

## Staff Report

**FOOD SERVICE LICENSE HOLDERS FORUM AND SURVEY RESULTS**

March 22, 2011

**Background:**

During the budget deliberations, Council directed staff to conduct a survey of local restaurants to determine their support for continuation of a locally conducted food service provider inspections program. Council directed that staff utilize the Chamber of Commerce for contact with the food service providers. On February 22, 2011, Department of Inspections and Appeals (DIA) Director Rodney Roberts informed the Council of his decision to terminate the State's contract that allows Ames to conduct food service inspections within the City limits. Prior to making a final decision to pursue special legislation or an administrative appeal of the DIA Director's decision, the City Council directed staff to solicit customer input regarding this issue in a timely manner, using both a survey and hosting one or more customer forums.

Possible survey questions were presented to Council on Friday, February 25, 2011. Utilizing the Council's input, a survey was established on a web site. A letter from the Mayor was mailed to approximately 300 food service license holders located in Ames (Attachment #1). The letters summarized the actions of the DIA and requested their participation in the on-line survey and at a forum held in Council Chambers on March 15, 2011. The Chamber of Commerce also emailed the Mayor's letter to their members from the food service industry.

**Public Input Results:**

Attached for your review is a summary of the comments garnered at the March 15, 2011 forum (Attachment #2) from nine attendees and the on-line survey results from 107 respondents (Attachment #3).

**Forum Input**

Of the 9 individuals who attended the forum, 7 indicated a preference for local inspections, while 2 had no preference.

**On-line Survey Input**

Of the respondents who had experience with both state and local inspections, 35 preferred local inspections and 9 had no preference.

In terms of the frequency of inspections provided by the City, 80 respondents believe that twice annual inspections is sufficient, while 16 feel twice annual inspections are excessive.

In terms of the frequency of inspections provided by the State, 36 respondents believe one annual inspection is sufficient, while 60 feel an annual inspection is not sufficient. In addition, 13 respondents believe inspections every two years is sufficient, while 83 feel inspections once every two years is not sufficient.

In regards to a recommendation to the City Council, 69 indicated that the City should retain local inspections, 12 expressed a preference for the State to conduct inspections, and 14 had no preference.

## Attachment #1

## Office of the Mayor



515 Clark Avenue  
P.O. Box 811  
Ames, IA 50010  
Phone: 515-239-5105  
Fax: 515-239-5142

March 1, 2011

Dear Food License Holder:

For 31 years, the City of Ames has contracted with the Iowa Department of Inspections and Appeals (DIA) to conduct food service inspections within the city limits. Under the leadership of our City Sanitarian, Kevin Anderson, the City has been able to inspect food service establishments twice per year.

Recently, the Director of the DIA has notified the City that the State intends to take over food service inspections as of July 1, 2011, in conjunction with Kevin's announced retirement date. While the Department of Inspections and Appeals currently conducts restaurant inspections in other parts of the state on an average of once annually, the DIA Director informed the City Council that the inspection cycle could move to once every two years based on a new "risk based inspections" system.

Whether the inspections are conducted by the City or State inspectors, there should be no difference in the direct cost to food service providers. Both programs are partially funded by revenues from annual licenses. However, in addition to the license revenues, the City has traditionally subsidized this inspection service with property taxes. This subsidy would be eliminated with the return of the inspection responsibility to the Department of Inspections and Appeals.

Before the Director of the DIA's decision becomes final, the City Council would like your input regarding this important issue. To assist us in gathering your feedback, a simple and short on-line survey has been established at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/cityofamesfoodservicesurvey>.

**I would appreciate you completing the survey by March 15, 2011.** In addition, a **public forum regarding this issue will be held on Tuesday, March 15, 2011, at 3:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers at the Ames City Hall, 515 Clark Avenue.** The City Council will then review the feedback we are able to collect at its next regular meeting on March 22, 2011.

I want to thank you in advance for taking the time to provide us your input that will personally impact you in the near future.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Ann H. Campbell'.

