BAKERSFIELD
THE SOUND OF Something Better

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE
MEMORANDUM

February 3, 2021

TO: **HONORABLE MAYOR AND COUNCILMEMBERS**

FROM: **JULIE DRIMAKIS, CITY CLERK**

SUBJECT: **PUBLIC STATEMENTS**

This memorandum is to transmit correspondence submitted after Tuesday, February 2, 2021, 4:00 PM, through Wednesday, February 3, 1:00 PM.

Attachments
JD

From	Agenda Item	Position	Subject	Type	Received	Recipient
6617474647	8.f.	Opposed	Rescinding Hen Ordinances	Email	Tuesday 2/2/2021 5:59 PM	Mayor
Ada Robinson	8.f.	Opposed	Rescinding Hen Ordinances	Email	Tuesday 2/2/2021 5:11 PM	Clerk
Andrew May	General Public Comments		**Street light concerns**	Email	Wednesday 2/3/2021 7:04 AM	Clerk
Annette Lyday	8.f.	Opposed	Rescinding Hen Ordinances	Email	Wednesday 2/3/2021 8:57 AM	Clerk
Barbara Lewy	8.f.	Support	Rescinding Hen Ordinances	Email	Wednesday 2/3/2021 11:09 AM Wednesday 2/3/2021 11:17 AM	Clerk Council
Brian Boozer & Megan McCullah-Boozer	8.f.	Opposed	Rescinding Hen Ordinances	Email	Tuesday 2/2/2021 9:37 PM	Clerk
Bruna Faulkner	8.f.	Support	Rescinding Hen Ordinances	Email	Wednesday 2/3/2021 6:39 AM	Clerk
Carissa Clough	8.f.	Opposed	Rescinding Hen Ordinances	Email	Wednesday 2/3/2021 1:06 AM	Clerk
Carl Bryan	8.f.	Opposed	Rescinding Hen Ordinances	Email	Wednesday 2/3/2021 9:23 AM	Clerk Council CMO
Carmen Lopez	8.f.	Opposed	Rescinding Hen Ordinances	Email	Tuesday 2/3/21 10:00 PM	Council
Carolina Chaidez	8.f.	Opposed	Rescinding Hen Ordinances	Email	Tuesday 2/3/21 6:24 PM	Council
Cassie LaFever	8.f.	Opposed	Rescinding Hen Ordinances	Email	Tuesday 2/2/2021 7:32 PM	Clerk
Dana Kirui	8.f.	Opposed	Rescinding Hen Ordinances	Email	Tuesday 2/2/2021 10:10 PM	Clerk
Danielle Peterson	8.f.	Opposed	Rescinding Hen Ordinances	Email	Wednesday 2/3/2021 10:47 AM	Clerk
Dave and Tanya Beagles	8.f.	Opposed	Rescinding Hen Ordinances	Email	Tuesday 2/2/2021 8:40 PM	Council
Debbie Tweed	8.f.	Opposed	Rescinding Hen Ordinances	Email	Wednesday 2/3/2021 12:26 PM	Clerk Council
Ginger Brown	8.f.	Opposed	Rescinding Hen Ordinances	Email	Wednesday 2/3/2021 12:22 PM	Clerk
Gloria Pope	8.f.	Opposed	Rescinding Hen Ordinances	Email	Wednesday 2/3/2021 7:40 AM Wednesday 2/3/2021 7:42 AM	Council Clerk
Heather Crosby	8.f.	Opposed	Rescinding Hen Ordinances	Email	Wednesday 2/3/2021 10:26 AM	Clerk
Jakob Vigstrom	8.f.	Opposed	Rescinding Hen Ordinances	Email	Wednesday 2/3/2021 12:13 AM	Clerk
James Lautner	8.f.	Opposed	Rescinding Hen Ordinances	Email	Wednesday 2/3/2021 8:31 AM	Clerk
Jamie Whitlock	8.f.	Opposed	Rescinding Hen Ordinances	Email	Tuesday 2/2/2021 6:32 PM	Clerk
Jesse Mary Leal	8.f.	Support	Rescinding Hen Ordinances	Voicemail	Wednesday 2/3/2021 10:53 AM	Clerk
Joan Ellis	8.f.	Opposed	Rescinding Hen Ordinances	Email	Tuesday 2/2/2021 5:11 PM Tuesday 2/2/2021 5:12 PM	Clerk Council
Joe Newton	8.f.	Opposed	Rescinding Hen Ordinances	Letter	Wednesday 2/3/2021 8:45 PM	Clerk
Joe Rivas	8.f.	Opposed	Rescinding Hen Ordinances	Email	Tuesday 2/2/2021 10:15 PM	Clerk
John Tweed	8.f.	Opposed	Rescinding Hen Ordinances	Email	Wednesday 2/3/2021 12:02 PM	Clerk Council
Juan Rodriguez Jr.	8.f.	Opposed	Rescinding Hen Ordinances	Email	Tuesday 2/2/2021 9:47 PM	Clerk
Judy Farris	8.f.	Opposed	Rescinding Hen Ordinances	Email	Wednesday 2/3/2021 6:16 AM	Clerk
junksp	8.f.	Support	Rescinding Hen Ordinances	Email	Wednesday 2/3/2021 8:59 AM	Clerk

Kim	8.f.	Opposed	Rescinding Hen Ordinances	Email	Wednesday 2/3/2021 8:15 AM Wednesday 2/3/2021 8:15 AM Wednesday 2/3/2021 8:15 AM	Clerk Council CAO
Kirk Boland	8.f.	Opposed	Rescinding Hen Ordinances	Email	Tuesday 2/2/2021 5:14 PM	Clerk
Leah Lynn Simmons	8.f.	Opposed	Rescinding Hen Ordinances	Email	Wednesday 2/3/2021 8:38 AM	Clerk
Leslie Fowler	8.f.	Opposed	Rescinding Hen Ordinances	Email	Tuesday 2/2/2021 9:13 PM	Clerk
Leticia Alvarado	8.f.	Opposed	Rescinding Hen Ordinances	Email	Wednesday 2/3/2021 12:07 PM	Clerk
Leticia Pelayo	8.f.	Opposed	Rescinding Hen Ordinances	Email	Wednesday 2/3/2021 10:27 AM	Clerk
lorie.chambless	8.f.	Opposed	Rescinding Hen Ordinances	Email	Wednesday 2/3/2021 8:47 AM	Clerk
Mat Uman	8.f.	Opposed	Rescinding Hen Ordinances	Email	Wednesday 2/3/2021 10:20 AM	Clerk Mayor Council
Michelle Harp	8.f.	Opposed	Rescinding Hen Ordinances	Email	8 Comments received Tuesday 2/2/2021 5:15 PM	Clerk Mayor Council CAO
Nate Vazquez	8.f.	Opposed	Rescinding Hen Ordinances	Email	Tuesday, 2/2/2021 5:08 PM	Clerk
Nicole Ramirez	8.f.	Opposed	Rescinding Hen Ordinances	Email	Tuesday, 2/2/2021 5:10 PM	Clerk
Nikki Tramel	8.f.	Opposed	Rescinding Hen Ordinances	Email	Wednesday 2/3/2021 8:21 AM	Clerk
Olga See	8.f.	Opposed	Rescinding Hen Ordinances	Email	Tuesday 2/2/2021 8:28 PM	Clerk
Peni Darnell	8.f.	Opposed	Rescinding Hen Ordinances	Email	Tuesday 2/2/2021 8:23 PM	Clerk
Phillip Smith	General Public Comments		**ADA Issues**	Email	Wednesday 2/3/2021 8:46 AM	
Rob Graphic Tech	8.f.	Support	Rescinding Hen Ordinances	Email	Tuesday 2/2/2021 7:33 PM	Clerk
Ron Antongiovanni	8.f.	Opposed	Rescinding Hen Ordinances	Phone	Tuesday 2/2/2021 4:59 PM	Clerk
Sari	8.f.	Support	Rescinding Hen Ordinances	Email	Wednesday 2/3/2021 9:00 AM	Clerk
Sari Potes	8.f.	Opposed	Rescinding Hen Ordinances	Email	Wednesday 2/3/2021 10:03 AM	Clerk
Savannah McCoy	8.f.	Opposed	Rescinding Hen Ordinances	Email	Tuesday 2/2/2021 9:43 PM Tuesday 2/2/2021 9: 43 PM	Clerk Mayor Council
Seth Pailet	8.f.	Opposed	Rescinding Hen Ordinances	Email	Wednesday 2/3/2021 9:26 AM	Clerk
Sheryce Scott	8.f.	Opposed	Rescinding Hen Ordinances	Email	Wednesday 2/3/2021 9:14 AM	Council
Valerie Clark	8.f.	Opposed	Rescinding Hen Ordinances	Email	Tuesday 2/2/2021 8:39 PM	Clerk
Walter Keenan	8.f.	Support	Rescinding Hen Ordinances	Email	Wednesday 2/3/2021 7:37 AM	Clerk
William E. Butcher	8.f.	Support	Rescinding Hen Ordinances	Email	Wednesday 2/3/2021 11:02 AM	Clerk
Jennifer Clayton	8.f.	Opposed	Rescinding Hen Ordinances	Email	Wednesday 2/3/2021 12:58 PM	Clerk Mayor Council
Kalli Beckwith	8.f.	Opposed	Rescinding Hen Ordinances	Email	Wednesday 2/3/2021 12:57 PM	Clerk Mayor Council
Jocelyn Mimaja	8.f.	Opposed	Rescinding Hen Ordinances	Email	Wednesday 2/3/2021 12:57 PM	Clerk

