

INTER-DEPARTMENT COMMUNICATION

TO	City Council	DATE	March 4, 2009
DEPARTMENT		FROM	Tonya Skinner
ATTENTION		DEPARTMENT	City Law
COPIES TO	Joan Ross Mayor Beutler John Hendry	SUBJECT	Bill No. 09-34

The Health Department and Law Department are requesting the 2nd and 3rd reading on March 16th for Bill No. 09-34 (LMC 8.20 Lincoln Food Code). The ordinance is to be introduced for 1st reading on March 9, 2009.

Originally, the Health Department requested changes only to ordinances related to the food manager and food handler permits. Upon my review of the proposed changes and the entire Food Code, it was apparent that more changes were necessary. The Food Code has been amended over time causing inconsistencies throughout the chapter. The Health Department has had multiple meetings with the Food Advisory Board, Health Board, and myself regarding the proposed changes. The Health Department's past practice is to implement all food regulation on April 1st and to notify permit holders 30 days prior to implementation. Additionally, the Health Department and the University of Nebraska are implementing on-line food train courses. These on-line courses will be a cost savings to the Health Department and will be a convenience for permit application.

The vast revisions, past practices, and on-line course have all led to the need to request 2nd and 3rd reading to occur on March 16th. If Council adopted the changes on March 16th, the effective date of the ordinances would be March 30, 2009.