Ann Campbell, Mayor

C: Ames City Council  
Clint Petersen, Fire Chief  
Steven L. Schainker, City Manager

## Attachment #2

### **Input from Meeting with Restaurateurs on March 15, 2011**

There were nine attendees and two from the press.

- It was said that on the same day that some of the restaurants got the letter from the city about the survey, they also got a letter from DIA explaining that they will be taking over inspections after June 30. How will the state handle temporary food stands? We tend to be seeing more and more of these stands popping up. Will they all be inspected? What is state policy?
- Someone questioned if we were the only city that had their own inspector.
- Concern of the potential for state inspector being subject to political pressure and cut backs.
- How much would the average household save if we did not have the Sanitarian position? For a residential property owner, the general fund subsidy is \$1.38 per \$100,000 of taxable valuation.
- Who will do garbage truck inspections? Unsure at this time.
- If the state is rationalizing part of the reason to take over inspections is because there are two inspectors that live here, they (the state inspectors) have other responsibilities also. Ames has always had a go to person that responded quickly to concerns and problems, including floods and fires. Will we have a number for someone that will respond to our needs and concerns as quickly with the state run inspections?
- Frequent turnover in staffing in the food service industry, so there is a need for greater training. Right now the Sanitarian takes time to talk with us and train us when he's there. He may take a bad situation and make a learning experience out of it.
- The national average says that about one half of all Americans meals are eaten out of the home. In Ames, that may be an even larger number with all of our students and professional households. Ames has a lot of restaurants and institutional food providers. With the food sciences and hotel motel program Ames has the potential for negative publicity if there were to be problems. In Ames, if one establishment has an issue, it reflects on all other establishments. There is a huge risk without a City Sanitarian position.
- There is, and has been, a mutually beneficial relationship with the City and ISU Food Safety Programs. They have worked together in the past and the Sanitarian has even had students come to inspections to answer/ask questions for a great learning experience.
- Right now inspections at food service establishments are completed every six months, and they are thorough and give a good opportunity for management and employees to learn and ask questions. There is a mutual respect and a good working relationship. There is a great concern about the frequency of these inspections going down.
- If the inspections are done by the state, there is not a guarantee that you will have the same inspector each time. This potentially can give us "mixed messages". One inspector may not interpret the code the same as the next and we may get conflicting inspection reports.
- The current Sanitarian is very thorough with his inspections and he takes the time needed to do them properly. Experience with the state inspectors gave this person the feeling that they were rushed, that the state inspector was there no longer than 10 minutes for the whole inspection.

- With the amount of food service in Ames, there is a need for continuing education, and if that won't be through a City Sanitarian, it will need to be available.
- There was the statement that right now this person "feels comfortable dining in Ames....and doesn't feel that way everywhere"
- Concern that what could be a minor problem at a six month inspection cycle could potentially turn into a major problem with a one to two year cycle.
- View food inspections in Ames as a positive thing. Learning experience.
- One person gave an account of a restaurant that she knew that was done by state inspectors that had run into some newsworthy problems. She said that the state did a nice job in dealing with the press for the restaurant and for helping them to correct what was wrong.

At the end of the meeting Bob asked for a show of hands that would:

Want the City to keep doing the food service inspections: 7

Want the State to take over: 0

Had no preference: 2

## 1. Introduction

Dear Customer,

The City of Ames thanks you for your assistance! We value exceptional service at the best price, and in order to better serve you we need your feedback. Candid comments about the food inspection process can help us continue to maintain our high standards and progress in areas that need improvement.

We would very much appreciate it if you would take just a few minutes to answer the questions in this anonymous survey. Thank you for your time and comments,



Sincerely,

Ann H. Campbell, Mayor  
City of Ames

**\* 1. Would you be willing to take a few minutes to complete this short and anonymous survey regarding your interaction with the City of Ames?**

Yes

No

1. Would you be willing to take a few minutes to complete this short and anonymous survey regarding your interaction with the City of Ames?			
		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes		99.1%	107
No		0.9%	1
answered question			108
skipped question			0

## 2. Background

The City of Ames has since 1979 contracted with the State of Iowa's Department of Inspections and Appeals (DIA) to conduct inspections of food service businesses within the City limits.