From: bakersfield mayor
To: 6617474647@mms.att.net
Cc: City_Clerk; Danielle Mabon; Claudia Heredia-Clarke
Subject: RE: Hens (6617474647@mms.att.net)
Date: Tuesday, February 2, 2021 5:58:49 PM

Good evening,

Thank you for your message. Would you be able to provide your name, please, so by cc to the City Clerk, she can include your correspondence as part of the official comments for the City Council meeting of February, 3, 2021 at 5:15 pm.

Best regards,

Karen

Karen Goh | Mayor
City of Bakersfield
email: mayor@bakersfieldcity.us
web: www.bakersfieldcity.us
phone: 661-326-3770

-----Original Message-----
From: 6617474647@mms.att.net [mailto:6617474647@mms.att.net]
Sent: Tuesday, February 2, 2021 5:53 PM
To: bakersfield mayor <mayor@bakersfieldcity.us>
Subject:

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

Mayor Goh@bakersfieldcity.us
I DO NOT support rescinding the backyard hens issue, ordinance.

THANK YOU

From: Ada
To: City_Clerk
Subject: Support Backyard Hens
Date: Tuesday, February 2, 2021 5:10:57 PM

I oppose the city council rescinding the hen ordinance.

Ada Robinson
Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone

From: Andrew May
To: City_Clerk
Cc: Christian Clegg; Nick Fidler; Kerntax@kerntaxpayers.org; 2045994@gmail.com
Subject: Public Comment - Street Light Concerns
Date: Wednesday, February 3, 2021 7:04:17 AM

This is a public comment for tonight's council meeting. I would like help with getting our street lights repaired on S St between California and rail tracks. Our neighbors and I have submitted approximately a dozen tickets over 4 years and our lights are still out. What are we paying Measure N and maintenance funds for if no one does maintenance? We know lighting is an important issue for KernTax. We would like to urge KernTax to support the repeal of Measure N.

From:	Annette Lyday
To:	City_Clerk
Subject:	I Support backyard hens
Date:	Wednesday, February 3, 2021 8:57:07 AM

Please do not rescind the standing order for hens! People need the food security that comes with backyard hens! And cities also need not be bullied by an anonymous Beverly Hills lawyer!

Annette Lyday

Sent from my iPhone

From: Barbara Lewy
To: City_Council
Subject: HEN ORDINANCE
Date: Wednesday, February 3, 2021 10:43:33 AM

Why the hurry?

This particular hen ordinance should be rescinded and not brought up again until there can be a fairer, more informed and enforceable ordinance that doesn't affect the quality of life of R-1 constituents who will have NO PLACE LEFT TO LIVE IN OUR CITY without the negative impacts of backyard chickens.

The proponents say they are the majority and democracy rules. Has a survey or vote proven they are the majority?

I feel they are speaking like bullies trying to smear and intimidate anyone who dares oppose them. This IS a very emotional issue.

It should wait until there can be more study, open hearings, and means of enforcement.

Maybe it can be approved only in wards where a majority wants it. Then there would be a place for us lifelong residents to keep our peaceful lifestyle and clean air—or at least have an opportunity to be convinced there is no downside.

Pleas rescind this ordinance and start over the democratic way.

Thank you.

Barbara Lewy
5725 Harpy Eagle Avenue
Bakersfield CA 93306

661 303-7010
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Barbara Lewy

From: Barbara Lewy
To: City_Clerk
Subject: All Council Members — HEN ORDINANCE
Date: Wednesday, February 3, 2021 11:17:06 AM

Why the hurry?

This particular hen ordinance should be rescinded and not brought up again until there can be a fairer, more informed and enforceable ordinance that doesn't affect the quality of life of R-1 constituents who will have **NO PLACE LEFT TO LIVE IN OUR CITY** without the negative impacts of backyard chickens.

The proponents say they are the majority and democracy rules. Has a survey or vote proven they are the majority?

I feel they are speaking like bullies trying to smear and intimidate anyone who dares oppose them. This IS a very emotional issue.

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Maybe it can be approved only in wards where a majority wants it. Then there would be a place for us lifelong residents to keep our peaceful lifestyle and clean air—or at least have an opportunity to be convinced there is no downside.

Pleas rescind this ordinance and start over the democratic way.

Thank you.

Barbara Lewy
5725 Harpy Eagle Avenue
Bakersfield CA 93306

661 303-7010
--
Barbara Lewy

From: Brian & Megan
To: City_Clerk
Subject: Hen Ordinance
Date: Tuesday, February 2, 2021 9:36:49 PM

Hello,

We are writing today to support the hen ordinance in Oleander. We are residents and have lived in this neighborhood either renting or owning since 2008.

We think allowing hens to supply eggs is an excellent source of protein rich nutrition. Knowing that in our area we have many families struggling with food stability. Raising hens to provide a family with eggs is no skin off our nose and fully support allowing hens in the neighborhood.

Thank you,
Brian Boozer & Megan McCullah-Boozer

Sent from my iPhone

From: Bruna Faulkner
To: City_Clerk
Subject: Agenda item 8f Urban Hens
Date: Wednesday, February 3, 2021 6:39:20 AM

Good morning

RE: Support repeal of urban hen ordinance

I am writing in support of the request to withdraw the urban hen ordinance.
This ordinance was passed with haste and without full exploration of the environmental impact of neighborhood hens and the additional cost burden for the city budget that will be associated with compliance enforcement and licensing of residents for urban hens.

Thank you
Bruna
Sent from my iPhone

From: Carissa Clough
To: City_Clerk
Subject: Hen Ordinance
Date: Wednesday, February 3, 2021 1:05:41 AM

To Whom It May Concern,

I am opposed to you rescinding the hen ordinance. Please, at least, consider negotiating further until all parties are satisfied. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Carissa Clough

From:	Carl Bryan
To:	bakersfield mayor
Cc:	City_Clerk; City_Council; Shared admatt
Subject:	Hen ordinance and Council Meeting
Date:	Wednesday, February 3, 2021 9:22:49 AM

I am planning on attending the City Council meeting on February 3. I would very much appreciate being included in the public statements regarding the Hen Ordinance.

The safe and healthy keeping of household hens according to reasonable restrictions has many benefits, including:

A healthy learning experience for school-age children (and younger). My frequent conversations with hen owners are a good learning experience. Bakersfield has always been a city that depends on agriculture and farming for its prominent place in the country. The keeping and caring of pets and other animals is an experience that no one should miss.

Fresh eggs!!

Thank you for the chance to be heard. The lack of sporting events to announce recently has kept me uncomfortable.

