



BAKERSFIELD CITY COUNCIL AGENDA MEETING OF AUGUST 12, 2020

Council Chambers, City Hall, 1501 Truxtun Avenue
Regular Meeting 3:30 PM

REGULAR MEETING - 3:30 PM

1. ROLL CALL

SPECIAL NOTICE Public Participation and Accessibility August 12, 2020 Bakersfield City Council Meetings

On March 18, 2020, Governor Gavin Newsom issued Executive Order N-29-20, which includes a waiver of Brown Act provisions requiring physical presence of the Council or the public in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Based on guidance from the California Governor's Office and Department of Public Health, as well as the County Health Officer, in order to minimize the potential spread of the COVID-19 virus, the City of Bakersfield hereby provides notice that as a result of the declared federal, state, and local health emergencies, and in light of the Governor's order, the following adjustments have been made:

1. The meeting scheduled for **August 12, 2020, at 3:30 p.m.** will have limited public access.
2. The meeting scheduled for **August 12, 2020, at 5:15 p.m.** will have limited public access.
3. Consistent with the Executive Order, Councilmembers may elect to attend the meeting telephonically and to participate in the meeting to the same extent as if they were physically present.
4. The public may participate in each meeting and address the City Council as follows:
 - View a live video stream of the meeting at <https://bakersfield.novusagenda.com/AgendaPublic/> or, on your local government channel (KGOV 2).
 - If you wish to comment on a specific agenda item, submit your comment via email to the City Clerk at City_Clerk@bakersfieldcity.us **no later than 1:00 p.m. prior to the Council meeting**. Please clearly indicate which agenda item number your comment pertains to.
 - If you wish to make a general public comment not related to a specific agenda item, submit your comment via email to the City Clerk at City_Clerk@bakersfieldcity.us **no later than 1:00 p.m. prior to the Council meeting**.

- Alternatively, you may comment by calling **(661) 326-3100** and leaving a voicemail of no more than 3 minutes no later than **4:00 p.m. the Tuesday prior** to the Council meeting. Your message must clearly indicate whether your comment relates to a particular agenda item, or is a general public comment. If your comment meets the foregoing criteria, it will be transcribed as accurately as possible.
- If you are watching the live stream of the meeting and wish to make a comment on a specific agenda item as it is being heard, please email your written comment to the City Clerk at City_Clerk@bakersfieldcity.us. All comments received during the meeting **may not be read, but will be included** as part of the permanent public record of the meeting.

2. PUBLIC STATEMENTS

3. WORKSHOPS

Public comments will be received after Staff presentation.

- Urban Hens
Staff recommends receive and file update.
- Quarterly update from the Bakersfield-Kern Regional Homeless Collaborative (BKRHC) on Homeless System Performance Metrics.
Staff recommends to receive and file.

4. CLOSED SESSION

- Conference with Labor Negotiator pursuant to Government Code section 54957.6.

5. CLOSED SESSION ACTION

6. ADJOURNMENT

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

MEETING DATE: 8/12/2020

Workshops 3. a.

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council
FROM: Christopher Boyle, Development Service Director
DATE: 7/19/2020
WARD:
SUBJECT: Urban Hens

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends receive and file update.

BACKGROUND:

In response to a referral from Councilmember Smith on May 6, 2020, this item provides information on ownership of chickens in urban residential zones.

ANALYSIS:

History

In 2011, the Bakersfield Municipal Code was amended to allow the keeping of poultry or fowl only in agricultural and residential suburban zones, with a minimum lot size of 24,000 square feet, provided they are securely enclosed in a yard or pen.

In 2012, the City Council made a referral to explore if residents should own chickens in other residential zones. In November 2012, the Legislative and Litigation Committee approved a motion to present an ordinance to the City Council that would allow City residents to keep chickens only after receiving approval from the Planning Director. However, the topic was revisited by the Committee in April 2013, and concerns were raised related to odors, free-ranged chickens, noise and code enforcement. The Committee voted to deny the previously proposed options for a chicken ordinance, and to keep current ordinance as is.

Current Regulations

Chickens are currently permitted in three zone districts within the City, which are those that permit farming or other agricultural-type uses (R-S, RH and A), as follows:

- **R-S (Residential Suburban) Zone:** Minimum lot size of 24,000 square feet; allows for breeding, hatching, raising and keeping of poultry, fowl, rabbits, chinchillas, Vietnamese pot-

bellied pigs, fish, frogs and bees for the domestic use of the resident/occupant of the lot.

- **RH (Residential Holding) Zone:** Minimum lot size of 20 acres; allows breeding, hatching and raising of poultry and fowl.
- **A (Agricultural) Zone:** Hatching, raising and fattening of chickens, turkeys, or other fowl, or poultry or rabbits, fish or frogs for domestic or commercial use; provided, that no commercial poultry pen or coop or commercial rabbitry shall be maintained on a building site containing an area of less than one acre.

Additionally, where poultry or fowl are allowed by zoning, they must be contained in a yard or pen (cannot roam freely):

- **Keeping Prohibited - Exception:** It is unlawful for any person to keep or have under their care, custody or control, either as owner or otherwise, any chickens, ducks, geese, or poultry or fowl of any kind whatsoever, within the city, unless same are kept securely enclosed in a yard or pen at all times and that the property is within an agricultural zone or residential suburban zone.