**\* 1. Prior to this survey I knew my inspections were conducted by the City of Ames rather than a state employee?**

Yes

No

**\* 2. I have experience with food service inspections conducted by both State of Iowa Inspectors and City of Ames Inspectors.**

Yes

No

2. Prior to this survey I knew my inspections were conducted by the City of Ames rather than a state employee?			
		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	97.0%	98
No	<input type="checkbox"/>	3.0%	3
answered question			101
skipped question			7

3. I have experience with food service inspections conducted by both State of Iowa Inspectors and City of Ames Inspectors.			
		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	46.5%	47
No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	53.5%	54
answered question			101
skipped question			7

3.

**1. If you have experience with both State and local inspections:**

- I prefer State inspections
- I prefer local inspections
- I have no preference for State versus local inspections

Briefly explain your answer above

**4. If you have experience with both State and local inspections:**

	Response Percent	Response Count
I prefer State inspections	0.0%	0
I prefer local inspections	79.5%	35
I have no preference for State versus local inspections	20.5%	9
Briefly explain your answer above		36
	<b>answered question</b>	<b>44</b>
	<b>skipped question</b>	<b>64</b>

#### 4. DIA Information

Currently food service establishments are inspected by the City of Ames Sanitarian two times annually. The DIA has, as of the last few years, conducted food service inspections on average once annually. The DIA has announced that it will move to a "Risk Based Inspections" cycle that could be as long as one inspection every two years.

**\* 1. My opinion regarding the City's frequency of two inspections annually is:**

- I believe twice annual inspections are sufficient
- I believe twice annual inspections are excessive and not necessary

**5. My opinion regarding the City's frequency of two inspections annually is:**

	Response Percent	Response Count
I believe twice annual inspections are sufficient	83.3%	80
I believe twice annual inspections are excessive and not necessary	16.7%	16
<b>answered question</b>		<b>96</b>
<b>skipped question</b>		<b>12</b>





#### 4. DIA Information

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**\* 2. My opinion regarding the current DIA frequency of an average one inspection annually is:**

- I believe one annual inspection is sufficient
- I believe one annual inspection is not sufficient



6. My opinion regarding the current DIA frequency of an average one inspection annually is:			
		Response Percent	Response Count
I believe one annual inspection is sufficient		37.5%	36
I believe one annual inspection is not sufficient		62.5%	60
<b>answered question</b>			<b>96</b>
<b>skipped question</b>			<b>12</b>

## 4. DIA Information

Currently food service establishments are inspected by the City of Ames Sanitarian two times annually. The DIA has, as of the last few years, conducted food service inspections on average once annually. The DIA has announced that it will move to a "Risk Based Inspections" cycle that could be as long as one inspection every two years.

**\* 3. My opinion regarding the DIA's proposed frequency of inspections up to once every two years is:**

- I believe one inspection every two years is sufficient
- I believe one inspection every two years is not sufficient

7. My opinion regarding the DIA's proposed frequency of inspections up to once every two years is:		
	Response Percent	Response Count
I believe one inspection every two years is sufficient 	13.5%	13
I believe one inspection every two years is not sufficient 	86.5%	83
	answered question	96
	skipped question	12



## 5. Sanitarian

The City of Ames sanitarian inspects food vendors who come into the community for special events. The State DIA's program would inspect food vendors at special events if four or more vendors are present.

