



Office of the Chicago City
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O2012-3569

Office of the City Clerk

City Council Document Tracking Sheet

Meeting Date: 5/9/2012

Sponsor(s): Burke, Edward M. (14)
Cardenas, George A. (12)

Type: Ordinance

Title: Amendment of Chapter 7-40 of Municipal Code by adding new Section 91 to prohibit sale of lean finely textured beef or boneless lean beef trimmings treated with ammonium hydroxide

Committee(s) Assignment: Committee on Finance
Committee on Health and Environmental Protection
Joint Committee

ORDINANCE

WHEREAS, the City of Chicago is a home rule unit of government pursuant to the 1970 Illinois Constitution, Article VII, Section 6 (a); and

WHEREAS, pursuant to its home rule power, the City of Chicago may exercise any power and perform any function relating to its government and affairs including the power to regulate for the protection of the public health, safety, and welfare; and

WHEREAS, beef is a highly recommended source of protein and is a significant component of the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) recommended nutritional pyramid; and

WHEREAS, pink slime, also known as lean finely textured beef or boneless lean beef trimmings, is a beef-based food additive that may be added to ground beef and beef based processed meats as an inexpensive filler; and

WHEREAS, pink slime consists of finely ground beef scraps and connective tissue which have been mechanically removed from the fat; the recovered material is processed, heated, and treated with ammonium hydroxide to kill E. coli, salmonella, and other bacteria; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the FDA approve the use of beef leftovers and connective tissue being blended into ground beef and do not require the filler to be disclosed as an ingredient in the nutritional information listing; and

WHEREAS, ABC News recently reported that over seventy percent (70%) of ground beef sold in supermarkets contains pink slime and it is not required to be listed on the ingredient label; and

WHEREAS, this spring, the USDA bought 7 million pounds of beef containing pink slime as part of the National School Lunch Program; and

WHEREAS, in March of 2012 the USDA announced that schools participating in the National School Lunch Program will be allowed to choose whether to order products with or without pink slime; and

WHEREAS, Senator Robert Menendez of New Jersey and Senator Kristen Gillibrand of New York have urged U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack to abolish the use of pink slime in the National School Lunch Program; and

WHEREAS, on March 30, 2012 Congresswoman Chellie Pingree introduced the Requiring Easy and Accurate Labeling of Beef Act (REAL Beef Act; H.R. 4346), which amends the Federal Meat Inspection Act to require that packages of beef include a label stating whether the product contains lean finely textured beef; and

WHEREAS, earlier this month, Chicago Public Schools (CPS) severed ties with Don Lee Farms after learning that the California-based company's beef may have contained pink slime; and

WHEREAS, CPS joined a growing list of school districts, supermarket chains, and fast-food giants such as McDonald's, Burger King, and Taco Bell that have recently stopped using beef containing pink slime; and

WHEREAS, the City of Chicago a culinary capital and the Corporate Authorities seek to ensure that Chicago's residents and visitors are provided the highest quality of food possible; NOW, THEREFORE

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CHICAGO:

SECTION 1: The above recitals are expressly incorporated herein and made part hereof as though full set forth herein.

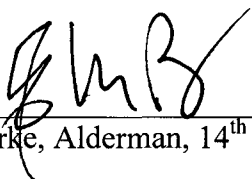
SECTION 2. Chapter 7-40 of the Municipal Code of Chicago is here by amended by creating a new section underscored as follows:

7-40-91 Sale of Lean Finely Textured Beef or Boneless Lean Beef Trimmings

It shall be unlawful for any person to sell within the City or for any dealer in meats or any manufacturer of meat-food products to purchase, accept, hold or store within the City any ground-beef, lunch meat, sausage or canned meat which contains a filler consisting of finely ground beef scraps and connective tissue that has been mechanically separated from the fat and treated with ammonium hydroxide.

Any person who violates any provision of this section shall be subject to a fine of not less than \$500 and not more than \$1,500 for each offense.

SECTION 3. This ordinance shall be in full force and effect 180 days after passage and publication.



Edward M. Burke, Alderman, 14th Ward


George A. Cook (2)