



submitted 12/16/14
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November 21, 2014

Mr. Dave Kanner
Ashland City Administrator
20 East Main
Ashland, OR 97520

Re: Rogue Valley Growers & Crafters Market and collection of the City of Ashland Food & Beverage Tax

Dear Mr. Kanner,

Upon further review of the letter your office sent to us, we noted that while the original list of vendors we supplied you included those registered with the county health department for the sale of processed foods, it did not include those vendors who sell immediately consumable baked goods among their products.

In further show of the Market's cooperation with the City, we have attached this amended list of vendors who may be liable for the collection of the City's Food & Beverage Tax as sellers of immediately consumable foods.

In addition to selling immediately consumable food products, such as cookies & croissants, these vendors also sell take-home grocery items, like breads and jams. Upon our initial review of your letter, we did not realize that they may be subject to tax collection and are now including them in the interest of full disclosure.

Sincerely,
RVGCM
Monica Rey, President

Market Locations & Times

	TUESDAYS	THURSDAYS	SATURDAYS	SATURDAYS
Rogue Valley Growers & Crafters Market	8:30a - 1:30p	8:30a - 1:30p	8:30a - 1:30p	9:00a - 1:00p
P.O. Box 4041	Ashland	Medford Armory	Ashland	Medford
Medford, OR 97501	National Guard Armory	1701 S. Pacific HWY	Oak Street	The Commons
(541) 261-5045	1420 E. Main St.	3/13 - 11/25	5/3 - 10/25	6th & Bartlett
	3/13 - 11/25			5/3 - 10/25

Original Vendor List

Business Name	Business Owner	Address Line 1	Address Line 2	Phone	Email
Daddy's Donuts & Juices	Jerry Painter	PO Box 2274	Grants Pass OR 97528	541-441-8195	jerryzing@operamail.com
Griffin Creek Coffee Roasters	David French	864 Cypress Point Loop.	Ashland OR 97520	541-646-1115	coffee@GriffinCreekCoffee.com
Hand Pies*	Joel Henigson	90 Nursery St	Ashland OR 97520	541-292-4280	jshenigson@gmail.com
Jireh Foods*	Brandy Oliva	2030 Brookhurst # 35	Medford OR 97504	541-951-3237	N/A
Katrina's Home Salsa	Kathy Holiday	PO Box 1882	Jacksonville OR 97530	N/A	katrinope@aol.com
Peruvian Point*	Ana Maria Salaverry	1758 Apache Dr	Medford OR 97501	541-261-9299	cainzuain8@yahoo.com
Sultan's Delight	Sam & Julia Altunel	2007 Talent Ave	Talent, OR 97540	541-535-2510	jvaltunel@charter.net
Tamales Rosa Maria	Rosa Lopez	774 SW 6th Street	Grants Pass OR 97526	541-476-2515	N/A
Wasana's Thai Food	Wasana & Jeff Swartz	2104 Spring St	Medford, OR 97504	541-601-4317	wasanaswartz@gmail.com
Additional Vendors					
Pennington Farms	Cathy & Sam Pennington	11115 William Hwy	Grants Pass OR 97527	541-761-0663	pnnngtn@aol.com
Coquette Bakery	Tristen Voget & Jerry Childers	2447 Ross Lane	Central Point OR 97502	541-727-0330	xoxo@gogetcoquette.com
Organicos Bakery LLC	Ty Katibah	P.O. Box 44	Talent OR 97540	541-414-4484	jk-55@hotmail.com
Walker Creek Farm	Patty & Shaina Bronstein	670 Old Stage Road	Central Point OR 97502	541-727-7151	rsvpme@charter.net

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Council

December 14th, 2014

Re: Food and Beverage Tax

To The Ashland City Council:

1. This tax is for getting money from tourists. The Growers Market is not a tourist attraction. Less than 5% of our customers are tourists.
2. The burdens on micro businesses & local family business are severe. Now when our incomes are at their lowest in years, you come after us for more taxes.
3. Our restaurants that sell food on Tuesdays are forbidden from selling in downtown Ashland on Saturdays. We are treated as 2nd class citizens, we are denied a basic right to do business in downtown. To have the same rights as the downtown restaurants, do we have to pay the same amount of taxes? So we've been excluded from doing business downtown, but we've also been excluded from paying the food and beverage tax. I can see fairness in this. Now we are asked to pay the food and beverage tax, and we are still to be excluded from downtown. I see no fairness in this.
4. Lets talk about fairness. This tax is not a fair tax. A restaurant in Ashland must pay a 5% tax, but a boutique next door (that sells to lots of tourists), does not have to pay a 5% tax. The largest group of businesses in the City of Ashland are excluded from the tax. No one can say this tax is a fair tax.
5. Lets talk about exemptions. The Ordinance prohibiting plastic bags has exemptions in it, one, specifically exempting the Growers Market. The Transient Occupancy Tax ordinance exempts businesses charging low rents, it exempts RV and camping parks, to name just a few ordinances. The City of Ashland clearly recognizes that it is in the best interest of everyone involved to make exemptions.
6. If someone grows and cans a small amount of fruit from their property (by state law they would be exempt from regulation), how are they to sell there products? They can't open a business in town, they simply can not make enough money to pay the costs. The Growers Market allows people to make and sell products in very small amounts. These products would otherwise never get from producer to customer. This is neighbor selling to neighbor.
7. Some of the micro businesses at the Growers Market go on to become large businesses. Why would someone go through so much work for so little money? A micro business is often the only way a poor, or low educated person can start and build a business.
8. Clearly the right thing for you to do is to leave things as they have been for the past many years. Leave this tax for the permanent downtown businesses that will collect a large part of sales from tourists. Let the micro, part time, restaurants have a chance to stay in business and don't burden the people of Ashland with more taxes. Please, let local people help local people.

Jerry Painter
Daddy's Donuts, RVGCM