**\* 1. Do you believe it is important to have food vendor inspections available for special events?**

Yes

No

8. Do you believe it is important to have food vendor inspections available for special events?		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes		88.5%	85
No		11.5%	11
answered question			96
skipped question			12

## 6. Vendor Inspections

1. If you believe it is important to have food inspections available for special events:

- I prefer local vendor inspections
- I prefer State vendor inspections

Briefly explain your answer from above

9. If you believe it is important to have food inspections available for special events:

	Response Percent	Response Count
I prefer local vendor inspections	89.0%	73
I prefer State vendor inspections	11.0%	9
Briefly explain your answer from above		58
	<b>answered question</b>	<b>82</b>
	<b>skipped question</b>	<b>26</b>




## 7. Food License

Funding for the food service inspections comes from annual license fees established by the State of Iowa and paid for by food service establishments. The revenue received from food service annual licenses is not sufficient to cover all the costs of Ames' locally operated inspections program. Next year the General Fund (property taxes) will subsidize \$60,066 of the Sanitarian's program. If the State were to assume the responsibility for food service inspections, there would be a property tax reduction that all citizens would share. The annual license cost to food service businesses will be equal if either the State or City conducts food service inspections.

### \* 1. It is my recommendation to the Council that:

- The City of Ames retain its local program of food service inspections
- The State of Iowa should provide inspections of food service establishments within the city limits.
- I have no preference for State or local inspection

### 2. Comments and concerns:

10: It is my recommendation to the Council that:		Response Percent	Response Count
The City of Ames retain its local program of food service inspections		72.6%	69
The State of Iowa should provide inspections of food service establishments within the city limits.		12.6%	12
I have no preference for State or local inspection		14.7%	14
		answered question	95
		skipped question	13

## 8. Thank You

Thanks for your time!

The City of Ames appreciates your assistance and looks forward to working with you again in the future. If you have any further suggestions or I can answer any other questions, please don't hesitate to contact me at (515) 239-5200.

Thank you,

Ann H. Campbell, Mayor  
City of Ames

Briefly explain your answer from above		
1	usually familiar with vendors and can usually follow up on complaints within few minutes	Mar 3, 2011 2:07 PM
2	The city sanitarian is able to bring a much broader knowledge of the community and expectations to the inspection of special events and I think it is important for all special events to be inspected.	Mar 3, 2011 2:42 PM
3	It seems as though the City places a higher standard on food safety than the State does. While I know my establishment/vendor is clean and safe; I do not know that all establishments are.	Mar 3, 2011 4:38 PM
4	We learn how to interface. Respect and education are really important.	Mar 4, 2011 2:04 PM
5	don't actually have a preference	Mar 4, 2011 2:20 PM
6	same as explained before	Mar 4, 2011 3:50 PM
7	Doesn't matter who does it as long as it provides consistency and safety.	Mar 4, 2011 4:15 PM
8	better knowledge of local matters such as people and events	Mar 4, 2011 4:54 PM
9	local inspectors can respond quicker to events, emergencies, and local situations.	Mar 4, 2011 5:47 PM
10	The consistency and high expectations provided by local vendors are important to the food safety of the Ames population.	Mar 4, 2011 5:52 PM
11	I don't have confidence they will happen on time if conducted by the State.	Mar 4, 2011 6:02 PM
12	I have no preference. They both seem equal and fair with the same intent.	Mar 4, 2011 6:07 PM
13	With local inspectors an event can be developed quickly and completed on a timely basis with a local inspector being available.	Mar 4, 2011 6:24 PM
14	As a mobile vendor I have been inspected by both. Local seems to actually have a higher standard than the state. Many times the state inspector has concentrated more on the temporary food vendor fee and collecting the \$\$ for the state rather than the inspection itself. I had one state inspector actually tell me that his boss reminded him to make sure to collect the fees...thereby making that oh-by the way - comment more important to the inspector than the inspection itself.	Mar 4, 2011 6:28 PM
15	Risk based inspections make sense. If it is less costly to have state do this effectively why should property tax funds be spent for this purpose. Do you have data that indicates the states system will not work?	Mar 4, 2011 6:36 PM
16	You must inspect those vendors at special events!! Serving food at a special events poses some of the biggest challenges we as food servers will see. Can you imagine how an outbreak might effect future special events if we make a large number of people sick. Special events are very important to our economy - we cannot afford to chase them away!	Mar 4, 2011 8:49 PM
17	It doesn't matter which inspects, but there shouldn't be a 4 vendor minimum for the inspection to occur.	Mar 4, 2011 9:13 PM
18	Local vendors can best understand the special events and the necessary requirements needed at these events where there will likely be visitors from outside of Ames.	Mar 5, 2011 10:24 AM
19	A local vendor inspector would be readily available, whereas a State vendor "might" make it here in time.	Mar 5, 2011 1:56 PM
20	It seems like it would make more sense to have a local inspector for local events instead of having someone drive all the way from a different town. If there was just a state inspector, then it would be very difficult to do the inspections when many towns are holding events on the same dates.	Mar 6, 2011 5:36 PM
21	It speeds up planning and gives planners and guests confidence in a safe and fun event.	Mar 6, 2011 10:27 PM
22	the ability to be familiar with the events and how they operate would be helpful	Mar 7, 2011 8:22 AM
23	I think your survey has flaws in the questions!	Mar 7, 2011 11:27 AM