Carl Bryan
4401 Fruitvale Ave #119
Bakersfield CA 93308
661-703-1319
carl-bryan@sbcglobal.net

Sent from my iPad

From: Carmen Lopez
To: City_Council
Subject: In support of the hens
Date: Tuesday, February 2, 2021 10:00:00 PM

I and my family oppose rescinding the chicken ordinance that was passed by the city council last year.

From: Carolina Cortez
To: City_Council
Subject: In support of backyard hens
Date: Tuesday, February 2, 2021 6:24:57 PM

Dear City council members,

I would like to voice my support for the backyard hen initiative which will be up for recension at the Feb 3 meeting. I've been a supporter of this initiative since it began over 6 months ago when the City Council first heard it come before them.

We're asking you to uphold the ordinance that was fairly and legally passed. The city has an obligation to uphold the previous vote and defend itself against this frivolous lawsuit.

Over 30 cities in California allow backyard hens in homesteads that are smaller than 1 acre. 11 cities that we know of have used the CEQA "common sense" waiver that was also used in our city's ordinance, all without incident. Furthermore, in all of the work that was done toward this ordinance, including the workshop and discovery period by city staff, the drafting of the ordinance, the committee review of the draft, the public hearing portion, and the two meetings in which this was an agenda item, the CEQA concerns were only mentioned by one private resident in open comment at the 11th hour and then reiterated by one council member moments before voting.

It is clear there is no basis for this lawsuit, and it is a gross manipulation of environmental protection law.

This lawsuit was filed by an anonymous, disgruntled individual or individuals who have no history of environmental advocacy. Their legal team has refused to negotiate or agree on any terms other than "no hens." This is a power play. The community supporters involved with the backyard hen initiative are willing and able to come to a resolution that is fair and reasonable for all involved. Many are willing to raise funds to cover monies necessary for an environmental impact report or other steps needed. We did not bring this lawsuit on and do not appreciate our own taxpayer dollars going toward such a ridiculous claim, and we remain open and willing to work toward solutions. But we will also hold you accountable to your obligation to the will of the majority.

Rescinding this ordinance based on the fear of litigation costs in a case that can be won is bad leadership, bad practice, and sets a bad precedent.

Uphold the ordinance. Uphold the vote of the council from November 2020 legalizing hens for city residents. Uphold your obligation.

Thank you,

-Carolina Chaidez

Sent from my iPhone

From: Cassie LaFever
To: City_Clerk
Subject: I am opposed to you rescinding the hen ordinance.
Date: Tuesday, February 2, 2021 7:31:53 PM

I am opposed to you rescinding the hen ordinance.

From: thekiruis@gmail.com
To: City_Clerk
Subject: Hen Ordinance
Date: Tuesday, February 2, 2021 10:09:15 PM

I am opposed to you rescinding the hen ordinance.
Sincerely,
Dana Kirui

From: Danielle Spiller
To: City_Clerk
Subject: Backyard hens.
Date: Wednesday, February 3, 2021 10:47:28 AM

Dear Bakersfield city council members,
I Urge you, as a Bakersfield city resident, to push through for the backyard hen ordinance already passed by the previous members of council. Backyard hens pose no risk to the city and only add value. Please take the initiative in allowing Hens to the city as an added benefit to the city of Bakersfield as a farming community and as a community in general. The proper assessments have been taken, and the city of Bakersfield backs the ordinance that was passed in 2020.

Thank you for your consideration,

Danielle Peterson

From: Tanya & Shopping Beagles
To: City_Council
Subject: Hen Ordinance
Date: Tuesday, February 2, 2021 8:40:05 PM

To Whom It May Concern,

We are opposed to rescinding the Hen Ordinance.

Respectfully,
Dave & Tanya Beagles

Sent from my iPhone

From: Debbie Tweed
To: City_Clerk
Subject: Chris Parlier, Ward 7 - Hen Ordinance
Date: Wednesday, February 3, 2021 12:27:00 PM

Hello, my name is Debbie Tweed and I live near Taft Highway in a housing area backing up to Stine Road. I would like to see the city adopt the ordinance allowing homeowners to keep a few hens on their property as pets. The city of Los Angeles allows roosters and larger populations of hens within the city limits. I don't understand why this is a problem in the agricultural community of Bakersfield.

Thank you for supporting this ordinance for your Ward residents who would dearly love to raise a few chickens in their back yard.

Sincerely,

Debbie Tweed

From: Ginger Brown
To: City_Clerk
Subject: Hens
Date: Wednesday, February 3, 2021 12:22:02 PM

Hi,

As a chicken owner living in the county now, I thought it was wonderful that hen keeping was allowed in the city.

Hens are not typically noisy and they produce fresh eggs for families and provide food. They also provide companionship and teach children lessons about science and being an animal owner.

Dogs are more noisy then chickens.

This is just my two cents but my chickens have been a great joy for myself and kids. People have cats, dogs, bunnies and turtles. What is the issue with chickens?

The only issue I see is a rooster. That would be noisy in a city neighborhood and disruptive.

Sincerely,
Proud chicken keeper and advocate for a wholesome lifestyle.

Ginger Brown

From: Gloria Pope
To: City_Council
Subject: Chickens
Date: Wednesday, February 3, 2021 7:42:52 AM

3 February 2021

Hi, My name is Gloria Pope and I live in the county, out here in Rosedale. I have lived on Eagle Ranch Drive for 29 years. My neighbors two houses over have chickens, and yes one of them is a rooster. They do make a little noise but the kids are in 4H and I am happy they have that opportunity.
Please let people have chickens. They produce eggs and can be a real source of fun.
PS Through the years our neighbors have had emus, goats, sheep, rabbits and you know it's been just fine. A couple of streets over a family has two huge hogs, a few chickens and three big dogs. The dogs are a lot more of an issue than the farm animals.

Thank you,
Gloria Pope

From: Gloria Pope
To: City_Clerk
Subject: Chickens
Date: Wednesday, February 3, 2021 7:40:08 AM

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3 February 2021

Hi, My name is Gloria Pope and I live in the county, out here in Rosedale. I have lived on Eagle Ranch Drive for 29 years. My neighbors two houses over have chickens, and yes one of them is a rooster. They do make a little noise but the kids are in 4H and I am happy they have that opportunity.
Please let people have chickens. They produce eggs and can be a real source of fun.

--
All is grace.
--Gloria--

From: Heather Crosby
To: City_Clerk
Subject: Back yard Hens
Date: Wednesday, February 3, 2021 10:25:52 AM

Please leave backyard hens alone. They are not causing problems and would honestly cost you more in trying to remove them than maintianing the current ordinance. I support back yard hens!

From: Jakob Vigstrom
To: City_Clerk
Subject: Hen Ordinance
Date: Wednesday, February 3, 2021 12:12:55 AM

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

I am opposed to rescinding the city of Bakersfield hen ordinance.

The city council was well within the law when they used the common sense exemption to CEQA to pass the ordinance.

Please do not let a petty lawsuit pressure you into rescinding. If it was taken to court, it's very unlikely this party would be successful. There is plenty of precedent.

Thank you for your consideration,

From: Hindsight Inc.
To: City_Clerk
Subject: James Lautner supports Backyard Hens
Date: Wednesday, February 3, 2021 8:31:29 AM

Good afternoon,

I vehemently support Backyard Hens.

Not only is the food they provide integral to feeding our people, but the love people have for them will influence our next generation of farmers.

We are an agriculture town, it's one of the leading majors at the colleges, and it's one of our major exports.

People aren't just born with a love for agriculture, it's fostered by their experiences with livestock and plants, there's a reason that a major draw to our fairgrounds revolves around livestock, that major programs revolve around teaching children to care for animals, it's because they know what you know, children are the future.

It starts at home.

The council has already voted to support backyard hens, and it's egregious that they would let such a spurious lawsuit to change their minds.

It is absolutely worth it for our people and our future to support backyard hens.

Join many cities in the nation in continuing to support Backyard hens.

Signed, James Lautner

From: Jamie Whitlock
To: City_Clerk
Subject: Backyard Chickens
Date: Tuesday, February 2, 2021 6:32:36 PM

Hello,

My name is Jamie Whitlock. I support Bakersfield residents right to own backyard chickens.