Comparable Cities

In reviewing other jurisdictions, their municipal codes generally state that urban development has become so populated that the keeping of exotic, dangerous or non-domestic animals, including domestic fowl, has the potential to become injurious to health, offensive to the senses, and an obstruction to the free use of property so as to interfere with the comfortable enjoyment of life and property by the entire community and neighborhood.

With this said, comparable cities have limited provisions for the allowance of chickens within their city; and those are typically tied to a minimum lot size and significant setbacks from neighbors. As an example, Fresno only allows for chickens on lots with at least 36,000 square feet. Very few lots are actually that large. Ontario requires a minimum of a half-acre. Riverside uses a similar restriction of 20,000 square feet or greater.

Too, other municipalities place significant setbacks on distances from the chicken coop to any residential building. San Bernardino requires no less than 50 feet of separation from the coop to any residential structure, including the on-site residence. Modesto and Ontario have similar restrictions. Glendale requires 300 feet separation from the coop to any off-site residential structure. This functions as a significant barrier to allowing chickens on most residential properties in the city.

Stockton uses both a large parcel size (one acre) and considerable setbacks to structures (50 feet) in addressing an allowance for chickens.

Comparable City Research					
City	Allowed - Y/N	Maximum No.	Minimum Lot Size	Setback (to on-site residence)	Setback (to off-site residence)
Fremont	Y	6	6,000 sf	--	--
Fresno	Y	12 per acre	36,000 sf	40 feet to PL	50 feet
Glendale	Y	12	--	--	300 feet
Modesto	Y	12	--	40 feet	40 feet
Ontario	Y	1 per acre	1/2 acre	30 feet	30 feet
Oxnard	Y	25	--	--	--
Pasadena	Y	10	--	outside setback area	35 feet
Riverside	Y	5 to 50	20,000sf to 5 acres	--	50 to 100 feet
San Bernardino	Y	2 to 24	--	50 to 100	50 to 100 feet
Stockton	Y	100 per acre	1 acre	50 feet	50 feet

Two municipalities have ordinances that function to allow chickens in a generally accommodating fashion. Fremont allows six chickens on any lot greater than 6,000 square feet and Oxnard allows up to 25 chickens in residential and commercial zones. Staff has reached out to these two cities to have a dialogue with them on the relative success or failure of their ordinance. As of this writing, no return call has been received.

No comparable city allows for chickens in multifamily zones.

Analysis of other cities leads to a finding that Bakersfield's current zoning provides a potentially less restrictive environment for chickens than the majority of comparable cities. Excerpts of the comparable city ordinances is included in this report as Attachment 1.

Considerations

Zoning. As noted above, chickens are currently permitted in three zones; R-S, RH and A. Figure 1 identifies these zones in relation to the City's jurisdiction. Should chickens be allowed in single-family residential zones (R-1), Figure 2 identifies what portions of the City would accommodate chickens if there were no restrictions imposed. If chickens were allowed in limited multiple-family dwelling zones (R-2) such as areas that are developed with duplexes, Figure 3 identifies where chickens would be permitted.

Pros & Cons. The following pros and cons were raised by the public in 2012-2013, when the ownership of chickens was being considered by Committee. These dynamics are still applicable today.

Pros

- Fresh eggs (food security and lessens need for commercially produced eggs)
- Pest control (reduced bugs)
- Waste (manure) is good fertilizer/enhancement to compost
- Chickens are pets (relaxing, calming, social, and entertaining animals)
- Inexpensive animals (easy to maintain)

Cons

- Sanitation; must be kept clean (odors and flies)
- Noise (roosters), but some may object to noises from hens (research from discussions about chickens note that some dominant hens will also crow)
- May attract rodents (from feed and manure)

- Health concerns (e-coli and salmonella)
- Vulnerable by predators (cats, small birds of prey)
- Chicks can be difficult to sex (not all chicks are sold as hens)
- Respiratory diseases can easily spread to all confined birds (and other nearby birds)

As an example, in a USA Today article released on July 30th, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention advised that, “Chicks and ducklings kept in backyards are the likely source of a nationwide Salmonella outbreak that has sickened nearly 1,000 people and killed one person.” The report continued by advising that, “Reported cases have grown four-fold in a matter of days, increasing from 212 last Friday to 938 Tuesday. Sick people range in age from 1 to 94-years-old, and more than 150 people have been hospitalized.” Thus, there is the potential for negative impacts to accompany an allowance for chickens in urbanized areas.

Code Enforcement Issues. The following Code Enforcement issues remain applicable regarding chickens in residential areas:

- Increased number of calls; insufficient Code Enforcement Officers
- In certain situations, will require the involvement of Police Officers to keep the peace
- Noise (roosters)
- Chickens not properly contained in coop/yard (allowed to free range)
- People stating that if they wanted to live next to chickens, they would have purchased a home in a rural area (they chose to live in the City away from farm animals)
- Chickens let loose in parks or other public areas
- Expired chickens improperly disposed (river, canal, empty lots, side of road, etc.)
- Social outcry where roosters are removed from homes where members of the household have become attached to the animal (considered a pet)
- Increased complaints if chickens are unsecured and encroach into other property

Code Enforcement currently responds to approximately ten complaints related to chickens annually. Most of those calls are relative to roosters.

Review Process. Should the ownership of chickens be allowed in urban residential zones, it is recommended that approval be granted by the Planning Director through a formal application process vs. allowing chickens “by right”. This will allow staff to monitor approved locations and require the applicant to sign acknowledging compliance with any standards or guidelines established by Council.

Restrictions. Other restrictions to consider that may need to be part of the ordinance include:

- Minimum lot size
- Fowl permitted (chickens, ducks, geese, turkeys, quail, guinea, etc.)
- Type of chicken permitted (male-rooster or female-hen)
- Maximum number allowed
- Setback of animal enclosure (dwellings and/or property line)
- Height of animal enclosure (walls and fences in residential zones are typically 6 feet)
- Size of animal enclosure (structures over 120 square feet require a building permit)
- How the animal is used (eggs for personal use or to establish a business selling eggs)
- Require adjacent neighbors to agree to the keeping of chickens
- Establish a family-specific contingency plan for the removal of roosters and fowl that have expired

Public Input . As of July 30th, City staff had received 65 emails from 24 individuals providing comment on allowing chickens in urban residential zones. The emails are included as Attachment 2. A review of the emails finds that all are in support of allowing chickens in residential zones. Further, many of the 65 messages are a singular message sent individually to each councilmember. Staff has also engaged in several positive discussions with MT Merickel, a community voice supporting chickens in residential zones.

CONCLUSION:

In presenting this information, staff is not attempting to take anything away from the stated merits and benefits of keeping chickens. After conducting further analysis and research of comparable cities, however, staff believes allowing chickens to be kept in urban residential zones “by right” has a very definite potential for problems, issues, and complaints to be generated that would be disproportionate to the benefits.

Urban chickens have the potential for added cost and burden to the Code Enforcement department, where that resource could be better utilized elsewhere. In comparison, requiring a fee-permitting system and establishing provisions for the keeping of chickens may reduce the potential impacts on City resources and staff.

In conclusion, staff believes the City’s interests would be best served by protecting the peace, quiet, and quality of life issues that are of paramount concern for single-family neighborhoods, while noting that there are current provisions for the keeping of chickens within the City.

ATTACHMENTS:

Description	Type
▢ Blue Memo	Cover Memo
▢ Blue Memo	Cover Memo
▢ Attach 1 - Comparable Cities	Exhibit
▢ PowerPoint presentation	Presentation
▢ Attachment 2 - Comments	Exhibit
▢ Figure 1 - Rural	Backup Material
▢ Figure 2 - Single Family	Backup Material
▢ Figure 3 - Multi Family	Backup Material
▢ Written material submitted during the meeting by MT Merickel	Correspondence
▢ Written material submitted during the meeting by Kirk Boland	Correspondence




BAKERSFIELD

THE SOUND OF *Something Better*

MEMORANDUM

DATE: August 12, 2020

TO: Honorable Mayor and Councilmembers

FROM: Christopher Boyle, Development Services Director 

SUBJECT: Council Meeting of August 12, 2020
Agenda Item 3.a - Urban Hens

After preparation of the agenda, staff identified an error in the Comparable City Research matrix. The corrected number of chickens for Ontario is shown in underline/strikeout.

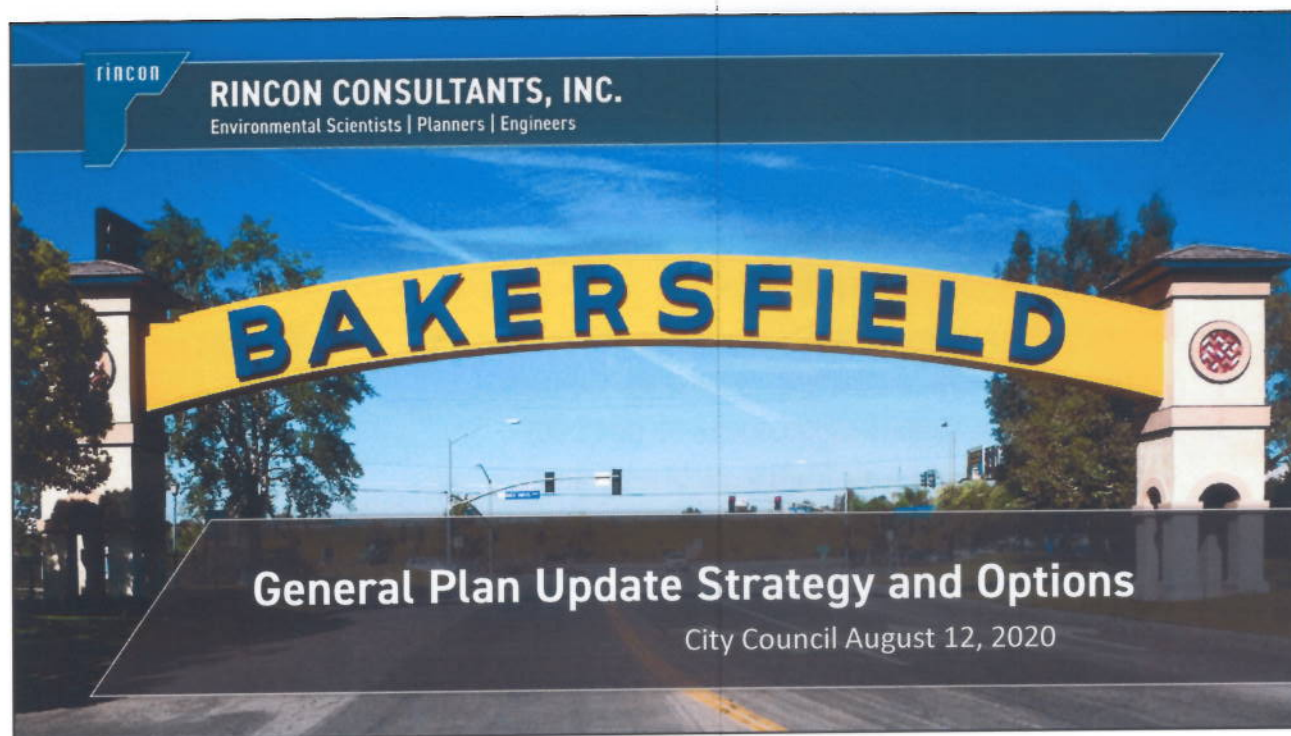
Comparable City Research					
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Additionally, the Bakersfield Urban Backyard Hens group (also known as B.U.B.H.) drafted their own proposed ordinance stating their position on what the ordinance for allowing backyard hens should look like. A copy of that document is attached.

