

Executive Order
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Governor's Office

Subject: Governor's Food Safety Council

Number: 2008-09

Edward G. Rendell

By Direction of: Edward G. Rendell, Governor

Date: 12-17-08

- WHEREAS, the safety and security of the food supply produced and consumed in the Commonwealth is a critical concern for the well-being of Pennsylvania's 12.5 million citizens and their uninterrupted access to a safe, abundant and affordable food supply; and
- WHEREAS, the stability of the Commonwealth's number one economic enterprise is at stake when threats are made to the food, fuel and fiber system, as it accounts for \$46.4 billion and supplies more than one million jobs in Pennsylvania; and
- WHEREAS, recognizing that the food supply continuum is comprised of many components and stages from farm-based production to ultimate consumption; and
- WHEREAS, there is an increased need for collaboration, planning, prevention and response from numerous governmental agencies, including the Department of Agriculture, Department of Health and agencies directly linked to the public health and emergency response initiatives; and
- WHEREAS, threats to the food system are comprised of both naturally occurring pathogens and intentionally introduced agents and establishing food safety is a critical security issue; and
- WHEREAS, it has been determined that the Governor and the Commonwealth would benefit from the advice and counsel of an official representative body of food and health safety managers, emergency response community members, policy makers, food producers, food processors, food retailers and agribusiness organizations focused on food safety and defense protocols and processes across all points of the food production spectrum.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Edward G. Rendell, Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and other laws, do hereby establish the **Governor's Food Safety Council** (hereinafter referred to as the "Council") as hereinafter set forth.

1. Purpose. The Council shall:

- a. advise the Governor on the development and implementation of food safety and defense protocols and practices in the Commonwealth;
- b. provide guidance on prevention, protection, response and recovery to food-related threats; and
- c. facilitate coordination among federal, state and local efforts across such diverse industry segments as production agriculture, food processing, food retailers and eating and drinking establishments, and the public health and emergency response communities.

2. Responsibilities. The Council shall:

- a. provide guidance and recommendations on the implementation of the Strategy for Agriculture and Food Excellence (S.A.F.E.) Initiative and the protocols and recommendations contained therein;
- b. provide guidance on the continued growth/enhancement/expansion of the S.A.F.E. Initiative as science, technology and threats change on the federal, state and local level;
- c. facilitate coordination among the public and private entities that play a role in food safety and defense at the federal, state and local levels;
- d. monitor and evaluate food safety laws and regulations to assess their impact on the Commonwealth;
- e. convene two times per year and at the call of the chair of the Council. A simple majority of the members shall constitute a quorum; and
- f. adopt rules of procedure consistent with the provisions of this order.

3. Composition of the Council. The Council shall consist of the following members:

- a. The following agency heads of this Commonwealth, or their designees who serve in positions related to the safety and security of the food supply:
 - (1) Secretary of Agriculture, who will serve as Co-Chair of the Council;
 - (2) Secretary of Health, who will serve as Co-Chair of the Council;
 - (3) Director of the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency; and
 - (4) Commissioner of the Pennsylvania State Police.

b. The Majority and Minority Chairs of the Senate of Pennsylvania and the Pennsylvania House of Representatives Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committees.

c. Additional members of the public representing the agriculture and food production sectors as well as the public health and emergency management communities. The members of the public will be appointed by and serve at the pleasure of the Governor. A member of the public appointed to the Council under this subsection may have a designee act on the member's behalf, if the member first provides the Chairperson a copy of the member's written designation authorizing the designee to so act. These members will include:

- (1) Two members representing Local/Act 315 Health Departments;
- (2) Three academic members, one of whom shall represent the Agricultural Law Resource and Reference Center;
- (3) Two retail sector members, represented by the Pennsylvania Food Merchants Association and the Pennsylvania Restaurant Association;
- (4) Two processing sector members;
- (5) Three agricultural producers representing animal, vegetable and fruit production;
- (6) Two members representing general agricultural organizations in Pennsylvania;
- (7) Two members representing the ports and transportation sector in Pennsylvania, one of whom shall serve as the liaison to the Port of Philadelphia;
- (8) Four members of federal enforcement agencies representing the Federal Bureau of Investigation; United States Department of Agriculture; Center for Disease Control; and the Food and Drug Administration;
- (9) One member representing the local Regional Task Forces in Pennsylvania; and
- (10) Two at-large members.

4. Terms of Membership. The 23 members of the public representing the agriculture and food industry and the public health and emergency response communities will be appointed for terms of two years and will continue to serve thereafter until their successors have been appointed. The Governor will fill vacancies that may occur and may remove any member from the Council at his discretion.

- 5. Compensation.** Members of the Council will receive no additional compensation for their service as Council members. Non-government members will be reimbursed for travel and related expenses in accordance with Commonwealth policy.
- 6. Staffing.** The Department of Agriculture shall provide administrative staff resources to support the Council.
- 7. Cooperation by State Agencies.** All agencies under the Governor's jurisdiction shall cooperate with and provide assistance and support as needed by the Council to carry out its functions effectively.
- 8. Reports.** In addition to the recommendations described above, the Council shall submit to the Governor an annual report on the Council's activities.
- 9. Effective Date.** This *Executive Order* shall take effect immediately.
- 10. Termination Date.** This *Executive Order* shall remain in effect unless revised or rescinded by the Governor.