Sent from my iPhone

From: Jennifer Clayton
To: City_Clerk; bakersfield mayor; City_Council
Subject: support our hen ordinance
Date: Wednesday, February 3, 2021 12:58:12 PM

I am asking to remain anonymous with this letter, but would like to reach out once more on the issue of the Hen Ordinance. We have been very vocal about the benefits of hens and the need to show support for this fair and reasonable ordinance that was passed in good faith.

When we got our hens we did not know they were not legal. We got them as tiny chicks at the beginning of the pandemic and they became part of our family quickly. My adult son is autistic, he also is on dialysis due to renal failure. This last few months have been horrible for him, as his method of dialysis failed. He has had 3 surgeries and 3 major procedures since August, on top of the isolation from the pandemic, he has been through the ringer. Our chickens have been a bright spot for him, days it is hard to get him to leave his room, he wants to check on them. He will eat an egg because his hens laid it. I don't know how we will explain that they can not stay if this ordinance is rescinded, and it is not fair to have to.

There are many studies showing the benefits of hens for people on the spectrum, support for people with ADHD, and alzhiemer's. In my home, our hens have opened up the backyard for my son and helped with some rough patches, they will teach our grandchild about nature and compassion, and we are very grateful to our feathered friends.

I ask to be anonymous because my son is an adult and he can not make the decision to share his story openly, but we also feel it needs to be heard.

Thank you for your time!

Time: Feb 3, 2021 10:53:50 AM

Name: Leal Jesse Mary

Number: 661-366-9664

Message: It's the hen ordinances.

You know what, I've called before even before they passed the, the ordinances, they passed it without enough people being a part of it, and they should never have passed that. And I hope right now that they consider it. And I know, supposedly, you all want chickens, hens. But you know what, not everybody is that way. So there was a lot of things I called quite a few of those city council people. And still, they passed it. 4/3 Okay, we need to stop this. I'm still having problems with neighbors having chickens, turning them loose. I mean, I don't need to tell you all this stuff. You've heard it before. So you need to not, you need to not pass this. You need to stop it. For everybody's sake.

If people are going to have chickens, hens, they need to have the proper place for them. Not in our backyards, next door neighbors.

Thank you.

From: Joan Ellis
To: City_Clerk
Subject: Backyard hens
Date: Tuesday, February 2, 2021 5:11:06 PM

Hello,
I am in favor of keeping the recently passed backyard hen ordinance. I personally do not intend to own hens, but I believe you should respect and trust the residences of Bakersfield to be responsible.

Our elected officials rightly went through a process of putting backyard hens on the agenda, doing their own research and presentation, and hearing from both sides- for and against backyard hens. The process was not rushed, but thorough, publicized, and open to the public.

As you know, an anonymous group has caused the ordinance to be put on hold and now threatens the ordinance being rescinded. I will ask you, what's right? Is democracy right- allowing regular, everyday citizens to have a voice and going through the process of a collective, workable decision? Or, is it right to have those who can afford a lawyer shut down the whole process?

The arguments were already presented for and against backyard hens. The decision based on those arguments were already made. The point now is sticking with a democratic process. The point now is our elected officials do their job of representing the majority, not the minority with money.

There are more options than just rescinding. Many backyard hen supporters want to continue to work toward a workable agreement. I urge you do not to rescind the ordinance but stand by democracy and continue to work towards a reasonable, workable solution.

Joan Ellis

From: Joan Ellis
To: City_Council
Subject: Bakyard hens
Date: Tuesday, February 2, 2021 5:12:54 PM

Hello,
am in favor of keeping the recently passed backyard hen ordinance. I personally do not intend to own hens, but I believe you should respect and trust the residences of Bakersfield to be responsible.

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There are more options than just rescinding. Many backyard hen supporters want to continue to work toward a workable agreement. I urge you do not to rescind the ordinance but stand by democracy and continue to work towards a reasonable, workable solution.

Joan Ellis

From: Jocelyn Dimaya
To: City_Clerk
Subject: Backyard Hens
Date: Wednesday, February 3, 2021 12:57:25 PM

Hello,

I would like to voice my support for the backyard hen initiative which will be up for the recension at the Feb 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 are 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.

Respectfully,
Jocelyn Dimaya-Thurley

From: Edwin S. Bonilla
To: City_Clerk
Subject: Chicken Ordinance item f
Date: Wednesday, February 3, 2021 8:55:45 AM
Attachments: image001.png
image002.png
image003.png
image004.png
p0ll0.pdf

A letter received at our office addressed for all council .

Edwin S. Bonilla | Clerk-Typist
City Clerk Office

City of Bakersfield
email: ebonilla@bakersfieldcity.us
web: www.bakersfieldcity.us
phone: 661-326-3071

From: Joe Rivas
To: City_Clerk
Subject: Support Bakyard Hens
Date: Tuesday, February 2, 2021 10:15:28 PM

I oppose the city council rescinding the ordinance.

Joe Rivas

From: John Tweed
To: City_Council
Subject: Chris Parlier - Ward 7 - Hen Ordinance
Date: Wednesday, February 3, 2021 12:07:06 PM

Hello, my name John Tweed and I live near Taft Highway in a housing area backing up to Stine Road. I have a very large lot and I would love to raise about four hens with my grandchildren. There is such a wonderful and wholesome life related to agriculture and farming that has been a huge part of this community from the founding of this city. I really don't understand the arguments against this ordinance. Hens are certainly not any noisier than the dogs that are in this neighborhood; not to mention the late night parties with very loud music, or the cars that now seem to have no restrictions on the volume of their exhaust systems and speed around our city streets.

What really blows my mind is that in the city of Los Angeles there is no restriction on hen ownership as well as having a rooster (now there is a *real* noise problem). Los Angeles, a trendy metropolis allows chickens; Bakersfield, a longstanding ag community does not. Now that makes me scratch my head.

As far as health issues. You have to be pretty imaginative to come up with issues that the people who actually own hens would not have an understanding of.

In times like these we need distractions in the home such as pets, and hens really do make great pets. They are great for our children. So I am pleading with you to please do whatever is necessary to allow us as a community to allow the few people that would actually raise hens, to do so.

Thank you so much for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,
John Tweed

From: John Tweed
To: City_Clerk
Subject: Patty Gray; Ward 6 - hen ordinance
Date: Wednesday, February 3, 2021 12:01:47 PM

Hello, my name John Tweed and I live near Taft Highway in a housing area backing up to Stine Road. I have a very large lot and I would love to raise about four hens with my grandchildren. There is such a wonderful and wholesome life related to agriculture and farming that has been a huge part of this community from the founding of this city. I really don't understand the arguments against this ordinance. Hens are certainly not any noisier than the dogs that are in this neighborhood; not to mention the late night parties with very loud music, the cars that now seem to have no restrictions on the volume of their exhaust systems and speed around our city streets.

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In times like these we need distractions in the home such as pets, and hens really do make great pets. They are great for our children. So I am pleading with you to please do whatever is necessary to allow us as a community to allow the few people that would actually raise hens, to do so.

Thank you so much for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,
John Tweed

From: Juan Rodriguez Jr
To: City_Clerk
Subject: Support Backyard Hens
Date: Tuesday, February 2, 2021 9:48:10 PM

I'm writing to express my opposition in the Bakersfield City Council's potential move to rescind the backyard hen ordinance.

Juan Rodriguez

--
Juan Rodriguez Jr

Personal: 202-603-4075
Email: ggjrodriguez@gmail.com

From: Judy Farris
To: City_Clerk
Subject: Backyard hen ordinance
Date: Wednesday, February 3, 2021 6:16:21 AM

Dear City Council,
I'm contacting you to let you know that our family is in favor of the backyard hen ordinance. Hens are inquisitive clean and relatively quiet. Hens keep pests in check and provide food. Hens are good pets. Your neighbors would not even know you had hens. We have loud dogs that bark night and day around us, neighbor's dogs poop on our front lawn, neighbor's cats poop in my backyard but if my neighbors had chickens in their backyard I would not care, and it would not impact us at all. Please pass the backyard hen ordinance. Don't cave-in to a few naysayers.
Judy Farris

Sent from my iPhone
Micah 6:8

From: junksp
To: City_Clerk
Subject: Meeting 020321 agenda, item #2
Date: Wednesday, February 3, 2021 9:00:55 AM

I OBJECT the proposed hen ordinance. Chicken do not belong in the city.
Noise, dirt, smell, rodents will affect the quality of life of our city
residents.

From: Kalli Beckwith
To: City_Clerk; City_Council; bakersfield mayor
Subject: Do not rescind / Questions for the Council
Date: Wednesday, February 3, 2021 12:57:28 PM

You do not have to rescind the R-1 ordinance related to backyard hens tonight. I contend that more research is needed before the City Council can make an informed decision.

19 cities in California out of 35 have used the same CEQA "common sense" exemption. The others used Negative Declarations. There IS legal precedent to defend this.

The City has defended 30 CEQA lawsuits in 10 years.

Here's the problem quite simply: They've done it once, they'll do it again. It sets a terrible precedent for anyone who doesn't agree with an action and can call up a lawyer. And then where does it end?

Even if we start from square one, propose a new ordinance, get it sent to committee and the planning commission, and do everything full scale for a mitigated negative declaration, this anonymous group of disgruntled folks could still file a new meritless lawsuit.

And if the council rescinds it now without defending it, then why would anyone expect differently the next time? This anonymous group doesn't have to answer for filing this frivolous lawsuit as even their attorney fees will be paid for!

The Bakersfield hen community is happy to negotiate. We're happy to work toward solutions, even if it amends the ordinance (such as not to allow free ranging).

I would like the following questions answered:

- To what extent were attempts made to negotiate with the Petitioners' attorney? Did you counter with at least dropping the lawsuit and NOT paying their legal fees? As a taxpayer, I find it egregious that you'd agree so swiftly to this. As a taxpayer, I'm also outraged that the Petitioners and their attorneys have backed the Council into this corner. But if you don't stand up to it now, this power play and civil extortion will continue to occur.
- What CEQA industry professionals have you consulted with up to this point? Have you consulted with experts in CEQA as it relates to urban hen or other small scale ordinances rather than large scale projects such as the centennial corridor?
- What is the scope and cost of an environmental review that would be sufficient to meet the terms of the stipulation agreement? What is the cost of a Mitigated Negative Declaration?
- If you were to agree to the Petitioner's stipulation, what assurances do we have that it would include specifics that allow for a Negative Declaration rather than a full EIR to comply with CEQA? (Although I understand an EIR wouldn't be appropriate, City Attorney Gennaro did confirm that this "ordinance" does in fact quality as a "project", and I know legalese enough to know that vague wording and legally binding agreements don't go well together.
- The city attorney has indicated that a third-party outside attorney would be hired due to them not having enough resources in-house. It is my understanding that there is no CEQA specialist or CEQA attorney on the city staff. Have you had a consultation with the outside legal team you would presumably hire? Have you gotten their professional opinion of the strength of the oppositions' case or an estimate of the legal fees that defending this lawsuit would cost? If not, why not?
- What does the legal precedent show regarding CEQA "common sense" exemptions in similar situations? If you don't know this - unless via information researched and provided to you by the Bakersfield Hen Community - then why not?
- 35 cities in CA allow hens and 19 of those cities have used the common sense exemption in question (per the group's research). Why do you believe there's not legal precedent and a strong case that the city can use to defend itself?
- What facts in this process initially led you to do the common sense CEQA exemption and feel confident in that

decision, and what has changed that you no longer believe you can stand by that in a court of law?

- Why is this lawsuit different than other CEQA-related lawsuits you've defended in the past? Ms. Gennaro informed me the City has defended 30 CEQA-related lawsuits in her last 10 years on staff.
- The opposition is trying to make the case that hens have an adverse environmental impact. If the case can be made that there could be adverse environmental impact, then what is the city's obligation to review the current existing ordinance for larger or Zone RS lots and do an environmental review?
- Where is the accountability? How will you prevent this from happening in the future? What assurances does the Bakersfield community have that they can fairly work through a democratic process, go through all the correct steps, be as thorough as possible, win a majority vote, and then be defended if and when a meritless lawsuit is brought against the city again related to backyard hens, small animals, or other initiatives that are supported by a majority of the community?
- What you're telling us is that the lawsuit is not worth the waste of money and that we should just start over with a new proposed ordinance. However, do you understand the issues we could face when the stipulation agreement notes that an environmental review must be conducted for any future proposed ordinance? Are you willing to proceed with such a review? Will a negative declaration be sufficient? What if this vague language calls for a larger environmental impact study as you have many times referenced the 85,000 homes it could impact? Either way, this lawsuit means we lose and the people of Bakersfield are not being fairly represented. I urge you at the very least to continue the conversation and listen to your constituents as this matter will not be over.

Sincerely,

Kalli Beckwith

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

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

From: Kim
To: Kim
Subject: Support Backyard Hens
Date: Wednesday, February 3, 2021 8:15:26 AM

To whom this may concern,

My husband almost died from covid he was too weak to eat meat and loss 30 lbs. Organic backyard hens saved us while being in quarantine, soft to swallow and chew, egg protein is the only organic source protein he can eat right now without me leaving the house. After 2 months he is still high risk his heart and lungs are now severely damaged. He is a doctor at Accelerated urgent care and his patient coughed to his face because he has a rare blood type plasma is not available to him. The hospital did their best and has now sent him home for comfort care. Please I beg you let backyard hens be legalized in Bakersfield for the sick weak families like mine. KL

From: Virginia "Ginny" Gennaro
To: Kim
Cc: Julie Drimakis
Subject: RE: Support Backyard Hens
Date: Wednesday, February 3, 2021 8:58:00 AM

Thank you for your email.
By cc to the City Clerk, I am asking that she make your email part of the Public Statement record for tonight's meeting.

From: Kim <k75402@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 3, 2021 8:15 AM
To: Kim <k75402@yahoo.com>
Subject: Support Backyard Hens

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My husband almost died from covid he was too weak to eat meat and loss 30 lbs. Organic backyard hens saved us while being in quarantine, soft to swallow and chew, egg protein is the only organic source protein he can eat right now without me leaving the house. After 2 months he is still high risk his heart and lungs are now severely damaged. He is a doctor at Accelerated urgent care and his patient coughed to his face because he has a rare blood type plasma is not available to him. The hospital did their best and has now sent him home for comfort care. Please I beg you let backyard hens be legalized in Bakersfield for the sick weak families like mine. KL

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From:	Kirk Boland
To:	City_Clerk
Subject:	Backyard Hens Council meeting 2/3/2021 (Please return receipt of email)
Date:	Tuesday, February 2, 2021 5:14:13 PM
Attachments:	Arcata.pdf Citrus Heights.pdf Calistoga.pdf Atherton.pdf Escondido.pdf Contra Costa County.pdf Elk Grove.pdf Grass Valley.pdf Hemet.pdf Nevada County.pdf San Anselmo.pdf Placerville.pdf Clayton.pdf San Diego.PDF Stanislaus County.pdf Semi Valley.pdf Vacaville.pdf Yreka.pdf Trinity County.pdf

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Public Statement

Dear City Council members,

The many Local Government agencies in California that have passed an ordinance relating to the keeping of hens, I have found documentation of 19 agencies (See attachments for relevant information) that have used the CEQA "exemption." One of those cities being San Diego, which passed an ordinance not only for the keeping of backyard hens but also allowed the keeping of goats and beekeeping.

CEQA requires analysis of agency approvals of discretionary "projects." A "project," under CEQA is defined as "the whole of an action, which has a potential for resulting in either a direct physical change in the environment, or a reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment." CEQA only applies to projects which "have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment; where it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment, the activity is not subject to CEQA."

The approval of this ordinance did not approve any development project and does not result in the possibility of creating significant or cumulative effects on the environment.

The City Council cannot allow an anonymous group to manipulate the democratic process and dictate the rules for all of us to follow.

The City Council needs to stand up for the council members that voted to pass the ordinance and the citizens that worked hard to get it passed.

Thank you,

Kirk Boland

From: Leah Lynn
To: City_Clerk
Subject: oppose rescinding hen ordinance
Date: Wednesday, February 3, 2021 8:38:45 AM

I'm surprised that the City Council is bending to the will of a very small number of wealthier citizens who oppose backyard hens. How is this democratic? I oppose rescinding the hen ordinance, and believe this process exposes the disparities between representation in our community.