Furthermore, public correspondence was submitted to City Council, City Clerk, and the Mayor's Office after preparation of the agenda. As of 1:00 pm on August 12, 2020, there were 3 comments in opposition and 38 comments in support. It should be noted that several individuals submitted multiple comments. A copy of comments received are attached.

Attachments

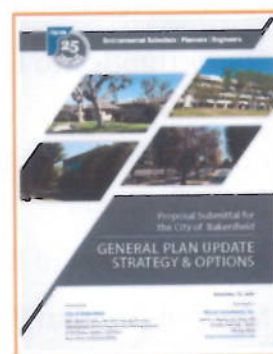
B.U.B.H. Draft Ordinance
Public Comments



rincon

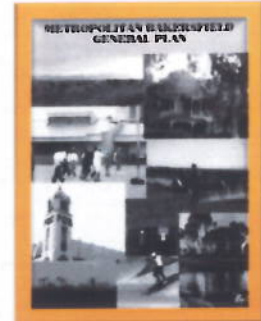
Purpose of the Study

- Review the City's General Plan, focusing on its content, clarity, and intended purpose
- Assess the completeness and ease of use associated with the City's General Plan, and where appropriate, recommend additional provisions or other improvements
- Submit a Summary Report of the consultant's findings and recommendations



Options Studied

1. **Focused Update** (\$85,000 to \$175,000)
 - Update all legally required elements but no parcel-specific land use designation updates
2. **Policy Update** (\$200,000 to \$500,000)
 - Focused Update plus specific, locally important, policy-driven updates
 - Limited, parcel-specific, existing land use designation updates
3. **Comprehensive Update** (\$650,000 to \$3,000,000)
 - Complete overhaul of all sections and technical information,
 - Incorporate all new State planning laws and guidance
 - Large-scale public engagement program, and
 - Updates all parcel-specific land use designations.



Consultant Recommendation

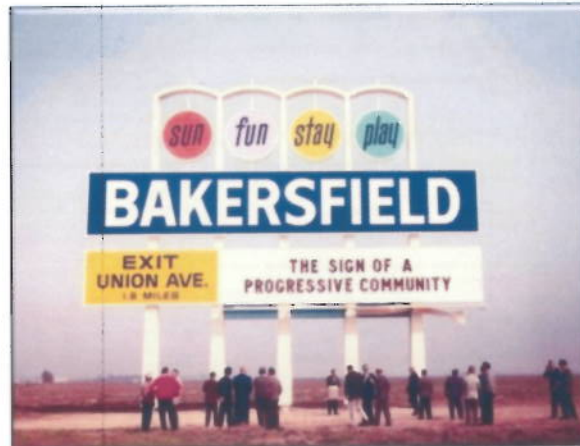
Comprehensive Update

1. Opportunities to Engage the Community
2. Confirm the Long-Term Vision for Bakersfield
3. Better Control of City SOI
4. Modern General Plan
5. Most Legally Defensible



Consultant Recommendation

So ...
how did we
get there?



8/12/2020

General Plan Update Strategy and Options

5

Current General Plan Assessment

1. Lacks a unified vision and guiding principles
2. Does not address current conditions
3. Joint plan with Kern County
4. Lacks modern elements
5. Does not consider recent general plan laws
6. Does not address contemporary planning issues
7. Not user friendly
8. Goals & Policies no longer fit Bakersfield
9. Technical data out of date
10. Missing linkage between Policies and Implementation programs
11. Lacks CEQA Streamlining opportunities

8/12/2020

General Plan Update Strategy and Options

6

Current General Plan Assessment

#	Issue	Solution	General Plan Update Options		
			Focused Update	Policy Update	Comprehensive Update
1	The General Plan lacks a unified vision and guiding principles.	Undertake visioning efforts. Develop a unified vision and guiding principles that resonate throughout the General Plan update.			X
2	The General Plan does not address current conditions.	Update all technical analyses for information on current conditions. Update all figures, tables, and graphics so they reflect current conditions.		X	X
3	The General Plan is a joint planning document with Kern County.	Prepare a general plan update that focuses on Bakersfield and prioritizes City issues. Provide clear direction for development to City standards in the City's SOI. Eliminate reliance on the joint planning document.			X
4	The General Plan lacks modern elements.	Reexamine topics that are important to Bakersfield. Consider the addition of other elements to address topics of importance, such as an Economic Development or Sustainability Element.			X
5	The General Plan does not consider recent laws affecting general plans.	Update all elements for compliance with state, regional, and local legislation.	X	X	X
6	The General Plan does not address contemporary planning issues.	Examine contemporary planning issues such as healthy communities/public health, economic development, GHG emissions reduction, alternative forms of energy, and sustainability. Develop goals and policies relative to these topics and/or consider the inclusion of new elements to address.			X
7	Goals and policies contained in the General Plan no longer fit Bakersfield.	Reexamine existing goals and policies. Revise where appropriate and/or develop new policies to address the City's long-term vision.		X	X
8	The General Plan is not user friendly.	Create an aesthetically pleasing and easy to use document. Ensure that the document is searchable and organized with digital bookmarks and other newer electronic document technologies.		X	X
9	Technical data and appendices are out of date.	Update all technical analyses for information on current conditions. Update all figures, tables, and graphics so they reflect current conditions.		X	X
10	There is no link between policies and implementation programs.	Reexamine policies and implementing programs. Revise where appropriate and/or develop new programs to carry out the policies that address the City's long-term vision.			X
11	The General Plan EIR does not provide for development streamlining.	Prepare a new EIR that addresses all current issue areas, as outlined by Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines.	X	X	X
Issues Addressed			2	6	11

8/12/2020

General Plan Update Strategy and Options

7

Current General Plan Assessment

3. The General Plan is a joint planning document with Kern County

7. Goals and policies contained in the General Plan no longer fit Bakersfield

Joint Plan currently allows:

- County approval without City Input
- Development not to City standards within City SOI
- No prioritization on Bakersfield

Comprehensive Update could:

- Develop process for City review/approval within SOI
- Require City standards within SOI
- Vision focused on Bakersfield
- Address Annexations

8/12/2020

General Plan Update Strategy and Options

8

Current General Plan Assessment

4. General Plan lacks modern elements
6. Does not address contemporary planning issues.



8/12/2020

General Plan Update Strategy and Options

9

General Recommendations

- Data Updates
- Graphic Design and Document Layout
- Vision and Guiding Principles
- Goal, Policy, and Implementation Program Development
- Legislative Compliance
- CEQA Streamlining



8/12/2020

General Plan Update Strategy and Options

10

General Recommendations

Issue	Solution	General Plan Update Options		
		Focused Update	Policy Update	Comprehensive Update
Data Updates	Update all technical data and incorporate throughout the General Plan with maps, tables, and supporting text.		X	X
Graphic Design and Document Layout	Migrate the General Plan to a page layout program; utilize a more streamlined, graphic-focused layout and easy-to-follow format.		X	X
Vision and Guiding Principles	Establish a strong, clear vision statement. Develop guiding principles to establish broad performance benchmarks.			X
Goal, Policy and Implementation Program Development	Update all goals and policies to consider contemporary planning issues and new technological considerations. Update or develop implementation programs to provide for execution of goals and policies.			X
Legislative Compliance	Update all elements for compliance with State, regional, and local legislation.	X	X	X
CEQA Streamlining	Prepare a new EIR that addresses all current issue areas, as outlined by Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines.	X	X	X
Issues Addressed		2	4	6

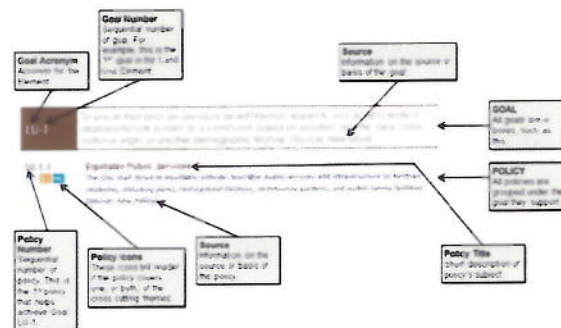
General Recommendations

Vision and Guiding Principles



- ☐ Vision Statement for Bakersfield
- ☐ Community Identity & Goals
- ☐ New Benchmarks for the Future

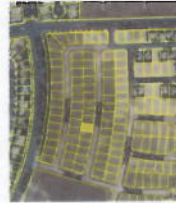
Graphic Design and Document Layout



Recommendations for Individual Elements

Mandatory Elements

- **Land Use Element**
 - Disadvantaged Unincorporated Communities
 - SOI and Annexation Coordination
- **Circulation Element**
 - Update to reflect new construction/TRIP
 - Complete Streets
- **Conservation Element**
 - New Bakersfield Habitat Conservation Plan
- **Open Space Element**
 - Open space Inventory
 - Implementation Program