Briefly explain your answer from above		
58	State vendors are not as available	Mar 14, 2011 2:27 PM

11. Comments and concerns:	
	Response Count
	35
answered question	35
skipped question	73

Briefly explain your answer above		
1	City inspections are much more thorough and frequent and we feel that is important for food safety in general. We look at our city sanitarian as a partner in providing the safest, quality food as possible.	Mar 3, 2011 2:02 PM
2	State inspections are not often enough. The city of Ames does a fantastic job.	Mar 3, 2011 2:40 PM
3	Kevin was always interested in making sure we understood exactly what was expected of us, always teaching us new things. As a senior housing community we have state inspectors in here occasionally. Our state inspector acted sneaky, as though she knew it was not her jurisdiction to be checking in our food service—especially when it was never centered on a complaint regarding our food safety. Her main purpose was to find things that we were doing incorrectly so that she could give out deficiencies (which luckily we had Kevin teaching us how to do things correctly so she never found anything). DIA has already sent out a memo stating that effective July 1st they will be our new monitors, which suggests that they will not take into account this survey or City Hall meeting.	Mar 3, 2011 4:34 PM
4	Consistency of a local inspector is really important. In our other location, the inspectors come in, yell a lot and we never see them again. With Kevin, there's a lot of emphasis on education. With Kevin, he would tell us to start solving a major problem without having to spring it on us and disrupt our business. We're able to plan and budget much better that way.	Mar 4, 2011 2:03 PM
5	I prefer local people that are accountable locally	Mar 4, 2011 3:48 PM
6	When Kevin does an inspection not only is he very detailed oriented but he also educates and helps to resolve issues that he notes. I have always learned how to improve my business and protect my customers during the inspection process. With the state inspectors at our other facility I did not get the learning experience or the guidance that has always been so helpful from our local inspector.	Mar 4, 2011 5:43 PM
7	Better inspections, more timely and more complete.	Mar 4, 2011 5:51 PM
8	I'm assuming they do the same inspection	Mar 4, 2011 6:03 PM
9	They are trained the same and are required to inspect the same. There is always a little variation from person to person about what is most important to them, but the overall and intention seems the same.	Mar 4, 2011 6:06 PM
10	The state has no interest in the success of my business just strictly compliance and collecting an inspection check. Impersonal for the most part. I prefer City of Ames inspections. Kevin Anderson has always done an outstanding job and he has even trained state folks.	Mar 4, 2011 6:24 PM
11	Kevin (local) has a much better understanding for the local restaurants. He is easy to communicate with and is always willing to listen to the questions we may have. The State inspectors are in and out and do not seem to care about local business or any local issues!	Mar 4, 2011 8:43 PM

Briefly explain your answer above		
36	far more comprehensive: better resource in town and accessible when we have any questions, example: the flood of 2010 when water was questionable; when	Mar 13, 2011 1:05 PM



