



CITY CLERK'S OFFICE
MEMORANDUM

January 29, 2021

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND COUNCILMEMBERS

FROM: JULIE DRIMAKIS, CITY CLERK

**SUBJECT: CONSENT CALENDAR - ORDINANCES ITEM 8.f.
RESCINDING ORDINANCES REGARDING BACKYARD HENS**

This memorandum is to transmit correspondence submitted prior to the publication of the Agenda. The City Clerk's office received 20 emails in opposition of rescinding the Backyard Hen Ordinances and 13 items in support of rescinding said ordinances. Correspondence is enclosed as follows:

From	Position	Subject	Type	Received
Bill Descary	Support	Rescinding Hen Ordinances	email	Friday, January 29, 2021
Brenda Smith	Support	Rescinding Hen Ordinances	email	Tuesday, January 26, 2021
Brian Taylor	Oppose	Rescinding Hen Ordinances	email	Wednesday, January 27, 2021
E.B. "Jodi" Clark	Support	Rescinding Hen Ordinances	email	Thursday, January 28, 2021
Emily Clark	Oppose	Rescinding Hen Ordinances	email	Tuesday, January 26, 2021
Erin Sorena	Oppose	Rescinding Hen Ordinances	email	Wednesday, January 27, 2021
Garry Simmons	Support	Rescinding Hen Ordinances	letter	Friday, January 29, 2021
Gisel	Oppose	Rescinding Hen Ordinances	email	Wednesday, January 27, 2021
Haley Krouse	Oppose	Rescinding Hen Ordinances	email	Thursday, January 28, 2021
Hannah Fortin	Oppose	Rescinding Hen Ordinances	email	Tuesday, January 26, 2021
Jair Hernandez	Oppose	Rescinding Hen Ordinances	email	Tuesday, January 26, 2021
John Denvir	Support	Rescinding Hen Ordinances	letter	Friday, January 29, 2021
Jorge Valdez	Oppose	Rescinding Hen Ordinances	email	Tuesday, January 26, 2021
Joseph Kandle	Support	Rescinding Hen Ordinances	letter	Friday, January 29, 2021
Juan Lopez Lepe	Oppose	Rescinding Hen Ordinances	email	Tuesday, January 26, 2021
Julie Denvir	Support	Rescinding Hen Ordinances	letter	Friday, January 29, 2021
Kalli Beckwith	Oppose	Rescinding Hen Ordinances	email	Wednesday, January 27, 2021
Karen Crawford	Support	Rescinding Hen Ordinances	email	Thursday, January 21, 2021
Kim Jones	Support	Rescinding Hen Ordinances	email	Thursday, January 28, 2021

Kim Ouska	Oppose	Rescinding Hen Ordinances	email	Sunday, January 24, 2021
Larry Rhoades	Support	Rescinding Hen Ordinances	email	Friday, January 22, 2021
Lori Carrillo	Support	Rescinding Hen Ordinances	letter	Friday, January 29, 2021
Marsha Boland	Oppose	Rescinding Hen Ordinances	email	Thursday, January 28, 2021
Michael Garcia	Oppose	Rescinding Hen Ordinances	email	Thursday, January 28, 2021
Michelle Harp	Oppose	Rescinding Hen Ordinances	email	Wednesday, January 20, 2021
Myra Benitez Virrueta	Oppose	Rescinding Hen Ordinances	email	Tuesday, January 26, 2021
Nancy Romero	Oppose	Rescinding Hen Ordinances	email	Thursday, January 28, 2021
Nicole Lewis	Oppose	Rescinding Hen Ordinances	email	Thursday, January 28, 2021
Olina Garcia	Oppose	Rescinding Hen Ordinances	email	Thursday, January 28, 2021
Sammy	Oppose	Rescinding Hen Ordinances	email	Tuesday, January 26, 2021
Sean Starr	Oppose	Rescinding Hen Ordinances	email	Friday, January 22, 2021
Terry Maxwell	Support	Rescinding Hen Ordinances	email	Thursday, January 28, 2021
Tim Carrillo	Support	Rescinding Hen Ordinances	letter	Friday, January 29, 2021

Attachments

JD

From: wcdescary@aol.com
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: All Councilmembers
Date: Friday, January 29, 2021 10:34:34 AM

Warning: This email originated from outside the City of Bakersfield. Think before you click!

COVID-19 health concerns prevent me from being a public speaker.

Councilmembers:

I am in support of the Council's decision to rescind the hen ordinance. The ordinance changed R-1 zoning rules on over 85,000 parcels without a properly noticed public hearing and an environmental impact report. Participation at public meetings continues to be limited by COVID-19 pandemic rules. The hen ordinance never should have been considered under these circumstances.

Regarding hen ordinance advocates being in the majority - a small well organized special interest group is not a majority. There have been no official surveys or public opinion polls to establish any sort of majority status. Calling themselves a majority is ridiculous. Existing R-1 rules are being subjugated for the wishes of a few.

Municipal Code concerning text amendments to zoning rules was ignored. Likewise, such a sweeping change to zoning rules is not exempt from longstanding CEQA requirements. The group effectively lobbied the Council to get four votes and achieve their goal.

Rescinding the hen ordinance will avoid a lengthy and costly CEQA lawsuit. To maintain a satisfactory quality of life for all Bakersfield residents, the City Council and staff need to focus on public safety, housing, economic opportunity and assure Measure N money is spent wisely.

Bill Descary

From: [Brenda Smith](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Cc: [Brenda Smith](#)
Subject: Hens in City Limits
Date: Tuesday, January 26, 2021 5:47:03 PM

Warning: This email originated from outside the City of Bakersfield. Think before you click!

Councilman Smith,

Again, I am imploring you to reconsider your support of residential hens within the city limits. Here are my concerns:

- 1) I walk by a residential neighborhood which is located in the county. There is a sudden change in the "smell" around a home that has hens in their backyard. I know they have them because I can hear them and I see the top of their coop. When I moved here, I knew we would be dealing with "cow smells" periodically depending on the wind, etc. I never expected we might be in a situation to have to deal with chicken smells.
- 2) Another property In the county I walk by periodically throw their hens excrement over their wall onto the dirt behind their property which is along a major thoroughfare. I don't want to have to deal with inconsiderate chicken owners in our city - and we all know there will be some.
- 3) When we moved here 25 years ago, we made the decision to buy a home within the city limits due to the desire to have ordinances that make for more harmonious neighborhoods. We live very close to county neighborhoods; our decision was deliberate to buy in the city.
- 4) Our city employees have enough work to do enforcing current codes. If hens are allowed, I do not believe for one minute that they will have the time to deal with the complaints I am certain they will receive.

City residents should not have to deal with hens in our neighborhoods. There are plenty of county homes people can move to and enjoy their birds, animals and other things that the city won't allow. If some city residences need hens so bad, they have options. One option should not be to push their desire for hens on the rest of us.

Finally, I don't know if this is true or not, but we have heard that you live in a gated community with a HOA. IF that is the case, the likelihood of you having to deal with this issue as a citizen of our city will most likely be eliminated as I have a hard time believing they will allow them. So please, don't push this issue onto those of us who do not have a HOA.

I hope you will listen to my concerns and make the proper decision for our city. Please understand that I am in no way affiliated with any organized group, or even know who they are. I am just a VERY CONCERNED city resident.

Regards,
Brenda Smith
1401 Galliard Ct.

Sent from my iPad

From: [Brian Taylor](#)
To: ken@hawcpas.com; [City Council](#); [Christian Clegg](#); [bakersfield mayor](#); [Virginia "Ginny" Gennaro](#)
Subject: Concerns and Questions Re: Feb. 3 Vote on Backyard Hens Ordinance
Date: Wednesday, January 27, 2021 10:11:13 AM
Attachments: [ChickenCoop Presentation.pdf](#)

Warning: This email originated from outside the City of Bakersfield. Think before you click!

Good Morning All-

I write to you all on behalf of my family's issues and concerns surrounding the suspension of and the February-third pending threat to re-vote on the backyard-hens ordinance passed on or about 24 September, 2020. I have attached a PDF that includes both a letter and some images and dates of the progression and cost of our preparations for having backyard hens. Please read that letter. If you feel this email is too long, as it has more details than this email along with some background information on a prior experience with backyard chickens.

The short(ish) story is that, because of your passage of the ordinance and our desire to own hens, we jumped on the opportunity to raise six hens for eggs and also for therapy for our teenage son (he's on the Autism Spectrum) and basically as pets for our 7-year-old daughter. Over the span of about a month-and-one-half, I designed and built a coop with an attached enclosed run (see PDF), spending many hours and about \$1,000 overall in the process. We had friends raising chicks for us until the point where we could bring them onto our residential property.

We brought the chickens home on November 22, a day after the ordinance was supposed to go into effect per the ordinance's language. It was not until a few days after that when we learned of the suspension--a suspension put in place less than 48 hours prior to the effective date.

I know that I am not alone in being in this position where many hours and hundreds, if not thousands, of dollars were spent in preparation for the ability to own backyard hens based on the actions of the City Council. And the only reason seems to be the threat of lawsuit; a lawsuit from an anonymous party or parties over an environmental study that is already proven to be irrelevant concerning this particular issue. Many municipalities in California have already established this precedent.

