

File No. 86801

May 3, 1951

Bureau of Kosher Meat and Food Control
401 City Hall
Baltimore - 2, Maryland

ATTENTION: MR. RUBIN GERTZ, Chairman

Gentlemen:

With reference to your letter to this office concerning the following inquiries dealing with Ordinance No. 523, known as the Kosher Food Law, we are herewith advising you as follows:

"Inquiry No. 1: Is an establishment that is advertised as 'strictly kosher' forbidden by the ordinance to sell products for off-the-premises consumption when said products, sold in their original containers, may contain ingredients not sanctioned by Hebrew Orthodox dietary laws?

"Inquiry No. 2: Is an establishment that is advertised as 'strictly kosher' forbidden by the ordinance to sell products for off-the-premises consumption when said products sold in their original containers, may or may not contain ingredients not sanctioned by Hebrew Orthodox dietary laws if these products do not have imprinted thereon a label marked 'kosher', a symbol of '(u)', or a notation that those particular products have been specifically prepared under the direct supervision and control of a Rabbi or a 'Mashgeach'?

"Inquiry No. 3: Is an establishment that is advertised as 'strictly kosher' forbidden by the ordinance to sell products for off-the-premises consumption when the product has imprinted on the package or label a list of ingredients that in themselves may be subject to differing interpretations with respect to acceptance in accord with Hebrew Orthodox dietary observance, and, more specifically, where the imprint refers merely to the word 'Shortening' which may be interpreted as meaning vegetable shortening or animal shortening?

Section 2 of Ordinance No. 523, sets forth the rules concerning the advertising or display of food products by any person, firm or corporation who represents said food to be Kosher, and, further sets forth that in the event that non-kosher food was sold in the same establishment that there must be display window signs to the effect that kosher and non-kosher foods are sold. Said section further states: