

Jomsky, Mark

Subject: FW: WWW COMMENT--Chickens

Data from form "Contact Vice Mayor Margaret McAustin" was received on 11/21/2013 8:03:40 PM.

Send Comments

Field	Value
Your Name	Russ Jones
Phone	6262960415
Email	russjns@gmail.com
Comments	Hi, I just found out that Pasadena City Council is taking up the matter of the amendment to the chicken ordinance at next Monday's meeting. I'm writing to urge you to vote yes on that amendment so that my neighbors and I in Pasadena can have direct access to fresh, healthy eggs in our own backyards. What a great opportunity for our children to learn where their food comes from and to be a part of the process. Plus, as products become increasingly tainted by processing and unknown methods of manufacturing, having the skills to be in charge of our own food is becoming more and more important. Getting our own eggs from our own hens is something that would mean a great deal to us. I hope you vote yes on Monday's amendment to the chicken ordinance so that Pasadena can join other California cities like South Pasadena, Altadena, and even San Marino in making backyard chickens accessible for us all. Thanks for your time, Russ Jones

Email "WWW COMMENT" originally sent to mfuller@cityofpasadena.net from CityWeb-Server@cityofpasadena.net on 11/21/2013 8:03:40 PM.

Jomsky, Mark

Subject: FW: WWW COMMENT--Chickens

Data from form "Contact Vice Mayor Margaret McAustin" was received on 11/22/2013 9:57:26 AM.

Send Comments

Field	Value
Your Name	Harlan Klipp
Phone	6267979683
Email	hklipp@sbcglobal.net
Comments	Re: Backyard Chickens Our next door neighbor had five chickens housed in two filthy, foul smelling chicken coops located on the driveway side of her house 10' from our property line and 20' from our house. We suffered through an increase in ants, flies, filth, chickens wandering in her yard and the sight of the build-up of mounds of guano from the chickens. We complained to the Health Dept and the coops have now been moved out of sight to behind her house but probably less than the 50' setback required. I urge you NOT to change the current city ordinance. Reducing the set backs will reduce home values and damage the quality of life in Pasadena.

Email "WWW COMMENT" originally sent to mfuller@cityofpasadena.net from CityWeb-Server@cityofpasadena.net on 11/22/2013 9:57:26 AM.

November 24, 2013

Pasadena City Council
100 North Garfield Avenue
Pasadena, CA 91101



Re: Support for Agenda Item 11 (Chickens) - Amendment to Chapter 6.20 of the Pasadena Municipal Code Reducing the Distance Separation Requirements and Implementing Regulations for the Keeping of Chickens

Dear Mayor Bogaard and Council Members,

Day One is a Pasadena-based organization with a 25-year history of providing effective, high quality and culturally sensitive public health education, intervention, policy development and environmental prevention strategies. As an agency committed to improving public health, we support local policies that promote healthier lifestyles.

Over the past decade an increasing number of cities across the nation have recognized that local food production is good for public health. Driven by health and economic factors, communities have moved to adopt policies that make the keeping of chickens, bees, and other forms of local food production possible for residents. To date the experiences of these communities underline how such changes in public policy can create more vibrant, healthy neighborhoods and sustainable local economies.

Eggs produced by backyard hens are a healthier, more humane alternative to the factory-farmed varieties that dominate US food production and heavily rely on the use of antibiotics, to the detriment of public health and safety. The PBS news program Frontline recently covered this larger health issue - the danger posed by antibiotic-resistant strains of bacteria - in a special episode entitled "Hunting the Nightmare Bacteria", which can be viewed here: <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/hunting-the-nightmare-bacteria/>

Day One supports the proposed revisions before you this evening, and also encourages the Council to consider updating the City's code to facilitate parkway vegetable/fruit gardens and backyard beekeeping.

Sincerely,

Wes Reutimann
Environmental Prevention Director
Day One, Inc.
175 N. Euclid Ave.
Pasadena, CA 91101
www.goDayOne.org

Day One builds vibrant, healthy cities by advancing public health, empowering youth, and igniting change.

11/25/2013
Item 11

Jomsky, Mark

From: Michael Coppess [michaelcoppess@sbcglobal.net]

Sent: Sunday, November 24, 2013 7:22 AM

To: Bogaard, Bill; McAustin, Margaret; Tornek, Terry; Madison, Steve

Cc: district1; Cruz, Christian (Field Rep); West, Jana; Sullivan, Noreen; De La Cuba, Vannia; Madison, Steve

Subject: 11/25/13 Agenda – Chicken Ordinance

Dear Mr. Mayor and City Councilmembers:

For many years my family kept chickens at our east Pasadena home and I have followed the surging interest in backyard chickens. I am a former planning commissioner and am glad the city is revising its chicken ordinance. I have some comments to and differences with staff's recommendations.