I see the lawsuit as frivolous, and I see the severe lack of notice on the suspension to be irresponsible and problematic for so many of us residents who enthusiastically acted on the benign practice of raising hens on residential properties. The claims and fears in the litigation appear to be unfounded, but all of the support and evidence surrounding the benefits of raising hens is not. I wholeheartedly ask that all of you do what you can to uphold the passed ordinance as it stands, but if you are unwilling (I know that we have two new members of council), I ask that you consider negotiating changes in lieu of completely reneging on the ordinance altogether and ignoring what seems to be the majority voice of the residents.

Please take the time to look at my PDF, as this is not the first time, amazingly, that we have experienced an issue with the dangled carrot of backyard hens, then to have it (potentially) yanked away after a significant investment of time and money. The benefits of raising hens far

outweigh the trumped-up concerns of the anonymous plaintiffs, and in the February 3rd meeting, there will be many of us ready to speak on that truth (probably enough that I would ask for an extension on the time allotted to hear our concerns).

And to be honest, I'm surprised and disappointed that the threat of an anonymous lawsuit was enough to supersede and potentially negate both the majority voice of the residents who care about this issue and the ruling of the City Council. I hope that the Council chooses to stand up for the will of its residents and not give up in the face of litigious anonymity.

Thank you for your time, and please feel free to reach out directly to me if you desire. If not, I will see you on February 3rd.

Sincerely,

Brian Taylor
931.338.4375

THE OTHER SIDE OF THE BACKYARD-HEN DEBATE

City Council Members and Other Included
Government Officials:

Our names are Brian and Christina Taylor, and our family has recently returned to Bakersfield after 22 years of living in Germany, Tennessee, and Kentucky due to military service. While living in some of those areas, we were introduced to the idea of backyard chickens. After research and knowing friends who had hens, we decided to take the plunge ourselves for the benefit of fresh eggs and because we saw how our son, who is on the Autism Spectrum, positively reacted to the animals and the chores around taking care of them.

After calling the city in which we lived and being told that this was allowed, we spent about \$600 on supplies and spent many hours building a coop, and we introduced chickens to our backyard only to be told by a government agency that, even though the city in which we lived did not prohibit backyard chickens, we would have to get rid of them because they were choosing to default to county zoning ordinances that prohibited the practice in residential neighborhoods.

This angered and devastated our family, but mostly our son. Fast forward 10 years to late-September, 2020, and we were excited to find out that the Bakersfield City Council had passed an ordinance to allow residential backyard hens; we considered this our second chance.

We jumped on the opportunity, and in mid-October began designing and building a coop with an enclosed

chicken run—5'6" by 12'—for six chickens. We designed it on Google SketchUp and started building it, and over the span of about five weeks of mostly weekend and intermittent evening building, the coop was far enough along that we could move some chickens in on November 22, the day after the ordinance took effect.

Well, that's what we thought.

A couple days after bringing our chickens home, we discovered that the ordinance had been suspended on or about one day before it was to go into effect, leaving very little time for those of us who had put things in motion to even know about the suspension, let alone stop what we were doing or recoup some of the costs.

We now find ourselves teetering on the verge of seeing ±\$1,000 of our hard-earned money and well over 100 hours of effort flushed down the drain because of an anonymous lawsuit concerning an environmental study—a study that has proven itself unnecessary based on the precedent set in many other municipalities here in California.

We understand the desire and need to be good stewards of our tax dollars when it entails threats of litigation, but what happens when council actions cause residents to spend hundreds or thousands of dollars in preparation for things based on the passage of ordinances, just to see our time and money potentially wasted by threat of repeal? What is our recourse, other than to write letters, make phone calls, and show up to meetings? In which party does

the balance of power lie when the deciding factor is either a costly lawsuit or citizens who are out their own money because of eleventh-hour ordinance suspensions? Are we forced to now seek recompense in small claims court, which also has the potential to cost the taxpayers an amount similar to attorney fees?

We ask that you please understand how the positives of backyard chickens heavily outweigh the negatives, and that if noise and sanitation issues are the primary concerns, neighborhood cats and dogs are far worse offenders (as is proven by what we have to avoid on sidewalks during our nightly dog walks).

We ask you all, on behalf of ourselves and others who are in a similar position because of this ordinance suspension and threat of repeal, please do not renege on the ability for us to own backyard hens within city limits. The pros far outweigh the cons, as we're sure has been previously demonstrated, and will most likely be demonstrated again on Feb. 3.

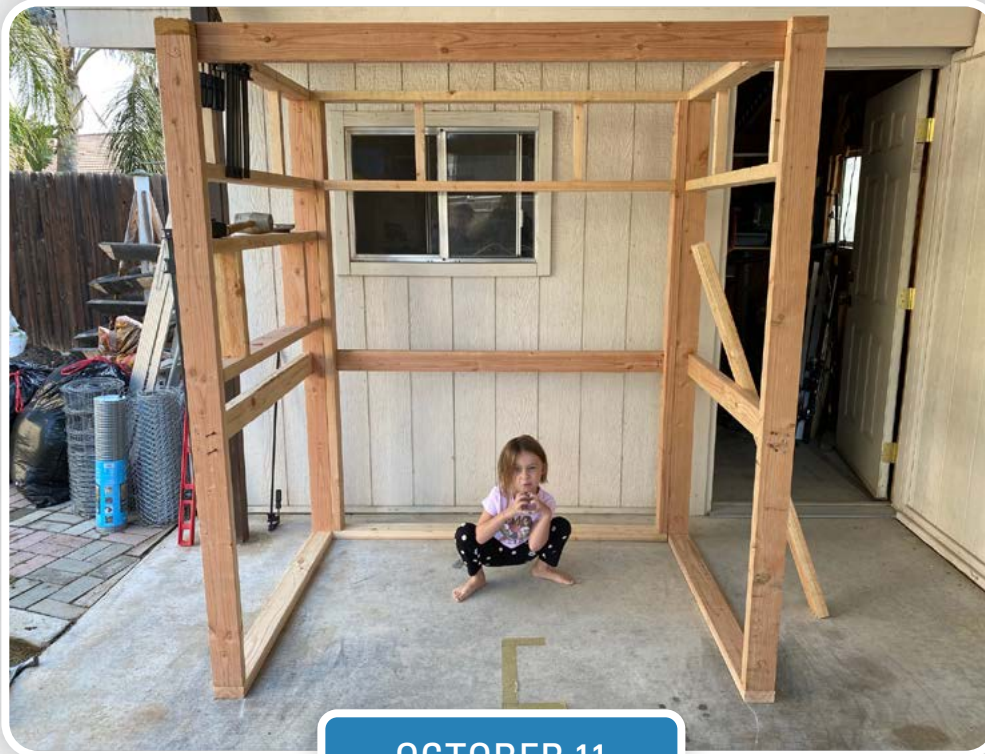
Thank you for your consideration, and we look forward to you reaffirming the vote to allow backyard hens.

Sincerely,

Brian and Christina Taylor
931.338.4375

(Attached are images and dates of the progression of the coop build as well as other notes, to show the amount of work involved and the finished product)

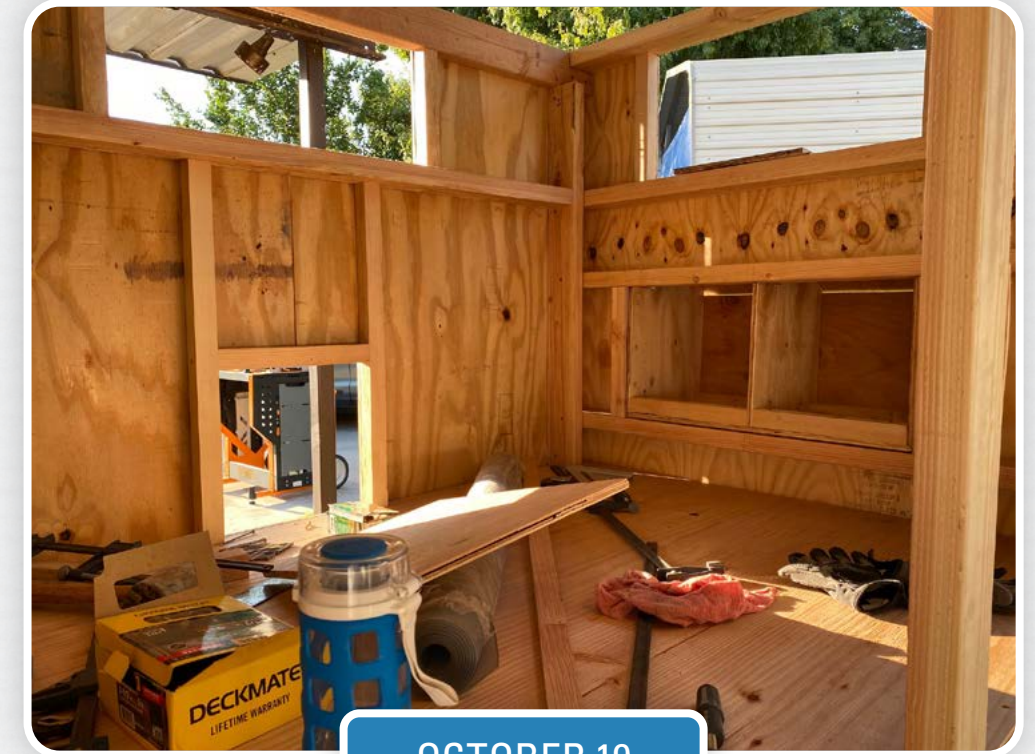
TOTAL PERSONAL INVESTMENT: **±\$1,000** AND **WELL OVER 100 HOURS**