--
Leah Lynn Simmons
missleahlynn@gmail.com

From: Leslie Fowler
To: City_Clerk
Subject: Support back yard chickens
Date: Tuesday, February 2, 2021 9:13:04 PM

I oppose the the decision to turn the law over that people should be able to have chickens.

From: Leticia Alvarado
To: City_Clerk
Subject: Hen ordinance
Date: Wednesday, February 3, 2021 12:07:04 PM

I oppose to rescind the ordinance. We should be able to have our hens.

From: LETICIA PELAYO
To: City_Clerk
Subject: Support backyard hens
Date: Wednesday, February 3, 2021 10:27:20 AM

Council members, I am asking that you please not back down due to the threat of a lawsuit by an “anonymous group”. My hens have improved my family’s quality of life during uncertain times, they have become family members, each will quirky personalities and names. They get their coop cleaned out weekly, they are much much quieter than the dogs in our neighborhood that bark at all times of the day/night...our hens sleep from dusk until dawn and even when awake make very little noise. They are teaching my children about responsibility and being self sustained.
Sincerely An anonymous hen lover.

Sent from my iPhone

From: Lorie.chambless@gmail.com
To: City_Clerk
Subject: Backyard Hens
Date: Wednesday, February 3, 2021 8:46:56 AM

I would like to voice my support for the backyard hen initiative which will be up for the recension at the Feb 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 are 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.

From:	Tatum Langley
To:	City_Clerk
Cc:	City_Council; bakersfield mayor
Subject:	Stand up to civil extortion - and the Terry Maxwells of the world
Date:	Wednesday, February 3, 2021 10:20:06 AM

The City Council has an obligation today to support the existing ordinance for backyard hens in the city of Bakersfield. Do not rescind this ordinance based on a frivolous lawsuit. This conversation is no longer about the merits or value of owning hens - that issue was already settled with a majority vote in October 2020.

The issue now is what kind of precedent you're willing to set for future legal battles, and how you support your constituents' interests, needs, and desires.

There seems to be a connection between Channel Law Group, the 24th Street project and related lawsuits, and past council member Terry Maxwell; Maxwell has voiced his strong opposition to hens on his sad radio show, and he was the loudest voice of opposition in 2012 when he was on the city council. On Monday, Feb 1, 2021, he even boasted on his public radio show that this lawsuit and the environmental review will cost the city hundreds of thousands of dollars. **This is civil extortion!**

Of course we can't know who's behind the current lawsuit against the city due to the cowardice of anonymous petitioners', but this whole thing stinks far more than chicken manure!!

If you don't stand up to baseless lawsuits - and the Maxwells of the world - when you have legal precedent to defend it, then you are sending a clear message to whose side you're on - the few anonymous, disgruntled citizens who are abusing environmental law in an attempt to obstruct the democratic process. You will give them the power and control they so desire, and this despicable pattern of behavior will continue!

There is not even a consequence for this party filing suit, given that you'll be agreeing to pay their $9,100 in attorneys' fees!

Where is the accountability? How will you prevent this from happening in the future? What assurances does the Bakersfield hen community - or ANY Bakersfield city resident supportive of any future initiative - have that they can fairly work through a democratic process, go through all the correct steps, be as thorough as possible, and prevent some anonymous group from filing a meritless lawsuit again and then ultimately winning because you refuse to stand with the community majority who supports the initiative?

We need answers.

Mat Uman

From: Michelle Harp
To: City_Clerk
Subject: Support of backyard hens
Date: Tuesday, February 2, 2021 5:15:15 PM

I oppose the rescind of the hen ordinance.
Michelle Harp

From:	bakersfield mayor
To:	Michelle Harp
Cc:	City_Clerk; Danielle Mabon; Claudia Heredia-Clarke
Subject:	RE: Support of hens
Date:	Tuesday, February 2, 2021 5:51:52 PM
Attachments:	image001.png image002.png image003.png image004.png

Good evening, Ms. Harp,

Thank you for your email. By cc to the City Clerk, I'm asking that this correspondence be a part of the official comments for the City Council meeting of February, 3, 2021 at 5:15 pm.

Best regards,

Karen

Karen Goh | Mayor

City of Bakersfield
email: mayor@bakersfieldcity.us
web: www.bakersfieldcity.us
phone: 661-326-3770

From: Michelle Harp [mailto:harpomm56@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 2, 2021 5:16 PM
To: bakersfield mayor <mayor@bakersfieldcity.us>
Subject: Support of hens

I oppose the rescind of the hen ordinance.
Michelle Harp

From: Michelle Harp
To: City_Clerk
Subject: Backyard hens
Date: Tuesday, February 2, 2021 8:53:59 PM

Honorable City Clerk,

I'm madder than a wet hen. Pun intended. I've been working with a great group of 600+ people that set forth in motion to change an ordinance in regards to backyard hens. The group with the help of our city attorney drafted a fair and impartial ordinance. First reading it past we are one step closer, Second reading it passed we are closer yet. Just a 30day waiting period and we will be good to go. Slab poured; coop built with much anticipation. All ready to go. At the 11th hour the rug gets pulled out from under us by an anonymous group. I would think it would be fair to say that most hen owners will be responsible with their birds by keeping them in a safe environment. As far as odor and noise it will be minimal. Hens noise levels are about the same as people conversing. Odor can be kept to a minimum. In the past I had five lovely hens. The only time they made any noise was to announce they had proudly left us breakfast. The year I had the ladies we had no pest problem, no flies, no mosquitos and best of all no roaches with out having to use chemicals which are far more harmful to the environment than anything chickens could leave behind. We as a group are counting on the city council to uphold the ordinance that has been passed.

We are opposed to rescind of the hen ordinance.

Michelle Harp
661-345-8682

From: bakersfield mayor
To: City_Clerk; Danielle Mabon; Claudia Heredia-Clarke
Subject: FW: Backyard hens (Michelle Harp -- Email #2)
Date: Tuesday, February 2, 2021 8:59:01 PM
Attachments: image001.png
image002.png
image003.png
image004.png

Sorry – forgot to cc you when I replied to Ms. Harp's second email.

Karen Goh | Mayor

City of Bakersfield
email: mayor@bakersfieldcity.us
web: www.bakersfieldcity.us
phone: 661-326-3770

From: bakersfield mayor
Sent: Tuesday, February 2, 2021 8:58 PM
To: 'Michelle Harp' <harpomm56@gmail.com>
Subject: RE: Backyard hens (Michelle Harp -- Email #2)

Good evening, Ms. Harp,

Thank you for your second email tonight. By cc to the City Clerk, I'm asking that this correspondence be a part of the official comments for the City Council meeting of February, 3, 2021 at 5:15 pm.

Best regards,

Karen

Karen Goh | Mayor

City of Bakersfield
email: mayor@bakersfieldcity.us
web: www.bakersfieldcity.us
phone: 661-326-3770

From: Michelle Harp [mailto:harpomm56@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 2, 2021 8:52 PM
To: bakersfield mayor <mayor@bakersfieldcity.us>
Subject: Backyard hens

Honorable Mayor Goh

I'm madder than a wet hen. Pun intended. I've been working with a great group of 600+ people that set forth in motion to change an ordinance in regards to backyard hens. The group with the help of our city attorney drafted a fair and impartial ordinance. First reading it past we are one step closer, Second reading it passed we are closer yet. Just a 30day waiting period and we will be good to go. Slab poured; coop built with much anticipation. All ready to go. At the 11th hour the rug gets pulled out from under us by an anonymous group. I would think it would be fair to say that most hen owners will be responsible with their birds by keeping them in a safe environment. As far as odor and noise it will be minimal. Hens noise levels are about the same as people conversing. Odor can be kept to a minimum. In the past I had five lovely hens. The only time they made any noise was to announce they had proudly left us breakfast. The year I had the ladies we had no pest problem, no flies, no mosquitos and best of all no roaches with out having to use chemicals which are far more harmful to the environment than anything chickens could leave behind. We as a group are counting on the city council to uphold the ordinance that has been passed.