- 1. No Roosters.** I agree that the current rooster ban in should remain. Roosters can be loud, disruptive and mean. When I've heard complaints about chickens, it has been about roosters. Hens do not create the same problems.
- 2. Distance Separation.** I found the staff recommendation a little confusing on this point. I would recommend that chicken enclosures be 50 feet from the street (or in the backyard) and 35 feet from a dwelling other than the owner's dwelling. There should be no other distance requirements. Most ordinances exclude the owner's dwelling from the distance requirements and I think that is a good idea. The owner should have latitude to consider trees and landscaping when placing the chicken enclosure and sometimes the best place will be closer to the owner's home. I do not see any reason why the owner should not be able to site the enclosure within 35 feet of his or her home.
- 3. Registration and Certification.** I do not see any need to impose these requirements on those who wish to keep chickens. As far as I know the city has never required such certification or maintained any registry identifying those with chickens. I understand the desire to make sure residents understand and agree to abide by city codes, but there is no reason to single out chicken owners for this requirement. The city has perhaps thousands of laws that apply without requiring residents to certify they will follow the law. There is nothing suspicious or hazardous about chicken keeping that warrants singling out chicken owners for special certification and registration requirements.
- 4. No Fees.** Obviously the city should not impose fees on residents without a concrete factual basis for the charge and need for the charge. First, I do not see any need for a "chicken program" so I do see any justification for a fee. Second, the staff report estimates the cost of implementing a chicken program is \$1,000. This is a de minimis amount which does not warrant further time or attention. Third, those who keep chickens do so to provide their families better, safer and often less expensive quality food. The city should not further burden these families.
- 5. Neighborhood Impact.** To many, the thought of having chickens in the neighborhood might seem strange and they may have concerns. However, I think the facts are that chickens (hens not roosters) do not create any negative neighborhood impacts. There is no reason responsible chicken ownership would create a situation that smelled or attracted flies. The fact is chicken droppings are much less in volume than dog poop. Like picking up after a dog, keeping a chicken enclosure clean is easy and, in our house, was child's work. Nor do I see noise an issue. Roosters are intrusive, but they are banned. Hens briefly squawk after laying an egg, but the sound is neither unpleasant nor intrusive. Other than that, our chickens were mainly silent. When there was banter, it was no louder than a human voice.

Conclusion

Times change and social attitudes change. While banning chickens was probably the modern or urban thing to do thirty years ago, today many of the most progressive and forward-thinking cities encourage chicken keeping. For example, the City of Seattle actively promotes local food production, including backyard chickens. The city holds an annual chicken coop tour and cottage industries have taken hold for coop builders, feed providers and chicken consultants.

I would urge the city to make the changes I've suggested in this email and would very strongly urge the city to refrain from imposing any fees on those who wish to keep chickens.

Sincerely,

Michael Coppess

Jomsky, Mark

To: Robinson, Jacqu
Subject: RE: City Council Meeting 11-25

From: Cynthia Frederick [cf@cynthiafrederick.com]
Sent: Saturday, November 23, 2013 10:06 AM
To: district1
Subject: re: City Council Meeting 11-25

Ms. Robinson -

I'm sorry you weren't able to attend the meeting of the Legislative Committee last week - it was very exciting. As I'm sure you know, our proposal to ease the setbacks on backyard hens has been put on the agenda for a vote by City Council on November 25.

I look forward to seeing you there, and I very much hope I can count on your support of this proposal. It really has the potential to help a lot of Pasadena residents who are interested in eating better quality food and living more sustainably.

Thank you for this, and for all your efforts to make Pasadena a better place.

Sincerely,
Cynthia Frederick

Jomsky, Mark

From: Jim Ingalls [ingalls@ipac.caltech.edu]
Sent: Friday, November 22, 2013 10:20 AM
To: Robinson, Jacque
Cc: Williams, Tina
Subject: Chicken Ordinance

Dear Vice Mayor Robinson,

I am pleased to hear that the Pasadena City Council is considering an amendment to the chicken ordinance at next Monday's meeting. I am writing to urge you to vote yes on that amendment so that my neighbors and I in northwest Pasadena can have direct access to fresh, healthy eggs in our own backyards.

I have two young sons, who I want to know where their food comes from. We already grow vegetables for vitamins and minerals. The eggs of free roaming, grass fed hens provide beneficial protein, fats, and other vitamins. Keeping our own chickens would make the eggs much more affordable than farmer's market eggs. This is also a long term food security issue for Pasadena: in our rapidly warming climate, the more skills we all have to be in charge of our own food supply the more resilient a community we are.

Again, I hope you vote yes on Monday's amendment to the chicken ordinance so that Pasadena can join other California cities like South Pasadena, Altadena, and even San Marino in making backyard chickens accessible to all.

Thank you for considering this!

Sincerely,

James Ingalls
1841 Santa Rosa Avenue
Pasadena, CA 91104

Jomsky, Mark

From: Leila Towry Kumar [urbanmosaicervices@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, November 21, 2013 6:52 PM
To: district1
Subject: Chickens

Dear Ms. Robinson,

I appreciate how active you have been in our neighborhood. We live in NW Pasadena, in a neighborhood that is united in our goal to know our neighbors, end crime, engage our youth and create sustainable solutions to global problems.