OCTOBER 11



OCTOBER 12



OCTOBER 19



OCTOBER 19

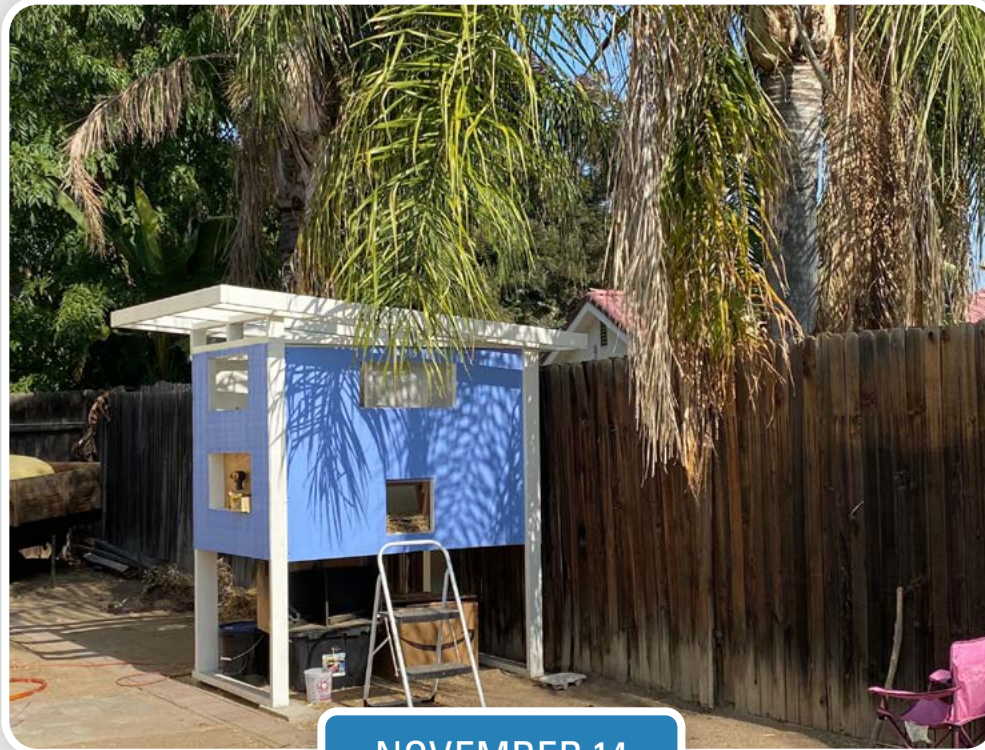


OCTOBER 19



OCTOBER 26

TOTAL PERSONAL INVESTMENT: **±\$1,000** AND **WELL OVER 100 HOURS**



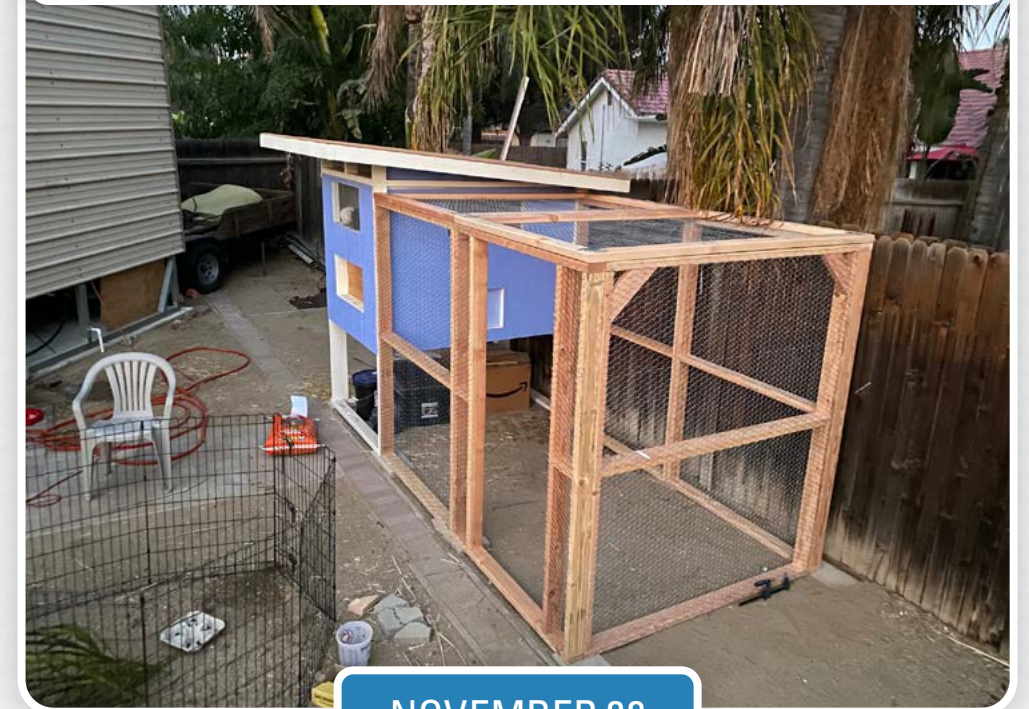
NOVEMBER 14

Apparent date of suspension of related city ordinance in response to lawsuit over environmental study.

While it was apparently noted on local news and social media, we did not discover news of it until after we had brought our chickens home on November 22.

NOVEMBER 19

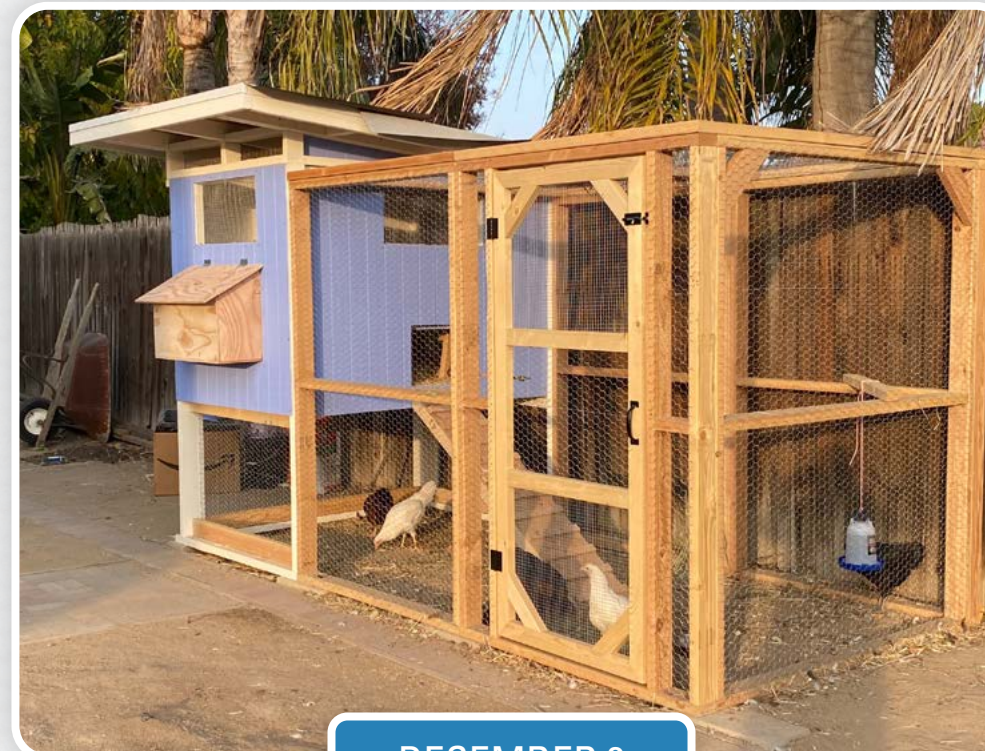
CHICKENS BROUGHT HOME, INTRODUCED TO COOP



