

City of Dallas News Release

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City of Dallas

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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City of Dallas to Recognize 21 Food Establishments for their Performance

The City of Dallas strives to ensure that food provided to the consumer is safe and does not become a vehicle in a disease outbreak or in the transmission of communicable disease. We ensure that consumer expectations are met and that food is unadulterated, prepared in a clean environment, and honestly presented. 21 Dallas food establishments consistently received high marks in this area. These businesses will be recognized at a press conference on Tuesday, June 5, 2007 at 10 a.m. in the 6th floor Flag Room at Dallas City Hall. Dr. Elba Garcia, Deputy Mayor Pro Tem will read a proclamation in honor of these Dallas businesses.

The City of Dallas food code is science based and also provides guidance on food safety, sanitation and mitigating risk factors known to cause food borne illness. Noncompliance is identified and corrected. The code embraces the concept that our quality of life, state of health, and the public welfare are directly affected by how we collectively provide and protect our food.

It is estimated that there are 76 million cases of food borne illnesses, 325,000 hospitalizations, and 5200 deaths in the United States each year. Pathogens account for an estimated 14 million illnesses, 60,000 hospitalizations, and 1,800 deaths annually according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Food borne salmonellosis, only 1 of many food borne infections, has been the cause of medical costs and lost wages of more than \$1 billion a year according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The City of Dallas Food Protection and Education Division of the Environmental and Health Services inspects approximately 18,740 businesses in the Dallas area each year to insure they comply with the City of Dallas food code.