Operating a Restaurant and Selling Food at Home are Illegal!

Operating a restaurant, café or other eatery and preparing food at home for sale are violations of Prince George's County Code that can create safety hazards to the people who live there!

- Fire! Cooking large amounts of food in an apartment, condo, town house or detached house may lead to fires because stoves not designed for mass production of meals may ignite.

- Carbon monoxide poisoning! Many residences are not equipped with ventilation systems suitable for mass production of meals. Breathing carbon monoxide can result in serious injury.

- Stranger danger! Bringing strangers into your home to purchase food exposes your family to possibly unscrupulous people who may return later uninvited.

- Rats and roaches! Rats are drawn to all types of foods and roaches flock to counters, cupboards and floors where food has been dropped. Food storage and prep areas used to produce large quantities of food may draw vermin and their germs!

- COVID-19 social distancing violation! Having more than a few people inside a residence violates social distancing standards ordered by our lawmakers to keep us safe during the current COVID-19 emergency. COVID-19 is a serious viral disease that is spread through exposure of a healthy person to an infected person. Wearing a mask, frequent handwashing and maintaining a distance of at least six (6) feet from others are the best tools to help prevent the spread of the virus.

Operating an illegal restaurant or food sales operation can lead to a fine of up to $2,300 and other consequences.

Don't put yourself or your family at risk! Don't create a public nuisance for your neighborhood!

If you are operating an illegal restaurant or selling food at home, **STOP** immediately!

For more information about farmers' markets, food trucks and other permitted options to sell food, visit the DPIE website at http://dpie.mypgc.us and select the Resources tab at the bottom of the left column. Information is available in Spanish.

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