2. Comments and concerns:

	Response Text	
1	I think that it is a mistake not to have local inspections. I am not worried about my establishment but others in the community. I am proud to be in a community that takes this issue seriously. I have dealt with the state before and their inspections are subpar. There are to many businesses in the state to inspect and the state can not or afford to provide the quality that this community expects. Maybe Kevin can put off retiring?	Mar 3, 2011 2:46 PM
2	I feel that the benefits of the city inspections go far beyond just the actual inspections. Kevin was instrumental in helping us plan for the expansion of our busines with the addition of a kitchen in particular. Every inspection is a learning experience and we look forward to them. We want to provide the safest best quality food possible and Kevin's inspections help us do that.	Mar 3, 2011 2:47 PM
3	I can ask my crew to clean something and it's like no big deal, but when I tell them the health inspector is coming, they snap to it. With bi-annual inspections, many of my employees would never experience an inspection.  Ames is different than many communities because we have University help that comes and goes, a lot!	Mar 4, 2011 2:06 PM
4	makes an even playing field across the state. Ames inspections have been more stringent prior to this on some non-vital issues	Mar 4, 2011 2:21 PM
5	Locally accountability	Mar 4, 2011 3:50 PM
6	It would a loss to lose our local inspections. Having worked with our local inspector for many years I feel better informed and know that my customers are taken care of. I also feel confident eating in restuarants in Ames because I know what our city inspections are like and what the expectations are. I do not feel as confident in other places having gone through state inspections as well.	Mar 4, 2011 5:45 PM
7	The state's argument that they have inspectors who live in Ames is not compelling. Makes no difference where they live.	Mar 4, 2011 5:48 PM
8	We don't need MORE bureaucracy. Keep it local, in touch with local concerns that will have ears for a local voice.	Mar 4, 2011 5:52 PM
9	The State is not able to fully inspect its current facilities without taking on the City of Ames; it would do a poor job with the citizens being put a risk...	Mar 4, 2011 5:59 PM
10	It works - don't change it.	Mar 4, 2011 6:03 PM
11	I think we are asking the wrong questions. This survey is not constructed in a way to get real, honest feedback with options. I believe a single inspection every two years for businesses with a certain level of quality is completely sufficient, but I believe unsanitary establishments with significant health code violations should be inspected much more frequently during a probationary period until they either fix their issues or are closed. They should also be fined for the cost of the additional inspections if the issues are not corrected sufficiently in a certain period of time. The fines can help fund any additional inspectson and needs the city wants to contract.	Mar 4, 2011 6:11 PM
12	I believe the citizens of Ames receive better service and a higher standard for that money than they know. The city Sanitarian gets the opportunity to inspect my business about 5-7 times a summer.	Mar 4, 2011 6:30 PM
13	The issue of frequency is not all that important. If a restaurant has a history of bad inspections then they should be inspected more often. With the importance of food service in Ames and the importance to our economy, I believe we should continue to employe our own inspector. Can you imagine going throug the flood last August with no local authority? I find it hard to believe the state would have sent someone to Ames for the entire ordeal?	Mar 4, 2011 8:53 PM