8/12/2020

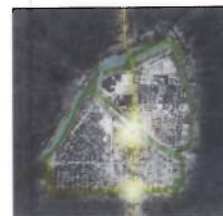
General Plan Update Strategy and Options

13

Recommendations for Individual Elements

New General Plan Elements

- **Healthy Community/Environmental Justice Element**
 - Integrated into other elements
- **Economic Development Element**
- **Historic Preservation Element**
- **Sustainability Element**
- **Urban Design**



Area/Community Plans

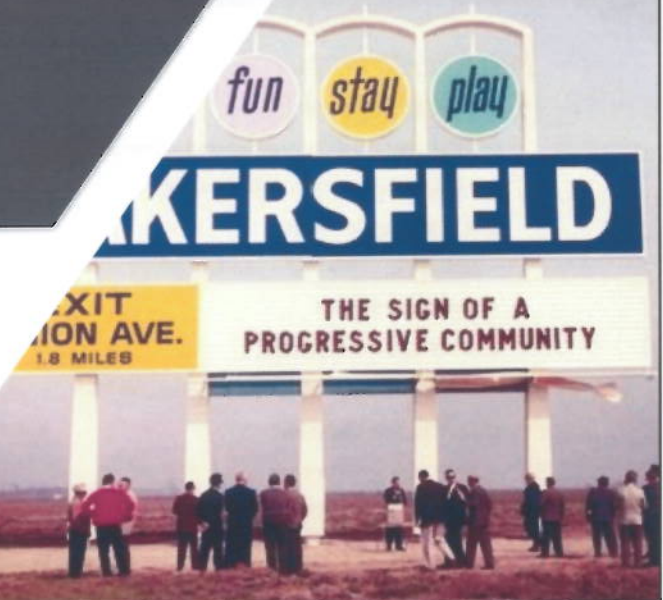
8/12/2020

General Plan Update Strategy and Options

14

Discussion / Q&A

rincon



B.U.B.H. Document

Bakersfield Urban Backyard Hens

thebubh.wixsite.com/bubh

THIS IS A PROPOSED ORDINANCE THAT STATES OUR POSITION ON WHAT THE CITY OF BAKERSFIELD'S ORDINANCE FOR ALLOWING BACKYARD HENS SHOULD LOOK LIKE.

WE BELIEVE THESE EXPECTATIONS ARE REASONABLE, FAIR, AND SHOULD BE APPROVED.

DEFINITIONS

Chicken and Hen - shall mean a female member of the subspecies *Gallus gallus domesticus*, a domesticated fowl.

Rear yard and backyard - Refers to the part of the yard that may start at the front corners of a home and extends towards the back of the tract of land.

Henhouse, Coop, Hen Tractor or Enclosures - shall mean a structure that allows for securely locking hens in at night. A henhouse is stationary while a hen tractor is moveable. An enclosure or coop could refer to either.

Number and Type of Hens Allowed

- (a) Only female chickens (hens) are allowed.
- (b) No roosters.
- (c) The maximum number of hens allowed is twelve (12)

PROPOSED ORDINANCE (CONTINUED)

Zoning Districts Allowed

(a) Hens will be permissible for tracts of land located in residential districts as identified as R-1 on the current Official Zoning Map on file with the City of Bakersfield.

Non-Commercial Use Only

- (a) Hen breeding for commercial purposes is prohibited.
- (b) Hen fertilizer production for commercial purposes is prohibited.
- (c) Maintaining hens for the purpose of selling eggs is prohibited.

Enclosures

- (a) Hens must be kept in an enclosure or fenced area at all times. This would include a fenced backyard.
- (b) Hens must be secured within a henhouse or hen tractor during non-daylight hours.
- (b) Enclosures must be kept in a clean, dry, odor-free, and sanitary condition at all times.
- (c) Enclosures must provide adequate ventilation and water.
- (d) Enclosures must provide adequate exposure to sun and shade.
- (e) Enclosures must provide at least (2) square feet per bird.
- (f) Enclosures shall only be located in the rear yard.
- (g) Enclosures must be located at least ten (10) feet from any neighboring residential dwelling, church, school or place of business. (It is understood that following fire and easement expectations is mandatory.)

PROPOSED ORDINANCE (CONTINUED)

Odor and Noise Impacts

(a) Odors from hens, hen manure or other hen related substances shall not be perceptible beyond the boundaries of the tract of land to disturb a person of reasonable sensitivity.

(b) Noise from hens shall not be loud enough beyond the boundaries of the tract of land at the property boundaries to disturb persons of reasonable sensitivity.

Feed and Water

(a) Hens shall be provided with access to feed and clean water in a manner to provide for their good health and basic needs.

(b) Hen's food shall be stored in a sealed plastic or metal container that has a secure lid.

Chickens at Large

(a) The owner shall not allow the hens to roam off the tract of backyard land.

(b) No dog or cat or other domesticated animal which kills a hen off the tract of land will, for that reason alone, not be considered a dangerous or aggressive animal or the city's responsibility to enforce its animal control provisions.

Unlawful Acts

(a) It shall be unlawful for any person to keep hens in violation of any provision of this Chapter or any other provision of the Bakersfield Municipal Code.

(b) It shall be unlawful for any owner, renter or leaseholder of property to allow hens to be kept on the property in violation of the provisions of this article.

(c) No person shall keep a rooster.