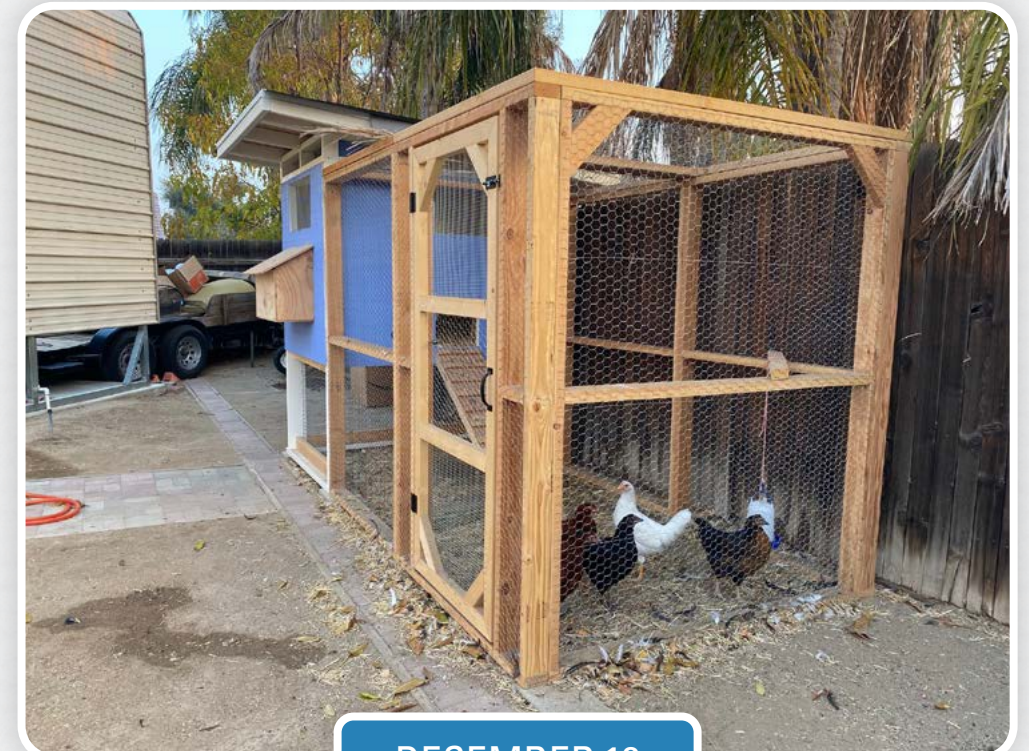
NOVEMBER 22



NOVEMBER 27



DECEMBER 6



DECEMBER 18

From: [Bill Clark](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: All Council Members
Date: Thursday, January 28, 2021 3:30:36 PM

Warning: This email originated from outside the City of Bakersfield. Think before you click!

All Council Members

Bakersfield City Council

Re: Proposed "Chicken Ordinance"

Dear Sir or Madam:

I and my husband purchased an R-1 home in The Oaks more than 30 years ago. The R-1 zoning did not allow for the keeping or raising of agricultural type animals. The majority of Bakersfield residents who purchased an R-1 home did so with the expectation that the city would enforce the zoning.

Many of us in this city have the misfortune of having developed a chronic disease which requires routine use of medication that suppresses the immune system. This includes those with rheumatoid arthritis, lupus, fibromyalgia and other diseases. This makes your decision on this ordinance even more important to a great number of us.

I realize that many chicken proponents are conscientious and would do their best to keep their property clean and dust free. However, no one can control the winds in this valley. Unfortunately, there are also people in this world who are not sufficiently motivated in the first place to be good neighbors.

If some residents desire to keep animals not allowed on R-1 lots, they are free to move to other areas of this community zoned to accommodate their desire. Those who do not want to live next door to such animals can only opt to move to another city.

You should also consider the distinct possibility of future lawsuits. Taxpayers will not want to pay for the indefensible decision to change the R-1 zoning for **all** city residents for the benefit of a **few** who knew in advance of their home purchase that chickens were not allowed on R-1 lots.

E.B. "Jodi" Clark
2308 Gambel Oak Way
Bakersfield, CA 93311
661-664-7814

From: [Emily Dawson](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: Re: Support for Bakersfield Urban Hens
Date: Tuesday, January 26, 2021 9:49:12 AM

Warning: This email originated from outside the City of Bakersfield. Think before you click!

Dear City Council,

I've been dismayed to hear that after all the hard work of due process of law, and the passage of the hen ordinance, that rescinding is now under consideration. And in response to a lawsuit that has no precedence in other cities who have successfully adopted similar ordinances? Such a frivolous lawsuit should not have the power to bully the City. If amendments to the ordinance are needed, so be it; there is a large grassroots community who support backyard hens and are willing to continue collaborating to find the best solutions. But you can not just rescind and sweep this under the table!

Best,

Emily Clark
6808 Segura Way
Bakersfield, CA 93309

On Tue, Sep 22, 2020 at 1:20 PM Emily Dawson <edawson@westmont.edu> wrote:

Dear City Council,

I'm writing to you today to affirm my support for the urban hen ordinance. I was born and raised in Bakersfield and am now a new homeowner here, moving back after seven years away. I'm looking forward to raising a family here, and I hope we can add a future chicken coop as part of our new home! Thank you for all you do.

Best,

Emily Clark
6808 Segura Way
Bakersfield, CA 93309

From: [Erin Sorena](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: UPHOLD THE HEN ORDINANCE
Date: Wednesday, January 27, 2021 2:55:46 PM

Warning: This email originated from outside the City of Bakersfield. Think before you click!

January 25, 2021

21 JAN 29 PM 1: 25

Bakersfield City Council Members,

BAKERSFIELD CITY CLERK

I am in strong support in agreement of the city council's decisions to rescind the hen ordinance.

Rescinding this ordinance provides the citizens of Bakersfield assurance their personal health, personal financial investments in their homes and the harmony of their neighborhoods will be protected by responsible city government and city staff.

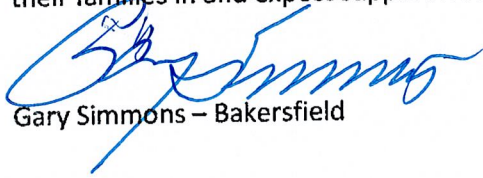
Items of major concern to the opposing backyard hen ordinance:

1. The city council has been provided scientific data educating citizens of the health hazards regarding back yard chicken habitats.
 - a. The number one at risk group in the population are elementary school aged children.
 - b. The number two at risk group in the population are adults 65 and older.
2. The state of California veterinarian provided information to a member of the opposition group regarding the recent 2.5 year chicken epidemic south of the grapevine in the Los Angeles area. 1,100,000 chickens were diseased, died and were euthanized in order to control the epidemic from spreading. This epidemic continued until mid-year of last year.
3. The Kern County fair board discontinued poultry exhibitions because of the epidemic.
4. Hospital administrators, medical professionals and first responders have all provided past letters to the city council in opposition to allowing chickens in the back yard environment especially in the COVID 19 pandemic.
5. The state board of realtors and the local Bakersfield board of realtors provided the city council over 13 pages of documentation with an attempt to educate the city council their opposition position and why. The local association is comprised of over 2,300 members.
6. The builders association with hundreds of members provided a letter of opposition to the city council.
7. The Bakersfield city council was informed by popular local radio talk show staff that they believe the leadership of the proponent intentionally attempted to manipulate the survey.
8. The leadership of the proponent group intentionally broke the law in the past and illegally raised chickens in the backyard.
9. Another proponent member that claims she was a responsible chicken owner intentionally broke the law. The city of Bakersfield instructed her to remove the chicken flock because of the neighborhood complaints regarding rat and rodent infestation.

The proponent is presenting false and misleading information to the city council regarding the comments "majority of the citizens are in favor of backyard chickens". There is no data base provided to the city council to support these false and misleading statements and presentations.

There are over 85,000 R-1 real estate parcels in Bakersfield, California. On line statistics indicate a Bakersfield household has 3.1 residents per household. This adds up to 265,000 people that could be affected by a false and misleading presentation from a very small group of people with no scientific data, no professional expertise and no medical expertise for support.

Thank you again for your outstanding decision to rescind the hen ordinance. It was the right decision for you to make on behalf of all citizens investing and maintaining the individual neighborhoods they raise their families in and expect support from their city council.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Gary Simmons", with a stylized flourish extending from the end.

Gary Simmons – Bakersfield

From: [Gisel](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: Hens
Date: Wednesday, January 27, 2021 8:29:06 AM

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I support Chicken hens.

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

From: [Haley Krouse](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: Attn Patty Gray
Date: Thursday, January 28, 2021 11:29:09 AM

Warning: This email originated from outside the City of Bakersfield. Think before you click!

Hello,

I am reaching out to Patty Gray to ask that she please honor the vote of her predecessor RE: backyard hens. Allowing the families of Bakersfield the joy and utility of keeping hens shouldn't even be a question. The lessons that children and adults alike learn when caring for animals can't be matched. I send this as a Democratic voter, and someone who has no backyard hens - I merely wish to see my community represented fairly and accurately.

Thank you,

Haley Krouse Woggn

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Hannah Fortin](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: Council Member Ward 5 -Freeman
Date: Tuesday, January 26, 2021 12:12:37 PM

Warning: This email originated from outside the City of Bakersfield. Think before you click!

Good Afternoon Councilman Freeman,

I am writing you today in regards to the absurd idea that Bakersfield City Council is considering rescinding the Hen Ordinance that we fairly, politely, and publicly, worked very hard to pass. I fail to see how this unwarranted CEQA lawsuit by an anonymous group is doing anything but bullying city council members into taking back what our democratic process has awarded our beloved city. I urge you and your fellow council members to please consider the true intentions of the lawsuit. Many larger cities, including San Diego, have agreed and set precedent that backyard hens do not violate CEQA and are actually of great benefit to a community. I have been a member of your ward for almost ten years, and I can't wait to share fresh eggs with my neighbors. There's even a few dozen in it for you someday! Please contact me via e-mail or you may call my cell phone.
Have a wonderful day!

Sincerely,
Hannah Fortin
(760)587-5446

From: [Jair Hernandez](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: Hello my name Jair Hernandez I support backyard hen
Date: Tuesday, January 26, 2021 11:56:49 AM

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21 JAN 29 PM 1:25

BARBARA GONZALES

January 29, 2021

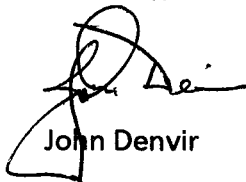
Dear Councilmember Gonzales,

I wholeheartedly support the City Council decision to rescind the backyard hen ordinance. The ordinance disrupts the existing residential quality of life and negatively impacts property values in R1 zones. The change was done without public notice and the Planning Commission process was omitted. Additionally, the ordinance proceeded during the COVID -19 pandemic when public gatherings were and still are discouraged. The impact of public speakers has been lost.

Without being rescinded a CEQA lawsuit requiring a costly EIR will be required. I do not want any tax money spent on an EIR to satisfy the wishes of a small special interest group advocating for backyard hens.

Please proceed with rescinding the backyard hen ordinance.

Sincerely,



John Denvir

Quailwood, Ward 2

Cc: Councilmembers Arias, Weir, Smith, Freeman, Gray, Parlier

From: [Jorge Valdez](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: For Backyard Hens
Date: Tuesday, January 26, 2021 11:54:09 AM

Warning: This email originated from outside the City of Bakersfield. Think before you click!

Hello. I would like to vote for backyard hens in Bakersfield. The reason for that is because there are many families here with animal farms, and since chickens are a popular meat, it would really help them with their business.

This is a student email account managed by Kern High School District. The contents of this email are governed by the laws of the state and the board policies of the school district.

BAKERSFIELD CITY COUNCIL MEETING
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2021
COMMENTS REGARDING REPEAL OF PROPOSED
HEN ORDINANCE
"R-1 BACKYARDS, NOT BARNYARDS"

21 JAN 29 PM 1:25

BAKERSFIELD CITY CLERK

Dear Council Members:

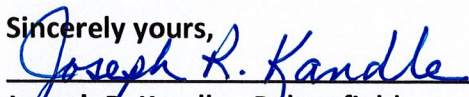
I am aware that on Wednesday, January 20th at your 3:00 Council Meeting that the City Council voted 6 to 1 to rescind the Hen Ordinance based on a legal action by a group noted as "Citizens for the Preservation of R-1 Zones" questioning the City's "Common Sense" exception in enacting the newly modified Ordinances of the long enacted and practiced 50-year old 1971 California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

I, personally, 100% agree with the Wednesday, January 20, 2021 vote of Council's 6 to 1 vote to rescind those series of ordinances passed on Wednesday October 21, 2020, and, I am very sure that a majority of those owning +/-85,000-R-1 single family parcels, which by the City's own published demographics of 3.1-persons per parcel constitute 263,000 of the City's citizenship of 378,000 persons or 70% of the population, would agree, if put to a vote.

I sincerely DO NOT believe the environment impacts of (1) impending transmittable disease, (2) odor, and the (3) noise aspects on 85,000 R-1 single family resident parcels were seriously considered environmentally in enacting the October 21 Ordinances in having reviewed the City's data base. The aspect of turning 85,000 backyards into barnyards with up to 12 daily roaming chickens would seem to be planting the seeds for a serious ever-present citywide environmental degradation issue especially regarding human health of the young and old. I am sure homeowners surrounded by multiple parcels with 12 roaming chickens would be greatly environmentally impacted, and, in the event of a desired sale, their property value would be materially reduced or the potential sale ceased once the buyer was informed of the multiple surrounding barnyard conditions.

As has been stated multitudes of times by a multitude of different parties, including your own City Planning Staff, by keeping the current ordinance in force, the Council maintains (1) the longstanding quality of life expected and (2) invested into its R-1 Zones and the City its responsibility to protect the (1) health, (2) welfare and (3) tranquility of its R-1 citizens of Bakersfield, which the existing Ordinance has done well for 103-years since 1918 with no outbreaks or serious problems occurring to the best of my knowledge.

Sincerely yours,



Joseph R. Kandle - Bakersfield

From: [Juan Lopez Lepe](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: Backyard hens
Date: Tuesday, January 26, 2021 10:44:37 AM

Warning: This email originated from outside the City of Bakersfield. Think before you click!

Hello, My name is Juan Lopez-Lepe and I support backyard hens. Please follow the wishes of the last city council and the majority of bakersfield residents. Backyard hens are a reasonable pet that also provide food. Thank you.

This is a student email account managed by Kern High School District. The contents of this email are governed by the laws of the state and the board policies of the school district.

21 JAN 29 PM 1:25

BARNSVILLE CITY CLERK



January 29, 2021

Dear Councilmember Gonzales,

I wholeheartedly support the City Council decision to rescind the backyard hen ordinance. The ordinance disrupts the existing residential quality of life and negatively impacts property values in R1 zones. The change was done without public notice and the Planning Commission process was omitted. Additionally, the ordinance proceeded during the COVID -19 pandemic when public gatherings were and still are discouraged. The impact of public speakers has been lost.

Without being rescinded a CEQA lawsuit requiring a costly EIR will be required. I do not want any tax money spent on an EIR to satisfy the wishes of a small special interest group advocating for backyard hens.

Please proceed with rescinding the backyard hen ordinance.

Sincerely,

Julie Denvir

Quailwood, Ward 2

Cc: Councilmembers Arias, Weir, Smith, Freeman, Gray, Parlier

From: [Kalli Beckwith](#)
To: [City Council](#); [bakersfield mayor](#); [Virginia "Ginny" Gennaro](#)
Cc: smorgen@bakersfield.com
Subject: Uphold the Backyard Hen Ordinance
Date: Wednesday, January 27, 2021 2:43:07 PM

Warning: This email originated from outside the City of Bakersfield. Think before you click!

Dear Council Members, Mayor Goh, Ms. Gennaro, and Mr. Clegg:

I hope this finds you well. Those of us residents who support the Backyard Hen Initiative are deeply concerned about the consideration to rescind the previously approved ordinance that allowed backyard hens; from what we understand about the recent closed session, a majority were in favor of voting to rescind it at the upcoming meeting on February 3.

The anonymous group who has sued the city with a frivolous environmental lawsuit citing CEQA violations has subverted the democratic process that was fairly and legally completed in 2020.

This group - "Citizens for the Preservation of the R-1 Zones" - has NO history of advocacy for the environment and remains anonymous. Their lawyers in Beverly Hills have zero intention of negotiating. This is a power play. Given the legal team for these "Citizens" has indicated that as long as there are "no hens" there will be "no lawsuit", I believe this is civil extortion. And the Council is about to play their game.

Their legal team has somehow already racked up \$9,000 in legal fees, with the threat of tens of thousands of more dollars the city will pay IF the city defends the lawsuit and loses. But bow to their demands by rescinding the previously approved hen ordinance, and the lawsuit goes away.

The lawyers of this anonymous group allege that there was a CEQA violation due to the "common sense" waiver being used in the hen ordinance. This waiver has been used many times by other cities throughout California. It means that common sense says that backyard hens in the homesteads of city residents who choose to keep them will not have a significant effect on the environment. The fundamental definition of significant effect under CEQA is "a substantial adverse change in physical conditions." We believe that it's impossible for backyard hens in private homes to have a substantial adverse change in the physical environment of the city. Given the information and evidence our group of community supporters has gathered, along with the knowledge that the City has previously defended itself against similar lawsuits, we believe the potential to win is much stronger than the potential to lose. The Council should NOT rescind the hen ordinance and should fight to defend themselves in this lawsuit, as well as uphold the ethical obligation to its constituents and preserve the fair and democratic practice that is at stake here.

If a \$9,000 potential lawyer bill out of the \$543 MILLION dollar operating budget for the City of Bakersfield is that scary, then where does it end? People may start calling up their lawyer friends more often.

Obviously we are extremely disappointed given the overwhelming support demonstrated for backyard hens over the months-long, thorough process that took place to get the ordinance passed, as well as the majority council vote that officially approved the ordinance in November 2020.

The fact that one small group of disgruntled folks has put the city in the position of having to choose between fighting a costly legal battle to uphold a previously approved ordinance or caving to the lawyers and rescinding the ordinance is not only outrageous, but sets a terrible precedent for the future.

Council members are supposed to represent and serve the community. Our elected officials have a responsibility and obligation to work with the majority public. The city of Bakersfield has an obligation to do its due diligence and fight this lawsuit. The cost to the taxpayers is extremely unfortunate, but the opposition has left NO choice given that they are not willing to negotiate at all. A lawsuit from an anonymous party who is not willing to come to an agreement, entertain a conversation, or negotiate in any way seems to be one that is clearly perpetuated for the sole intent of what it's about to achieve: shutting down a policy they disagree with and flexing their muscles for community and political influence.

Please know this: the community members who support backyard hens are willing to negotiate. We are willing to discuss reasonable revisions to the ordinance, particularly those that may be most concerning like allowing hens to free range, or the amount of hens allowed based on square footage. We believe we could all come to an agreement that serves the community, protects food sovereignty, expands on the list of current approved backyard pets, and makes a minimal impact to the city residents.

We are here to hold you accountable. I encourage the newly elected council members to review the many previous meetings that the council held where the community voiced their support, as well as read the record of letters and phone calls surrounding this issue. The workshop process first began in June 2020. The first vote approving the first draft of the ordinance took place in October 2020. At that time, there was no mention of CEQA at all; in November 2020 prior to the second and final vote, one council member became concerned with it moments before voting and did indicate they'd be faced with a lawsuit if they voted to approve it. Although this (partially) new Council may not have heard from us recently (because we believed this ordinance was, although tabled by a lawsuit, at least safe from being rescinded!), we were the majority.

It is egregious to think that our city council would not be willing to defend against this frivolous lawsuit, both for the sake of backyard hen ownership and protecting the democratic process from future muscle-flexers and political influencers.

We implore the Bakersfield City Council to not rescind the ordinance and to continue to work with the community to come to a resolution regarding backyard hens. If it must defend itself in a lawsuit, then it must. Not because backyard hens caused this, but because a few disgruntled people lawyered up and put the pressure on. Don't cave to this bad practice and the bad precedent that will follow.

In closing, I'd like to remind you of the other cities in California that allow backyard hens in homes that are less than 1 acre:
San Diego

Santa Rosa
Long Beach
Oxnard
Murrieta
Citrus Heights
Elk Grove
Stockton
La Mesa
Hanford
San Francisco
Los Angeles
Pasadena
Glendora
Chino
Rancho Cucamonga
Monterey Park
San Marino
Santa Fe Springs
Sacramento
Folsom
Porterville
San Jose
Santa Maria
San Luis Obispo
West Covina
Fullerton
San Clemente
Laguna Niguel
Roseville

I know progress can be a little slower in our big small town, but the opposition to such a simple issue allowing families to raise hens and collect their own eggs is embarrassing.

Sincerely,

Kalli Beckwith

Kalli Beckwith, M.S., BCBA
kallibeckwith@gmail.com
(661) 301-1443

"If better is possible, good is not enough."

From: [Karen Crawford](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: chicken ordinance
Date: Thursday, January 21, 2021 4:21:05 PM

Warning: This email originated from outside the City of Bakersfield. Think before you click!

Please DO NOT approve the "chicken ordinance."

I have lived by chickens in the past and it is horrible. Not only the noise, but the smell and flies.

Please repeal the backyard hen ordinance.

Thank you!

From: [Kim Jones](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: Ward 5
Date: Thursday, January 28, 2021 3:46:05 PM

Warning: This email originated from outside the City of Bakersfield. Think before you click!

Please rescind the chicken ordinance. We have zoning laws for a reason. If people want to live in a zone that accepts farm animals they can move to that zone. I personally have lived in both. Please be a responsible council member and follow our zoning laws or ordinances.

Thank you,
Kim Jones
9715 Gold Dust Drive

Sent from my iPad

From: [Kim Ouska](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: Backyard Hen Ordinance
Date: Sunday, January 24, 2021 8:15:56 PM

Warning: This email originated from outside the City of Bakersfield. Think before you click!

Dear City Council members,

I am appalled that you would allow yourselves to be bullied into changing the ordinance that was already decided by the majority of residents simply because a lawyer threatened a lawsuit. As our city council members, your jobs are to honor the wishes of the majority, not to give in to people who throw money at something they dislike. What happens next time you make a decision and some small group hires a lawyer because they are unhappy. The precedence this would set is unimaginable.

As a separate part of the issue, many residents trusted the city council at your word and have already spent thousands of dollars building chicken coops and runs, as well as purchasing chicks. While the ordinance's passing was publicized, the 'delay' was not. So how will you address people who have spent a lot of time, money, and energy following the law that you passed? Can we sue the city for our money back? Or for the hardship that would be caused by giving away pets?

Do not give into these bullies. There is no need to rush this decision. Let our local people work with the council to complete the environmental study, or work together to find a compromise. We deserve to use our land in ways that will make our families happy, especially since there is no negative affect on neighbors (no worse than dogs, cats and children already are). We are law abiding citizens asking you to be reasonable and trustworthy.

Please listen to us, and be our true representatives.
- Kimberly Ouska

From: [Kim Ouska](#)
To: [bakersfield mayor](#)
Subject: City Council
Date: Wednesday, January 27, 2021 11:08:42 AM

Warning: This email originated from outside the City of Bakersfield. Think before you click!

Madam Mayor,

I am appalled that the city council are considering rescinding the ordinance law abiding citizens lobbied to have pass. This anonymous group's lawsuit is unfounded, as many many California cities have used the same CEQA exemption to permit backyard hens. (including, but not limited to: Los Angeles, San Diego, Paso Robles, Clovis, Long Beach, San Bernadino, Atascadero, Oceanside, etc.) Rescinding due to the threat of lawsuit sets a dangerous precedent for the council when addressing future issues. Anyone unhappy with a decision will simply find an excuse to sue the city to get what they want - which is exactly what this group is doing (they have no history of environmental advocacy). The city council must have the backbone to stand up to these bullies, and do right by your citizens.

We are reasonably asking for more time to work with this "group" to find compromises - perhaps we can help fund the CEQA study, or provide more limits on the ordinance that would satisfy these people. If we are not given this consideration, it is highly likely that we will be hiring our own lawyer to sue the city as well - many of us have spent thousands of dollars building coops after the ordinance passed, and someone must be held responsible if this money goes to waste. We will not "give up" on passing this ordinance, and you will see many of us at the upcoming council meeting on February 3rd.

-Kim Ouska

From: [Kim Ouska](#)
To: [bakersfield mayor: City Council](#)
Subject: Hen Ordinance and CA Department of Interior statement
Date: Thursday, January 28, 2021 7:22:58 PM

Warning: This email originated from outside the City of Bakersfield. Think before you click!

Dear City Council and other city officials,

I am writing today because I would like my family's opinion and the research I have found to be read and considered when the council makes their decision about the hen ordinance and the potential lawsuit that might be coming. We ask for more time and more research to be done before deciding a future of the backyard hen ordinance.

I am including a link to a statement from California Interior Health with regards to backyard hens. I will quote the most important line from the document, "Thus, Interior Health neither supports, nor is opposed to, allowing backyard chickens within municipal boundaries, if appropriate protocols are in place and enforced." Based on this statement, our city council would be safe in using the "common sense" exemption from conducting a SEQA study.

<https://www.interiorhealth.ca/YourHealth/HealthyLiving/FoodSecurity/Documents/Food-UrbanHens.pdf>

In addition, in all of my research, I have not found even one California City that has performed an Environmental Impact Report in order to approve backyard hens. Many cities have approved their own backyard hen ordinances using the same exemption the council has already stated. The current precedent stands with the previous decision to approve the ordinance.

I did find one city in Oregon that performed an environmental study. To summarize, their study did approve the backyard hen ordinance with specific stipulations. Here is a quote from page 4 of this study "1.4 RECOMMENDATION After considering the impacts of the three options, the preferred course of action is the Alternative Action Number One. We developed this alternative as a compromise between environmental degradation and important community values. After completing this EIA, we feel that the stipulations of this ordinance mitigate environmental impacts enough that the implementation of Alternative Ordinance Number Two, completely banning chickens, is unnecessary."

From pages 1-2, here is what they stipulated in their recommended ordinance "Alternative Ordinance Number One would entail chicken ownership through a new re-structured ordinance, limiting the number of chickens to twenty per acre, requiring that all chickens remain confined, and banning chickens in city limits that are part of the Lake Whatcom Watershed (Appendix 5.1.3). This 2 ordinance emphasizes proper waste management and acknowledges the Critical Areas Ordinance. Full disclosure of chicken ownership would be ensured by mandated permits, which would be obtained through the Whatcom Humane Society. We developed this ordinance based on the Best Management Practices (BMPs) suggested for small farms by the Whatcom Conservation District (WCD). They developed guidelines for small farmers to best mitigate manure impacts generated by chickens. We feel that the restrictions in this ordinance are an appropriate compromise between community values and environmental stewardship. Twenty chickens per acre (or five chickens per quarter acre, which is the average size of a city lot) will allow families to own enough chickens to meet their egg demand, while limiting the amount of manure produced to an amount that can be managed with BMPs."

https://cedar.wvu.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1055&context=huxley_stupubs&fbclid=IwAR1wDVeb9zkoDHTtd477SXEVSUZuM6oDMnVdTVE15-xt13MfKqDPD_OJmjQ

In summary, these resources demonstrate that there is significant reason to believe that the "common sense" SEQA exemption applies to the ordinance of backyard hens in Bakersfield. We implore you to allow us more time to research and produce facts to support the city council's previous decision.

From: [Larry Rhoades](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: Chickens
Date: Friday, January 22, 2021 7:46:22 PM

Warning: This email originated from outside the City of Bakersfield. Think before you click!

I'm a constituent and I am adamantly opposed to allowing backyard chickens. This entire property value impact was fostered and pushed by a few individuals. There are 250,000 homeowners who will be negatively impacted!!!