As you know we have faced economic collapse that has lead to high unemployment and poverty. We have many hungry folks living among us and I believe that urban agricullture is a solution by providing access to nutrition foods, and reducing our need for expensive and less healthy imported or shipped foods from miles away. To this end, we have converted our front lawn into an edible oasis and wish to continue this effort by having hens. Our young children, age 5 and 7 enjoy farming and animals. We believe that by giving them and others a chance to keep chickens on our modest urban lots, we would have a great impact on our community and our health. In fact, we hope many households can care for chickens and collect wonderful eggs, which are low cost source of protein. Additionalky, their ability to compost would reduce the City's food waste burden, and dare I say lower costs for all?

Please consider support for this wonderful initiative and allow backyard chickens on lots with 35 feet of space between the chickens and a dwelling. As a community development professional, I thank you for your support in a time when visionaries are truly needed.

Warmly,

Leila Kumar
352 Flower St.
Pasadena, CA. 1104

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Leila Towry Kumar, MA
Founding Director
Urban Mosaic Communities
Healthy People, Healthy Places (HP2)
www.urbanmosaiccommunities.com
www.hp2.us

phone: 626.376.8054

"The subdivisions of suburbia are conceived as shopping centers for housing and only later (if at all) as communities."— Andres Duany, New Urbanist Pioneer

Please consider the planet before printing this email.

Jomsky, Mark

From: Sonali Kolhatkar [sonali@sonaliandjim.net]
Sent: Wednesday, November 20, 2013 8:49 PM
To: Robinson, Jacque
Subject: chicken ordinance

Dear Vice Mayor Robinson,

I have just heard the great news that the Pasadena City Council will take up the matter of the amendment to the chicken ordinance at next Monday's meeting. I am writing to urge you to vote yes on that amendment so that my neighbors and I in northwest Pasadena can have direct access to fresh, healthy eggs in our own backyards.

This is such an important issue on multiple fronts. I want my two young children to know where their food comes from and to be a part of the process. Right now we raise many vegetables and would love to add chickens! Plus the health benefits of eggs from free roaming, grass fed hens is enormous particularly for young children. And, they are a lot more affordable than expensive farmer's market hens. In our rapidly warming climate, the more skills we all have to be in charge of our own food supply the more resilient a community we are.

Again, I hope you vote yes on Monday's amendment to the chicken ordinance so that Pasadena can join other California cities like South Pasadena, Altadena, and even San Marino in making backyard chickens accessible for us all.

Sincerely and with respect,

- Sonali Kolhatkar
1841 Santa Rosa Avenue
Pasadena CA 91104

Flores, Valerie

From: Jomsky, Mark
Sent: Monday, November 25, 2013 3:33 PM
To: Official Records - City Clerk
Subject: Fwd: chicken ordinance be cautious please

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Stewart, Jana" <janastewart@cityofpasadena.net>
Date: November 25, 2013 at 3:31:38 PM PST
To: "Jomsky, Mark" <mjomsky@cityofpasadena.net>
Subject: FW: chicken ordinance be cautious please

FYI...

Jana Stewart
Office of the Mayor & City Council

From: jeanne muir [<mailto:puremuir@att.net>]
Sent: Friday, November 22, 2013 10:58 AM
To: Madison, Steve
Cc: Bogaard, Bill
Subject: chicken ordinance be cautious please

Dear Mayor Bogaard and Councilman Madison,
I urge you to proceed with caution over changing the chicken ordinance. Although I like the idea of homeowner sustainability with eggs, not all residents act responsibly. A friend of mine lives in Alhambra and has been trying to get her neighbors to contend with the laws to no avail. This summer she put a beautiful fire pit in the rear corner of her property, but cannot use it to entertain due to flies and smell from her neighboring chickens. The neighbors are Asian and speak very little English, so it has been a battle. Make sure you require the chickens and the compost piles remain a good distance from the property line, as many of us enjoy the full use of our small backyards.

Thank you,
Jeanne Muir
Pasadena, CA 91105

Flores, Valerie

From: Jomsky, Mark
Sent: Monday, November 25, 2013 3:32 PM
To: Official Records - City Clerk
Subject: Fwd: chicken ordinance be cautious please

From: jeanne muir [<mailto:puremuir@att.net>]
Sent: Friday, November 22, 2013 10:58 AM
To: Madison, Steve
Cc: Bogaard, Bill
Subject: chicken ordinance be cautious please

Dear Mayor Bogaard and Councilman Madison,

I urge you to proceed with caution over changing the chicken ordinance. Although I like the idea of homeowner sustainability with eggs, not all residents act responsibly. A friend of mine lives in Alhambra and has been trying to get her neighbors to contend with the laws to no avail. This summer she put a beautiful fire pit in the rear corner of her property, but cannot use it to entertain due to flies and smell from her neighboring chickens. The neighbors are Asian and speak very little English, so it has been a battle.

Make sure you require the chickens and the compost piles remain a good distance from the property line, as many of us enjoy the full use of our small backyards.

Thank you,

Jeanne Muir

Pasadena, CA 91105