PROPOSED ORDINANCE (CONTINUED)

(d) No person shall keep hens on a vacant or uninhabited tract of land.

Permits

(a) No permit required to own less than the maximum allowed number of hens.

Nuisances

(a) Any violation of the terms of this Chapter that constitutes a health hazard or that interferes with the use or enjoyment of neighboring property is a nuisance and may be abated under the general nuisance abatement provisions of Bakersfield Municipal Code.

Comments - Opposition

City Council meeting 8 12 2020

Letter to the Bakersfield City Council, City Manager, Mayor and City Attorney's Office,

SUBJECT: Opposition to the Bakersfield City Council passing an ordinance to allow chickens to be allowed in residential neighborhoods in the city of Bakersfield, Ca.

I am writing this letter on behalf of myself and my wife, Gary and Lynda Simmons. We are residence of Stockdale Estates and have lived in our home for 32 years.

We have the unfortunate experience that chickens have inhabited the home behind our back yard fence for many years. The noise, the smell of chicken manure and the visibility of rats being attracted to the back yard neighbor's home is a horrendous experience. It is unrealistic to think that the city of Bakersfield would pass an ordinance that would allow this unsanitary condition throughout every neighborhood in the city.

We pay for the services of Kern Pest Control to spray our back yard and perimeter fence, foliage, trees and pool patio in order to eliminate the infectious disease chickens and their parasites spread to humans. The pest control company has set up rat traps on the perimeter fence to exterminate the rats that feed on the manure in the chicken habitat.

The description of hens in the presentation from the city councilmen is a false and misleading sales representation to project a benign environment. Hens need roosters and roosters need hens to multiply. Chickens multiply rapidly by laying and hatching eggs.

PANDEMIC ENVIRONMENT - THE CITY COUNCIL SEEM TO BE OBLIVIOUS WE ARE EXPERIENCING A LIFE THREATENING VIRUS ENVIRONMENT. CHICKENS AND THE DISEASE THAT THEY TRANSMIT WILL PRODUCE ADDITIONAL HUMAN SUFFERING AND ILLNESS. THE CITY COUNCILMEN THAT WOULD ENDORSE THIS LIFE THREATING ORDINANCE SHOULD BE AND WILL BE HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DEATH OF ONE INDIVIDUAL RELATED TO DISEASE TRANSMITTED FROM A CHICKEN COOP ENVIRONMENT WHICH PRODUCES MANURE SMELL, LICE, RATS AND RODENTS.

Please review the information available in the administrative report generated from the year 2012 when this ordinance was first introduced to the city of Bakersfield and voted against. The information included relates to the infestation of disease created from chickens, hens or roosters.

John Cox of the Bakersfield Californian produced a very creditable article in the Bakersfield Californian in the recent past related to disease transmitted from chickens, hen or roosters.

I am 73 years old and my wife is 70. We are both under doctor's care. I am a cancer survivor and have a non-repairable heart condition. My wife and I are on daily medication and are at risk as well as thousands of people in the city of Bakersfield.

Think twice before you contribute to additional human fatalities in the city of Bakersfield because of poor judgement or political favor. City Council responsibility will follow your decision making.

Respectively submitted,

Gary and Lynda Simmons

August 12, 2020

Re: Bakersfield City Council Meeting, 3:30-PM, August 12, 2020, Urban Hens Item

In 2012, 8-years ago, the Bakersfield City Council most likely spent 10's of 1000's of dollars of taxpayers/property owners money studying and proposing that ALL residents, REGARDLESS OF ZONING, including R-1 zoning, be allowed to raise chickens on their property, finally correctly concluding that there were too many negative impacts from waste, smell, disposal, noise, rodent attraction from manure, not to mention possibility of infestation of disease created from chickens! Just on July 29th, the Centers for Disease Control reported outbreaks of Salmonella infections linked to backyard chickens! A dozen eggs can be bought for approximately \$1.70. Is this worth risking a good Salmonella infection for you and your neighbors and an entire community?

I pose the question, what has happened now in the last 8-years for the Council to now regurgitate this matter and to now again spend 1000's of dollars of taxpayer's money again in these now lean tax times to reintroduce this issue in this midst of the mess this City is in? Has chicken manure somehow become magically less hazardous and less infectious of producing disease than it was 8-years ago? What has happened? I propose, absolutely nothing has changed except the political climate and certain political goals and "a wink and a nod" paybacks?

What has changed in 8-years that I can assess, is that this local government seemingly has less and less respect for its primary tax base citizens and the quality of life of its R-1 Single Family Zoning and Covenant Rights the citizens have paid for, myself for 40-years, that have supported this Council for 40-years, not to have potential plague sickness in my neighborhood via my R-1 Covenant Rights!

In penning the above thoughts, I keep remembering a line that keeps repeating itself to me from the movie "Forrest Gump", where Forrest would do some unexplainable thing and then it was invariably asked of Forrest, "Are you stupid or something?" I am off to get my flu shot because Chinese chickens will be creating a worldwide pandemic this fall!

