended by striking “through
2 3107.3.5.7” and inserting “through 3107.3.5.8”.

3 (b) Adding a new Section 3107.3.5.8 (12A DCMR § 3107.3.5) to read as follows:

4 “3107.3.5.8 Temporary farmers’ market promotional signs providing information on
5 location and hours of operation of farmers’ markets.”

6 (c) Adding a new Section 3107.5b (12A DCMR § 3107.5b) to read as follows:

7 “3107.5b Permanent Signs for Farmers’ Markets. Permanent signs providing information
8 on locations and operations of farmers’ markets shall be permitted, provided the placement of
9 such signs does not interfere with public safety.”

10 Sec. 6. Fiscal impact statement.

11 The Council adopts the fiscal impact statement in the committee report as the fiscal
12 impact statement required by section 602(c)(3) of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act,
13 approved December 24, 1973 (87 Stat. 813; D.C. Official Code § 1-206.02(c)(3)).

14 Sec. 7. Effective date.

15 This act shall take effect following approval by the Mayor (or in the event of veto by the
16 Mayor, action by the Council to override the veto), a 30-day period of Congressional
17 review as provided in section 602(c)(1) of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act, approved
18 December 24, 1973 (87 Stat. 813; D.C. Official Code § 1-206.02(c)(1)), and publication in the
19 District of Columbia Register.