We are opposed to rescind of the hen ordinance.

Michelle Harp
661-345-8682

From: Michelle Harp
To: City_Council
Subject: Backyard hens
Date: Tuesday, February 2, 2021 8:58:25 PM

Honorable City Council,

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We are opposed to rescind of the hen ordinance.

Michelle Harp
661-345-8682

From: Michelle Harp
To: City_Council
Subject: Support of backyard hens
Date: Tuesday, February 2, 2021 5:15:47 PM

I oppose the rescind of the hen ordinance.
Michelle Harp

From:	Virginia "Ginny" Gennaro
To:	Michael Harp
Cc:	Julie Drimakis
Subject:	RE: Support of your hen ordinance
Date:	Wednesday, February 3, 2021 8:59:04 AM

Thank you for your email.
By copy to the City Clerk I am asking that she make your email part of the Public Statement record for tonight.

From: Michael Harp <harpoml@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 3, 2021 7:37 AM
To: Virginia "Ginny" Gennaro <vgennaro@bakersfieldcity.us>
Subject: Support of your hen ordinance

I am writing in support of the City of Bakersfield Backyard Hen initiative. Our members have been devastated by ordinance may be revoked by the efforts of a few disgruntled people. One particular one person in question. That is Mr. Terry Maxwell. Mr. Maxwell had always been unhappy with the City Council no matter whether it was the hen ordinance or the 24th Street project. Mr. Maxwell tries to thwart your efforts every step that you do. This is not about backyard hens which was a well written & carefully researched ordinance. It is about politics and about one person's efforts to control the City Council's decisions. There has always been bad-blood between him & the council.

We in our group have been more than willing to compromise on the ordinance & possible amend it? We would even be willing to pay a $50 dollar a year permit fee & also any inspection that the City deemed necessary. It is also not true that most real estate agents oppose this ordinance. We would also propose that they not be free-range but must be contained in a coop or run. There was absolutely no need for a CEQA study. Other larger cities proved this. People use chicken & beef manure all the time to fertilize their gardens & flower beds.

Many of us have already spent thousands of dollars in coops & concrete slabs when the ordinance was passed. Already there in talk among many of us of seeking our own attorneys under basis of the first amendment or other civil violations. A friend of mine who is a retired local judge has been following these proceedings has suggested that the council may have violated the Brown Act? We really hope this doesn't come to this? Our group has been more than willing to work with the City Council on this ordinance. It was a well written ordinance. We sincerely hope that the City Council seriously consider not cancelling this ordinance.

Thank You,

Michael Harp

From: Nate Vazquez
To: City_Clerk
Subject: Hen Ordinance
Date: Tuesday, February 2, 2021 5:08:13 PM

I am opposed to you rescinding the hen ordinance and believe Bakersfield residents should be able to own and raise their chickens if desired.

Sincerely,
Nate

From: Nikole Ramirez
To: City_Clerk
Subject: Hen ordinance
Date: Tuesday, February 2, 2021 5:09:45 PM

I am opposed to you rescinding the hen ordinance and believe Bakersfield residents should have the right to raise chickens if so desired.

Best,
Nicole Ramirez

From: Nikki Tramel
To: City_Clerk
Subject: Hen ordinance
Date: Wednesday, February 3, 2021 8:21:01 AM

I am opposed to you rescinding the hen ordinance.

From: Olga See
To: City_Clerk
Subject: Support backyard hens
Date: Tuesday, February 2, 2021 8:27:55 PM

I oppose the city council rescinding the hen ordinance.

Olga See

From: craig duncan
To: City_Clerk
Subject: Backyard Hens
Date: Tuesday, February 2, 2021 8:23:20 PM

I am opposed to you rescinding the hen ordinance.

Thank you
Peni Darnell

From: Peter P
To: City_Clerk
Subject: Hen ordinance
Date: Wednesday, February 3, 2021 12:57:10 PM

Hi

Am writing about the hen ordinance I have no issue with neighbors having hens. They provide eggs, kill bugs and are therapeutic.

Roosters on the other hand can be a nuisance when the sing at 4 am

Thanks
Have a nice day
Peter

From:	Phillip Smith
To:	Christian Clegg; City_Clerk; Karen Goh
Cc:	james.webb@dot.gov; bonnie.graves@dot.gov; ccheers@getbus.org; BSnoddy@kerncog.org; kking@getbus.org; tkim@getbus.org; depperson@getbus.org; JStramaglia@kerncog.org
Subject:	Public Comment - ADA Issues
Date:	Wednesday, February 3, 2021 8:46:23 AM

Mr. Clegg, Mayor Goh, I'm sending a comment for tonight's council meeting. Hope you can help me. For the past 18 months I've had difficulty accessing the GET bus because shopping carts block my access along Mill Creek. In short, the homeless leave shopping carts along the walkway blocking my wheelchair. Some of these carts are heavy and difficult to push or go around. I've submitted close to 40 help ticket on the citysourced app, with photos, often ignored. About a year ago the city told me they were working with the council to adopt a shopping cart ban in the park similar to other cities so carts would not block the walkway. What's the status of this? I haven't heard. Police and code enforcement say they can't do anything until the city passes an ordinance. Fresno and other cities have shopping cart bans in their parks. Can the mayor, manager, and council please address this? If part of my trip is blocked by a shopping cart, I cannot make the entire trip. Thank you.

From: Rob Graphic Tech
To: City_Clerk
Subject: Regarding... City hen ordinance – OBJECTION to allowing chicken in the city
Date: Tuesday, February 2, 2021 7:33:05 PM

City council meeting 2/3/21

Agenda item #2… Public Statements

Regarding… City hen ordinance – OBJECTION to allowing chicken in the city

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I strongly object to allowing chicken in the city of Bakersfield.

This is a major reduction in the quality of life for the city residents. They did not buy a home in an area zoned for chicken or any other farm animal. Allowing chicken in the city zone will lower the property value.

There will be strong odors even with proper coop and yard cleaning. Chicken poop often and indiscriminately. Heat has a major impact on the smell. With our temperatures most of the year, the smell will be strong.

Rodents, insects, snakes, and other predators will be attracted to coops and chicken feed.

Chicken make noise, lots of noise. They cluck - at all times of the day. Every time they lay an egg, they cluck using their very loudest voice. And the rest of the hen will join in.

To enforce rules and regulations, depending on Code enforcement is generally unsuccessful.

From: Lisa Najera
To: City_Council
Subject: Phone Message: All Councilmembers: Regarding Chicken Ordinance
Date: Tuesday, February 2, 2021 4:59:29 PM
Attachments: image001.png
image002.png
image003.png
image004.png

Received a Phone Message from Mr. Ron Antongiovanni, who resides at 5812 Diamond Oak Ave, Ward 4.
Contact number is 661-805-5697.

Mr. Antongiovanni, would like to urge the council to uphold the chicken ordinance.

Thank you.

Lisa Najera | Clerk Typist II
City Clerk's Office

City of Bakersfield
email: lnajera@bakersfieldcity.us
web: www.bakersfieldcity.us
phone: 661-326-3508

From: AltaMont - Sari
To: City_Clerk
Subject: Council meeting today - backyard chicken
Date: Wednesday, February 3, 2021 10:03:15 AM

Please accept my OBJECTION to the proposed backyard chicken ordinance. Farm animals belong to the country side. Please respect city residents zoning as it was when properties were purchased.

--

Sari Potes
Phone: 661 748-1909
Fax: 661 748-1925
sari@altamonthotels.com

ALTAMONT HOTELS, INC.
Professional Hotel Management Services

From: Sari
To: City_Clerk
Subject: Feb 3, 2021 meeting - hen ordinance
Date: Wednesday, February 3, 2021 9:00:00 AM

This is a NO vote on the backyard chicken. Farm animals do not belong in the city.

From: Savannah McCoy
To: City_Clerk
Subject: I Support Backyard Hens
Date: Tuesday, February 2, 2021 9:43:08 PM

This is my formal opposition to the rescinding of the previously passed Hen Ordinance. The fact that our city representatives are considering caving to a baseless and anonymous lawsuit from a law firm who isn't from our area and has no prior history of fighting for the environment is absolutely ridiculous and so incredibly disheartening. At this point, it has nothing to do with hens and everything to do with standing up for the common people who don't have money to throw away and aren't trying to bully their way into our city government. This is uncalled for and I'm disappointed that it's even being considered. DO NOT CAVE TO THE BULLIES. STAND BEHIND YOUR PREVIOUS DECISION.