Joseph R. Kandle 661-809-8220

From: wcdescary@aol.com
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: All
Date: Tuesday, August 11, 2020 2:09:57 PM

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

Covid-19 concerns prevent my being a public speaker, but I want Councilmembers to have benefit of my comments that follow:

RE: Bakersfield City Council, Regular Meeting 3:30 PM, August 12, 2020
Workshops, Item 3.a., Urban Hens

The Administrative Report notes emails were received from 24 individuals all advocating for allowing chickens in residential zones. There are no opposition emails because the public is unaware of what is going on. There has been nothing in the paper concerning the proposal. As the proposal becomes known, opposition will come.

A health concern not yet discussed is virulent Newcastle disease. Newcastle is fatal and highly contagious to fowl, ducks and parrots. Infected humans can have a fever and pink eye. In fact, when Newcastle was confirmed in Los Angeles County in 2018, less than 2 years ago, Kern County Fair officials canceled that year's poultry fair. A major concern was the local egg and poultry industry.

Research indicates comparable cities allow chickens but there are restrictions. Bakersfield currently provides opportunities to raise chickens in three zones. While allowance with rules may sound good, the smells and sounds of chickens in residential neighborhoods is problematic. Wittingly or unwittingly neighbors will violate the rules requiring Code Enforcement involvement, possibly the police.

Public input and discussion are needed before decisions are made about raising hens in residential zones. We have to rely on Councilmembers to carefully examine the pros and cons including Code Enforcement issues to determine what is best for maintaining the quality of life in residential neighborhoods. Public health has to be of paramount concern.

As a 46-year resident of Bakersfield, I am vehemently opposed to allowing chickens to be raised in single family residential zones. I respectfully request Councilmembers approve the staff recommendation to receive and file update.

Thank you.

Bill Descary
(661) 834-3507

Comments - Support

From: [Ashkea McAllister](#)
To: [City Council](#); [City Clerk](#)
Subject: In Support of Urban Hens
Date: Wednesday, August 12, 2020 11:31:46 AM

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

Dear Council Members,

I support the backyard hen initiative and I hope you'll do the same.

Thank you!

Ashkea Herron McAllister

From: [tasha herron](#)
To: [City Council](#); [City Clerk](#)
Subject: "In Support of Urban Hens"
Date: Wednesday, August 12, 2020 12:00:59 PM

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

Dear Council Members,

I support the backyard hen initiative and I hope you'll do the same.

Thank you!

Latasha Herron

From: [Jan Hei](#)
To: [City Council](#); [City Clerk](#)
Subject: In Support of Urban Hens
Date: Wednesday, August 12, 2020 9:33:38 AM

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

Dear Council Members,

I support the backyard hen initiative and I hope you'll do the same.

Thank you!

Jan Hei

From: [Cameron Garcia](#)
To: [City Council](#); [City Clerk](#)
Subject: In support of Urban Hens
Date: Wednesday, August 12, 2020 12:37:55 PM

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

Dear Council Members,

I support the backyard hen initiative and I hope you'll do the same. There's no consequence large enough that Hens pose to oppose the initiative in our city. Thank you dearly

Cameron D.C Garcia

From: [George Beckwith](#)
To: [City Council](#); [City Clerk](#)
Subject: Support of Backyard Hens in BF City Limits
Date: Wednesday, August 12, 2020 10:01:11 AM

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

Hello Bakersfield City Council Members.

We support the initiative and ordinance to allow hens in the city limits of Bakersfield and we hope you will vote to support the initiative as well. We don't have hens in our backyard but we have relatives who do and we support their right to raise hens in their own backyards.

Best regards,

George and Nancy Beckwith

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

From: [Carolina Cortez](#)
To: [City Clerk](#)
Subject: In support of Backyard Hens, Item 3a on the agenda
Date: Wednesday, August 12, 2020 11:14:45 AM

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

Hello,

I am writing in support of Backyard Hens in residential yards within Bakersfield. I also support the proposed ordinance as it is very close to the ordinance in place for the County residents as well.

The benefits of keeping Hens far outweighs any “cons” already mentioned. I’m sure you have received several well articulated emails explaining this.

In regards to the transmission of disease from keeping hens. One could argue this is the best time to allow them due to the added attention and awareness of proper hand washing due to the pandemic. We also live in an age where reliable information is easy find when learning how to safely raise chickens in your backyard.

Having an ordinance in place to support any Bakersfield resident who chooses to have a flock of hens is a good thing.

Please vote in favor of legalizing backyard hen ownership for our Community.

Thank you,

From: sberdon@bak.rr.com
To: [City Clerk](#); [City Council](#)
Subject: In Support of Urban Hens (Resident in Ward 2)
Date: Wednesday, August 12, 2020 9:56:58 AM

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

Dear Council Members,

I support the backyard hen initiative and I hope you will do the same.

Backyard homesteading/urban gardening has come a long way in recent years. Being able to add a few hens to our yards would help with food supply, which, considering the pandemic, is very important in these unprecedented times. For those that have food sensitivities, raising our own hens would allow us to control the types of food they are fed (i.e. corn free, soy free, organic, etc.), making it possible for anyone that cannot access these at stores to have eggs. Additionally, it would eliminate waste since many food scraps can become chicken feed and they, in turn, would provide compost material/fertilizer for our gardens. They would also provide free pest control, thereby helping the environment by eliminating use of hazardous chemicals. Backyard hens are quite social and make great pets. One of my fondest childhood memories is our little backyard hen, