



## COMMISSIONERS COURT COMMUNICATION

REFERENCE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

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DATE: 07/18/2023

**SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR PUBLIC HEARING - TUESDAY, AUGUST 1, 2023,  
10:00 A.M. - TO APPROVE AN ORDER TO ADOPT THE CURRENT  
TEXAS HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE, CHAPTERS 437, 437A, AND  
438 AS LOCAL REGULATIONS (PUBLIC HEALTH)**

### **COMMISSIONERS COURT ACTION REQUESTED**

It is requested that the Commissioners Court hold a public hearing on Tuesday, August 1, 2023, at 10:00 A.M. to approve an Order to adopt the current Texas Health and Safety Code Chapters 437, 437A, and 438 as local regulations.

### **BACKGROUND**

In 1987, the Commissioners Court adopted rules and regulations relating to food establishments. The Tarrant County Public Health (TCPH) Department conducts inspections for food establishments located in the unincorporated regions of Tarrant County. The department also has contracts to carry out inspections for thirty (30) cities, including DFW Airport, situated within Tarrant County. These inspections are of businesses and vendors who offer food for public consumption.

The State of Texas law prohibits local rules from being any less stringent than State rules regarding the regulation of food establishments. The State of Texas revised Texas Health and Safety Code, Chapter 437 and Chapter 438 in 2021, and added Chapter 437A in 2023.

The Tarrant County Order being considered will formally adopt the updated State regulations and add the new chapter.

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

Adoption of the proposed revised food establishment inspection regulations will have no fiscal impact on the County's General Fund; as per Chapter 437 of the Texas Health & Safety Code, all monies collected are to be deposited into a special purpose fund used only for personnel and supplies necessary for permit issuance and inspections.

SUBMITTED BY:	Public Health	PREPARED BY: APPROVED BY:	Sabrina A. Vidaurri
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