Savannah McCoy

From: Savannah McCoy
To: City_Council
Subject: I Support Backyard Hens
Date: Tuesday, February 2, 2021 9:43:52 PM

This is my formal opposition to the rescinding of the previously passed Hen Ordinance. The fact that our city representatives are considering caving to a baseless and anonymous lawsuit from a law firm who isn't from our area and has no prior history of fighting for the environment is absolutely ridiculous and so incredibly disheartening. At this point, it has nothing to do with hens and everything to do with standing up for the common people who don't have money to throw away and aren't trying to bully their way into our city government. This is uncalled for and I'm disappointed that it's even being considered. DO NOT CAVE TO THE BULLIES. STAND BEHIND YOUR PREVIOUS DECISION.

Savannah McCoy

From:	bakersfield mayor
To:	Savannah McCoy
Cc:	City_Clerk; Danielle Mabon; Claudia Heredia-Clarke
Subject:	RE: I Support Backyard Hens (Savannah McCoy)
Date:	Wednesday, February 3, 2021 12:20:28 PM
Attachments:	image001.png image002.png image003.png image004.png

Good afternoon, Ms. McCoy,

Thank you for your email. By cc to the City Clerk, I'm asking that this correspondence be a part of the official comments for the City Council meeting of February, 3, 2021 at 5:15 pm.

Best regards,

Karen

Karen Goh | Mayor

City of Bakersfield
email: mayor@bakersfieldcity.us
web: www.bakersfieldcity.us
phone: 661-326-3770

From: Savannah McCoy [mailto:savannahgmccoy@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 2, 2021 9:44 PM
To: bakersfield mayor <mayor@bakersfieldcity.us>
Subject: I Support Backyard Hens

This is my formal opposition to the rescinding of the previously passed Hen Ordinance. The fact that our city representatives are considering caving to a baseless and anonymous lawsuit from a law firm who isn't from our area and has no prior history of fighting for the environment is absolutely ridiculous and so incredibly disheartening. At this point, it has nothing to do with hens and everything to do with standing up for the common people who don't have money to throw away and aren't trying to bully their way into our city government. This is uncalled for and I'm disappointed that it's even being considered. DO NOT CAVE TO THE BULLIES. STAND BEHIND YOUR PREVIOUS DECISION.

Savannah McCoy

From: Seth Pailet
To: City_Clerk
Subject: Support backyard hens
Date: Wednesday, February 3, 2021 9:26:10 AM

I support backyard hens in Bakersfield, California. It is a great thing being able to have hens and be self sufficient, as long as one cares for them appropriately. Thank you.

Respectfully,
Seth Pailet

5507 Millington Ave,
Bakersfield, Ca 93313
(714) 642-3291

Sent from my iPhone

From: Sheryce Scott
To: City_Council
Subject: Hens
Date: Wednesday, February 3, 2021 9:14:26 AM

I am opposed to you rescinding the hen ordinance.

Thank you!
-Sheryce Scott

Sent from my iPhone

From: Valerie Clark
To: City_Clerk
Subject: Support Backyard Hens
Date: Tuesday, February 2, 2021 8:38:59 PM

Dear City Council Members,

Please support the recent urban hen ordinance. Hens have many advantages, the production of food (a good protein) is definitely one of them. Hens not only produce food for a family, they are also a way for children to learn responsibility and to have a first hand experience at “farming.” I mean, we are in the Central Valley, right?

I understand that there is an environmental concern about noise, smell, and disease. I can assure you that small flocks do not carry these concerns. Hens are mostly quiet, except when they’re laying that delicious breakfast (and that happens pretty quickly). They do not smell, especially in an air open coop, and in 12 years of owning hens, I have never had a problem with disease. It is clear that the “common sense” exemption can be applied to this ordinance.

I’m not sure what this “anonymous” group is worried about, but I can assure you that just because “all” R1 residents CAN have hens does not mean that all residents WILL have hens. The 15+ pigeons living on my roof that I can’t seem to get rid of pose a much higher risk of noise, smell and disease than hens, and there is no CEQA or EIR that can make it illegal for them to take up residence in the most annoying of places.

I understand that you may feel like your hands are tied because of this lawsuit, but please don’t set a precedent by allowing this group to take something away that over 30 cities in California have...none of which have had to go through a full EIR.

If it makes a difference, we would be ok with a maximum of 6 hens, instead of the originally proposed number.

Thank you for taking the time to read these letters and consider our point of view.

Regards,

Valerie Clark

From: Walter Keenan
To: City_Clerk
Subject: NO on Backyard Hen Ordinance
Date: Wednesday, February 3, 2021 7:36:47 AM

I urge the council to NOT allow backyard hens.

The pro group paints a rosie picture of the future with backyard hens, but it is unrealistic. Although everyone has a right to own hens, there are ample areas outside of city limits to do so. And these are areas are in close proximity to the city.

I am a resident of the city of bakersfield for the past 30 years and plan on living out my life here. My quality of life is at stake and what rights do I have ? I specifically chose to live within the city limits because I did not want to live in close proximity to farm animals. Yes I am a city person. If hens are allowed what other farm animals might be considered? Goats, sheep, cows, horses?

I will not vote again for any council member whose votes in favor of allowing such a travesty.

Sincerely,

Walter Keenan

Sent from my iPad

From: Eric Butcher
To: City_Clerk
Subject: Public Comment to City Council meeting 2/3/2021-Agenda item 8-F
Date: Wednesday, February 3, 2021 11:02:11 AM

Dear City Clerk,

Please forward my prepared comment on allowing chickens within residential areas to the City Council for reading at today's meeting.
Statement follows:

Madame Mayor and Honorable City Council Members:

First, allow me to thank you for the opportunity to speak to you and share my concerns. Before I begin, I would like to simply say, with all due respect, that I am astonished that, at this time, and with all that needs to be addressed in Bakersfield, that this is the topic that garners our city government's attention.

As a resident and property owner of a new home in Southwest Bakersfield, I stand opposed to the idea that livestock, such as chickens, are being considered as being allowed within residential areas of the city limits. Livestock has its place, certainly! I'm a big fan of chickens AND eggs! However, there is plenty of rural space outside the city limits where they can be raised.

Bakersfield city lots, on average, while perhaps larger than many California cities, are still quite small. If any of you have lived near chickens, you already know. They smell. They smell badly. In the Southwest, we already have to smell the water treatment plant down the road and manure from the fields. The last thing I want to do is step out in my backyard to relax or barbecue and have to smell chicken feces from next door.

Chickens are noisy, in a city that is already far too noisy. Additionally, having livestock, such as chickens, in backyards within the city also invites the possibility of wilder predators coming into our residential areas, as well as predatory actions by feral or stray cats and dogs. This is not conducive to safety for our families and pets in these residential areas.

Further, allowing the raising of livestock, such as chickens, within the residential areas of the city limits of Bakersfield will reduce property values and make it exceedingly difficult to sell homes that are unfortunate enough to have chickens being raised next door. Who would want to purchase a $400,000 home if chickens are being raised potentially next

door? Would any of you make that purchase?

Over the past year, in Southwest Bakersfield, we have already been subjected to weekly, if not nightly explosions of illegal fireworks, improvised explosives, and gunshots. We are subjected to the noise and danger of illegal street racing every night. We have experienced a crime wave of stolen vehicles, break-ins, and package and mail theft. All of these, with seemingly no response, action, or investigation from the Bakersfield Police Department. Now, the city wants to consider introducing even more unchecked noise, filth, and stench into our environment?

We, in Southwest Bakersfield, simply want to live in peace and quiet, receive the safety protection that we pay taxes for, and expect our elected officials to focus on what's important, rather than on frivolous, fringe concerns. If we are to be a relevant city in the 21st century, then perhaps it's time we act like one.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

William E. Butcher
5805 Ocean Jasper Drive
Bakersfield, CA 93313
661-808-9763