

City of Sonoma

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August 17, 2021

Sheryl Bratton
County Administrator, County of Sonoma
575 Administration Drive – Room 104A
Santa Rosa, CA 95403-2431

RE: City of Sonoma's official position regarding Microenterprise Home Kitchen Operations (MEHKO)

Dear Ms. Bratton:

Thank you for your letter dated July 26, 2021, requesting the City of Sonoma's official position regarding MEHKO.

The City Council of the City of Sonoma received a presentation from staff along with input from the community regarding MEHKO at their meeting on August 16, 2021. We greatly appreciate that Christine Sosko, the County's Environmental Health Director, was also in attendance to answer questions.

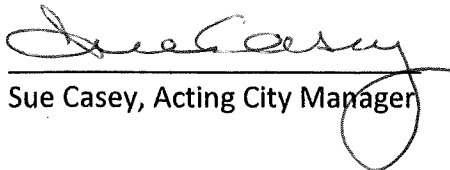
After the presentation, the City Council expressed the following concerns which included (but are not limited to):

- 1) Land use impacts in residential areas regarding traffic, designated parking, noise associated from ventilation and mechanical equipment that is not normally associated with residential uses, hours of operation, deliveries, fire safety and accessibility;
- 2) Loss of local control/police power – especially as it relates to zoning (i.e., the total number allowed and overconcentration);
- 3) Enforcement provisions (re: violations); and
- 4) Competition for our existing restaurants who have been severely impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic and also existing vacancies in the City's commercial zones.

With these concerns in mind the City Council voted unanimously that it does not want the County to "Opt-in" to MEHKO, but to "Opt-out". Council requested that staff forward this information to you to share with the Board of Supervisors.

Thank you for your consideration and again, the opportunity to provide you with the City's official position.

Regards,


Sue Casey, Acting City Manager

CC: Via Email only:

Christine Sosko, Sonoma County Environmental Health Director (Christine.Sosko@sonoma-county.org)

City Council members:

Madolyn Agrimonti, Mayor

Jack Ding, Vice-Mayor

Kelso Barnett

Bob Felder

Garrett Toy, City Manager

David Storer, Planning and Community Services Director

Wayne Wirick, Development Services Director/Building Official

Jeff Walter, City Attorney

Rebekah Barr, City Clerk

Planning Commissioners:

Chair R. Wellander

Vice-Chair L. Barnett

Commissioner J. Bohar

Commissioner S. Barbose

Commissioner B. Felder

Commissioner S. O'Neill

Commissioner B. McDonald

Commissioner M. Wirick