Sent from my iPhone

21 JAN 29 PM 1:25

BAKERSFIELD CITY CLERK

January 29, 2021

Dear Councilmember Gonzales,

I wholeheartedly support the City Council decision to rescind the backyard hen ordinance. The ordinance disrupts the existing residential quality of life and negatively impacts property values in R1 zones. The change was done without public notice and the Planning Commission process was omitted. Additionally, the ordinance proceeded during the COVID -19 pandemic when public gatherings were and still are discouraged. The impact of public speakers has been lost.

Without being rescinded a CEQA lawsuit requiring a costly EIR will be required. I do not want any tax money spent on an EIR to satisfy the wishes of a small special interest group advocating for backyard hens.

Please proceed with rescinding the backyard hen ordinance.

Sincerely,



Lori Carrillo

Quailwood, Ward 2

Cc: Councilmembers Arias, Weir, Smith, Freeman, Gray, Parlier

From: [Marsha Boland](#)
To: [City Clerk](#)
Subject: Backyard Chickens
Date: Thursday, January 28, 2021 10:21:01 PM

Warning: This email originated from outside the City of Bakersfield. Think before you click!

I'm very upset over the city council's issues approving Backyard Chickens. My Grandaughter has had difficulty during this COVID, mostly missing playing with friends and getting together with family. 5 year olds need entertainment and play time. My Grandaughter's best friends are her three hens, Blanch, Dorothy and Rose. It would break her heart to lose her best friends especially during the quarantine we are going through. Please keep her in mind when you vote.

Thank you,
Marsha Boland

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPad](#)

From: [Michael Garcia](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: Support on Bakersfield Urban Backyard Hens
Date: Thursday, January 28, 2021 2:11:27 PM

Warning: This email originated from outside the City of Bakersfield. Think before you click!

Dear Council Member Gonzales,

First off, I would like to congratulate you on winning your seat on the Bakersfield City Council and for your continued support of our community and our backyard hen initiative.

I would like to voice my support for the backyard hen initiative which will be up for the recension at the February 3rd meeting. We're asking that the council uphold the ordinance that was fairly and legally passed. Our city has an obligation to uphold the previous vote and defend itself against this frivolous lawsuit. It is clear that there is no basis for this lawsuit, especially since we were exempt from CEQA "common sense" waiver, and this is a gross manipulation of environmental protection law. Uphold the ordinance. Uphold the vote of the council for November 2020 legalizing hens for city residents. Uphold your obligation.

Thank you

Michael Garcia

From: [Michael Garcia](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: Re: Support on Bakersfield Urban Backyard Hens
Date: Thursday, January 28, 2021 2:05:50 PM

Warning: This email originated from outside the City of Bakersfield. Think before you click!

Dear Council Member Arias,

First off, I would like to congratulate you on winning your seat on the Bakersfield City Council and for your continued support of our community and our backyard hen initiative.

I would like to voice my support for the backyard hen initiative which will be up for the recension at the February 3rd meeting. We're asking that the council uphold the ordinance that was fairly and legally passed. Our city has an obligation to uphold the previous vote and defend itself against this frivolous lawsuit. It is clear that there is no basis for this lawsuit, especially since we were exempt from CEQA "common sense" waiver, and this is a gross manipulation of environmental protection law. Uphold the ordinance. Uphold the vote of the council for November 2020 legalizing hens for city residents. Uphold your obligation.

Thank you
Michael Garcia

On Thursday, July 2, 2020, 03:00:45 PM PDT, Michael Garcia <gigglesmainman@yahoo.com> wrote:

Dear Council Member Rivera:

Please take a moment to visit the Facebook page "City of Bakersfield Backyard Hens" and the web page "Bakersfield Urban Backyard Hens" at: thebubh.wixsite.com/bubh

You will find factual and educational information regarding why so many cities in our nation and state are allowing single resident homes within city limits to own a limited number of backyard hens. Can I count on your support for this movement?

Sincerely,

Michael Garcia

From: [Michael Garcia](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: Re: Support on Bakersfield Urban Backyard Hens
Date: Thursday, January 28, 2021 1:58:49 PM

Warning: This email originated from outside the City of Bakersfield. Think before you click!

Dear Council Member Gray,

First off, I would like to congratulate you on winning your seat on the Bakersfield City Council and for your continued support of our community and our backyard hen initiative.

I would like to voice my support for the backyard hen initiative which will be up for the recension at the February 3rd meeting. We're asking that the council uphold the ordinance that was fairly and legally passed. Our city has an obligation to uphold the previous vote and defend itself against this frivolous lawsuit. It is clear that there is no basis for this lawsuit, especially since we were exempt from CEQA "common sense" waiver, and this is a gross manipulation of environmental protection law. Uphold the ordinance. Uphold the vote of the council for November 2020 legalizing hens for city residents. Uphold your obligation.

Thank you
Michael Garcia

On Thursday, July 2, 2020, 02:58:35 PM PDT, Michael Garcia <gigglesmainman@yahoo.com> wrote:

Dear Council Member Sullivan:

Please take a moment to visit the Facebook page "City of Bakersfield Backyard Hens" and the web page "Bakersfield Urban Backyard Hens" at: thebubh.wixsite.com/bubh

You will find factual and educational information regarding why so many cities in our nation and state are allowing single resident homes within city limits to own a limited number of backyard hens. Can I count on your support for this movement?

Sincerely,
Michael Garcia

From: [Michael Garcia](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: Re: Support on Bakersfield Urban Backyard Hens
Date: Thursday, January 28, 2021 1:52:31 PM

Warning: This email originated from outside the City of Bakersfield. Think before you click!

Dear Council Member Smith,

I would like to voice my support for the backyard hen initiative which will be up for the recension at the February 3rd meeting. We're asking that the council uphold the ordinance that was fairly and legally passed. Our city has an obligation to uphold the previous vote and defend itself against this frivolous lawsuit. It is clear that there is no basis for this lawsuit, especially since we were exempt from CEQA "common sense" waiver, and this is a gross manipulation of environmental protection law. Uphold the ordinance. Uphold the vote of the council for November 2020 legalizing hens for city residents. Uphold your obligation.

Thank you
Michael Garcia

On Thursday, July 2, 2020, 02:57:01 PM PDT, Michael Garcia <gigglesmainman@yahoo.com> wrote:

Dear Council Member Smith:

Please take a moment to visit the Facebook page "City of Bakersfield Backyard Hens" and the web page "Bakersfield Urban Backyard Hens" at: thebubh.wixsite.com/bubh

You will find factual and educational information regarding why so many cities in our nation and state are allowing single resident homes within city limits to own a limited number of backyard hens. Can I count on your support for this movement?

Sincerely,

Michael Garcia

From: [Michael Garcia](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: Re: Support on Bakersfield Urban Backyard Hens
Date: Thursday, January 28, 2021 1:49:08 PM

Warning: This email originated from outside the City of Bakersfield. Think before you click!

Dear Council Member Freeman,

I would like to voice my support for the backyard hen initiative which will be up for the recension at the February 3rd meeting. We're asking that the council uphold the ordinance that was fairly and legally passed. Our city has an obligation to uphold the previous vote and defend itself against this frivolous lawsuit. It is clear that there is no basis for this lawsuit, especially since we were exempt from CEQA "common sense" waiver, and this is a gross manipulation of environmental protection law. Uphold the ordinance. Uphold the vote of the council for November 2020 legalizing hens for city residents. Uphold your obligation.

Thank you
Michael Garcia

On Thursday, July 2, 2020, 02:55:30 PM PDT, Michael Garcia <gigglesmainman@yahoo.com> wrote:

Dear Council Member Freeman:

Please take a moment to visit the Facebook page "City of Bakersfield Backyard Hens" and the web page "Bakersfield Urban Backyard Hens" at: thebubh.wixsite.com/bubh

You will find factual and educational information regarding why so many cities in our nation and state are allowing single resident homes within city limits to own a limited number of backyard hens. Can I count on your support for this movement?

Sincerely,

Michael Garcia

From: [Michael Garcia](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: Re: Support on Bakersfield Urban Backyard Hens
Date: Friday, January 29, 2021 9:42:05 AM

Warning: This email originated from outside the City of Bakersfield. Think before you click!

Dear Council Member Weir,

I would like to voice my support for the backyard hen initiative which will be up for the recension at the February 3rd meeting. We're asking that the council uphold the ordinance that was fairly and legally passed. Our city has an obligation to uphold the previous vote and defend itself against this frivolous lawsuit. It is clear that there is no basis for this lawsuit, especially since we were exempt from CEQA "common sense" waiver, and this is a gross manipulation of environmental protection law. Uphold the ordinance. Uphold the vote of the council for November 2020 legalizing hens for city residents. Uphold your obligation.

Thank you
Michael Garcia

On Thursday, July 2, 2020, 03:02:51 PM PDT, Michael Garcia <gigglesmainman@yahoo.com> wrote:

Dear Council Member Weir:

Please take a moment to visit the Facebook page "City of Bakersfield Backyard Hens" and the web page "Bakersfield Urban Backyard Hens" at: thebubh.wixsite.com/bubh

You will find factual and educational information regarding why so many cities in our nation and state are allowing single resident homes within city limits to own a limited number of backyard hens. Can I count on your support for this movement?

