



CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
City Commission Agenda Memo
REGULAR MEETING

#14-1516

TO: Honorable Mayor & Members of the
Fort Lauderdale City Commission

FROM: Lee R. Feldman, ICMA-CM, City Manager

DATE: December 17, 2014

TITLE: Resolution supporting the mandatory labeling of genetically engineered foods

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended by the Sustainability Advisory Board that the City Commission adopt a resolution supporting the mandatory labeling of all genetically engineered products.

BACKGROUND

At the January 7, 2014 Commission meeting, a resolution to require labelling of food products containing genetically-modified organisms was introduced by the local branch of a national consumer advocacy organization named Food & Water Watch. They have 30,000 supporters in the State and roughly 1,000 in Fort Lauderdale, more than 600 of which have signed a petition in support of labeling genetically-engineered (GE) food. The issue was referred to the Sustainability Advisory Board (SAB) for review. The SAB provided a communication dated May 29, 2014 supporting the resolution for the June 17, 2014 Commission Conference Meeting. The Commission expressed concern that the topic had not been vetted thoroughly and asked the SAB to further research the topic and consider additional input from all sides of the issue and report their results.

Following that directive, the SAB received presentations from the Farm Bureau, the Grocery Manufacturers Association, private citizens, local farmers and Food & Water Watch, conducted extensive research and debated the issue. At the August 25, 2014 board meeting, the SAB issued a second communication supporting the mandatory labelling of food containing genetically engineered products attaching a draft resolution. The Commission discussed the issue at the November 4 conference meeting after it was deferred from the October 27 conference meeting, requesting placement on the December 17 Commission regular agenda for consideration.

It is the SAB's opinion that the resolution supports transparency and accessibility in labeling of genetically engineered foods and it is directed toward agencies with the power to regulate such labeling.

Resource Impact

11/14/2014
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There will be no financial impact to the City associated with this action.

Strategic Connections

This item is a *Press Play Fort Lauderdale Strategic Plan 2018* initiative, included within the Public Places Cylinder of Excellence, specifically advancing:

- Goal 2: Be a sustainable and resilient community.

This item advances the Fast Forward Fort Lauderdale 2035 Vision Plan: *We Are United*.

Attachments: Exhibit 1 – Sustainability Advisory Board May 29, 2014 Communication
Exhibit 2 – Sustainability Advisory Board August 25, 2014 Communication
Exhibit 3 – Proposed Resolution Supporting the Mandatory Labeling Of Genetically Engineered Foods

Prepared by: Tyler P. Whitmire, ExMPA, Senior Management Fellow
Nancy J. Gassman, Ph.D., Assistant Public Works Director - Sustainability

Department Director: Hardeep Anand, P.E., Public Works