## 2. Comments and concerns:

	Response Text	
14	I'm not sure I understand why it costs so much to have a food inspector. It would be helpful to know how much revenue is generated by the licenses, and why an additional \$60,000 is needed in addition to that. On the other hand, if there are 18,085 households (as of the 2000 census), it seems like a little over \$3 per household would be a negligible reduction in property taxes.	Mar 6, 2011 5:47 PM
15	If the state can provide quality food inspections the same way local inspections have been I have no preference.	Mar 6, 2011 7:34 PM
16	I feel that the City has done a nice job of food inspections, with the 2 times a year inspection there are no surprises and the City Inspector works with us in partnership to maintain safety and sanitation in our food service quality.	Mar 7, 2011 8:44 AM
17	You have left out the issue of local control. We have a great inspector in Kevin but the importance is uniform inspections. What other jobs does the inspector do for the City of Ames? I believe the State will do more inspections if needed just as Kevin has been doing.	Mar 7, 2011 11:35 AM
18	we are over-taxed and over-regulated making the city an anti-business entity.	Mar 7, 2011 11:39 AM
19	Just dont make running a small business any harder than it already is in Ames.	Mar 7, 2011 12:51 PM
20	I have a question and would love to talk someone about a catering style of cooking that i have seen.	Mar 7, 2011 1:44 PM
21	Since I really do not have experience with State Inspections, I feel I cannot justify making a recommendation either way	Mar 7, 2011 3:55 PM
22	As a restaurant owner, we think inspections twice a year is essential to make sure we stay on track. It is important to us to keep the safety of everyone first. As a consumer, I would be leary of going into an establishment that is new and only inspected on a complaint basis. I think it will allow food establishments to become lazy	Mar 7, 2011 4:07 PM
23	A dedicated local public servant that has to eat at these places just like the rest of us will get it done right and will be able to develop relationships that make a big difference.	Mar 7, 2011 4:56 PM
24	Same criteria. The quality of food changes in a day and not once a year.	Mar 8, 2011 9:52 AM
25	As a business I prefer to know there is a consistent inspection of those bearing food licenses with in the community. Working in the hotel industry here in Ames, it is nice to know that the customers we are sending to our local establishments to dine are dining in establishments that are subject to biannual inspections. Once a year or once every two years is not sufficient. With staff turnaround or ownership turnaround, it is hard for them to know what is expected or necessary if they don't even see an inspector the first 2 years of their service. It's important, informative and necessary we are providing not only the members of our community but those who visit proper food service, I do not see that happening if licensees are only subject to inspections every 2 years	Mar 8, 2011 2:59 PM
26	I would be very concerned if Ames switched to State inspections	Mar 8, 2011 3:29 PM
27	A local food inspector can provide expertise to new and existing food establishments. Their knowledge of different establishments helps them discover problems before they occur.	Mar 8, 2011 3:33 PM
28	I would rather pay from my own pocket, so I have a close relationship with my inspector for clarification of regulations, and also help when planning new kitchen designs or practices with a grey area.	Mar 8, 2011 3:43 PM
29	local is the way to go. Please continue forward with this fantastic program	Mar 9, 2011 8:51 AM

## 2. Comments and concerns:

	Response Text	
30	Here is what you have to ask yourself. When you walk into a food establishment do you as a customer want to wonder if it is safe to eat there. We as consumers of food never and I mean never wonder if it is safe. Why, because we have food standards and they are monitored. Next time you go out and eat, take a minute and ask yourself is it safe to eat here. Well you know it is because we have a person who lives here, shops here, eats here and interacts in the community doing the inspections. They have to live here. Thats real skin in the game.	Mar 9, 2011 12:00 PM
31	Consistency of inspections keeps everyone in check	Mar 10, 2011 12:52 AM
32	Aproximately \$1.00 per citizen is a bargain. Probably one of the better things that our taxes are spent on.	Mar 10, 2011 11:39 AM
33	I think the Ames tourism industry would suffer if Ames switched to state inspections vs. local inspections, especially at the frequency recommended. It would not take long for a health code violation to turn into a food-borne illness outbreak that would be detrimental to the city and campus communities.	Mar 10, 2011 7:48 PM
34	In general, I think an inspection every two years is adequate, however, I think for new businesses, more frequent inspections are a good idea for an educational perspective. Also higher risk businesses should have more inspections. I would define higher risk businesses as though with significant violations. However, I hope the inspector isn't just trying to make a job for himself in his evaluations. I almost said 'no preference' in the previous question. It seemed as though most rules and directives came down from the state anyway, so I don't see much difference.	Mar 11, 2011 11:35 AM
35	I have no preference who conducts the inspections as long as it is being completed with the frequency of the citys inspector, If that will not happen, It should remain the responsibility of the city inspector	Mar 14, 2011 2:03 PM