Sincerely,

Michael Garcia

From: [Michael Garcia](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: Re: Support on Bakersfield Urban Backyard Hens
Date: Friday, January 29, 2021 9:41:58 AM

Warning: This email originated from outside the City of Bakersfield. Think before you click!

Dear Vice Mayor Parlier

I would like to voice my support for the backyard hen initiative which will be up for the recension at the February 3rd meeting. We're asking that the council uphold the ordinance that was fairly and legally passed. Our city has an obligation to uphold the previous vote and defend itself against this frivolous lawsuit. It is clear that there is no basis for this lawsuit, especially since we were exempt from CEQA "common sense" waiver, and this is a gross manipulation of environmental protection law. Uphold the ordinance. Uphold the vote of the council for November 2020 legalizing hens for city residents. Uphold your obligation.

Thank you
Michael Garcia

On Thursday, July 2, 2020, 03:04:09 PM PDT, Michael Garcia <gigglesmainman@yahoo.com> wrote:

Dear Vice Mayor Parlier:

Please take a moment to visit the Facebook page "City of Bakersfield Backyard Hens" and the web page "Bakersfield Urban Backyard Hens" at: thebubh.wixsite.com/bubh

You will find factual and educational information regarding why so many cities in our nation and state are allowing single resident homes within city limits to own a limited number of backyard hens. Can I count on your support for this movement?

Sincerely,

Michael Garcia

From: [Michelle Harp](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: Backyard Hens
Date: Wednesday, January 20, 2021 11:21:20 AM

Warning: This email originated from outside the City of Bakersfield. Think before you click!

Hi City Council of Bakersfield
I'm in support of backyard hens with in the R1 zone of Bakersfield.
Michelle Harp

From: [Michelle Harp](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: Backyard hens in the R1 zone
Date: Wednesday, January 20, 2021 11:25:04 AM

Warning: This email originated from outside the City of Bakersfield. Think before you click!

I support having backyard hens in the R1 zone,
Michelle Harp
661-345-8682

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

From: [Michael Harp](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: Support of backyard hens ordinance
Date: Wednesday, January 20, 2021 12:20:45 PM

Warning: This email originated from outside the City of Bakersfield. Think before you click!

Dear City Council members,

I am writing to you in support of the ordinance which was passed last year allowing backyard hens with restrictions. All of us who had supported this ordinance were devastated by this frivolous lawsuit brought on by a group of anonymous people. This carefully written ordinance will in no way effect the environment. Many more large cities in California have passed their own ordinances allowing backyard hens. Most did studies and found that in no way did it effect the environment. Larger cities like Los Angeles and San Diego came to that conclusion.

We have fought long and hard for this ordinance and it was passed last year. We would hope after the litigation that the city council would honor their original passage of this ordinance?

Thank you for you time,

Michael Harp

From: [Myra Benitez Virrueta](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: harmless backyard chickens
Date: Tuesday, January 26, 2021 9:31:42 AM

Warning: This email originated from outside the City of Bakersfield. Think before you click!

I approve of backyard chickens, they are completely harmless, I will not vote for you if you think otherwise.

This is a student email account managed by Kern High School District. The contents of this email are governed by the laws of the state and the board policies of the school district.

From: [Nancy Romero](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: Support on Bakersfield Urban Backyard Hens
Date: Thursday, January 28, 2021 6:42:28 PM

Warning: This email originated from outside the City of Bakersfield. Think before you click!

I would like to voice my support for the backyard hen initiative which will be up for the recension at the February 3rd meeting. We're asking that the council uphold the ordinance that was fairly and legally passed. Our city has an obligation to uphold the previous vote and defend itself against this frivolous lawsuit. It is clear that there is no basis for this lawsuit, especially since we were exempt from CEQA "common sense" waiver, and this is a gross manipulation of environmental protection law. Up hold the ordinance. Uphold the vote of the council for November 2020 legalizing hens for city residents. Uphold your obligation. Thank you
Nancy Jean Romero

From: [Nicole Lewis](#)
To: [City Clerk](#)
Subject: Backyard Hens Here to Stay
Date: Thursday, January 28, 2021 9:57:45 PM

Warning: This email originated from outside the City of Bakersfield. Think before you click!

I see you are still considering the cowardly option of repealing the ordinance and bowing to bullies. Some of you are the bullies themselves, drumming up all sorts of falsehoods about sickness and noise. The only noisy sickness here is your collective ignorance and astonishing lack of backbone.

It's a disgrace. Your board is a disgrace to this county and this country. Actions have consequences. Please expect that to be reflected next election session. You are dangerously close to failing to common Kern residents. We will not be failed again.

This will not go away. The local news media and grassroots social media will eviscerate your position publicly in protest until either you all get voted out or change your stand up for what is right.

Endorse the waiver for the environmental review, allow citizens to raise the money ourselves for ANY legal and environmental concerns (we'll get millions if that's what it takes. Give us the real number and let us show you how serious quickly we can get this settled. Or is the real reason not money and just dirty, corrupt grandstanding? I wonder) and/or give us what we fought and won legally in this agricultural, food stamp heavy town. There are consequences for both action and inaction.

Act accordingly.

From: [Olinda Garcia](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: Backyard hen ordinance
Date: Thursday, January 28, 2021 1:25:29 PM

Warning: This email originated from outside the City of Bakersfield. Think before you click!

Dear Council members,

I would like to voice my support for the backyard hen initiative which will be up for the recension at the February 3rd meeting. We're asking that the council uphold the ordinance that was fairly and legally passed. Our city has an obligation to uphold the previous vote and defend itself against this frivolous lawsuit. It is clear that there is no basis for this lawsuit, especially since we were exempt from CEQA "common sense" waiver, and this is a gross manipulation of environmental protection law. Uphold the ordinance. Uphold the vote of the council for November 2020 legalizing hens for city residents. Uphold your obligation.

Thank you,
Olinda Garcia

From: [Olinda Garcia](#)
To: [bakersfield mayor](#)
Subject: Backyard hens
Date: Thursday, January 28, 2021 1:26:59 PM

Warning: This email originated from outside the City of Bakersfield. Think before you click!

Mayor Goh,

I would like to voice my support for the backyard hen initiative which will be up for the recension at the February 3rd meeting. We're asking that the council uphold the ordinance that was fairly and legally passed. Our city has an obligation to uphold the previous vote and defend itself against this frivolous lawsuit. It is clear that there is no basis for this lawsuit, especially since we were exempt from CEQA "common sense" waiver, and this is a gross manipulation of environmental protection law. Up hold the ordinance. Uphold the vote of the council for November 2020 legalizing hens for city residents. Uphold your obligation.

Thank you,
Olinda Garcia

From: [Sammy the strawberry](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: Keep the chickens
Date: Tuesday, January 26, 2021 9:25:04 AM

Warning: This email originated from outside the City of Bakersfield. Think before you click!

Good morning Council member,

I'm currently a senior in high school, and would one day be able to eat eggs from home and not store bought. I would appreciate it if you gave me the wonderful options to fulfill my ranch dreams. Those chickens don't only help for food like eggs they are also pets. Many people rely on the chickens, many of us are afraid to go to the store due to the pandemic.

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Sean Starr](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: Ken Weir- Ward 3
Date: Friday, January 22, 2021 8:30:25 AM

Warning: This email originated from outside the City of Bakersfield. Think before you click!

Good Morning,

I am a resident of Ward 3 in Bakersfield. I want to show my support for Backyard Hens in Bakersfield. The previously passed ordinance was fair and reasonable. My family and I will not be voting for any council members that vote against the Hen Ordinance. Cowing down to a frivolous lawsuit is undemocratic and against the ideals of Bakersfield. We are an agriculture hub for California and not allowing a small amount of Bakersfield residents the freedom to have hens if they choose goes against the values of our community.

From: [Terry Maxwell](#)
To: [City Clerk](#)
Subject: Chicken Ordinance
Date: Thursday, January 28, 2021 3:48:55 PM

Warning: This email originated from outside the City of Bakersfield. Think before you click!

Dear Council,

I agree with rescinding the new Hen Ordinance. There is no reason to have changed the ordinance that has worked for many years.

Sincerely,

Terry Maxwell

21 JAN 29 PM 1:25

BAKERSFIELD CITY CLERK

January 29, 2021

Dear Councilmember Gonzales,

I wholeheartedly support the City Council decision to rescind the backyard hen ordinance. The ordinance disrupts the existing residential quality of life and negatively impacts property values in R1 zones. The change was done without public notice and the Planning Commission process was omitted. Additionally, the ordinance proceeded during the COVID -19 pandemic when public gatherings were and still are discouraged. The impact of public speakers has been lost.

Without being rescinded a CEQA lawsuit requiring a costly EIR will be required. I do not want any tax money spent on an EIR to satisfy the wishes of a small special interest group advocating for backyard hens.

Please proceed with rescinding the backyard hen ordinance.

Sincerely,



Tim Carrillo

Quailwood, Ward 2

Cc: Councilmembers Arias, Weir, Smith, Freeman, Gray, Parlier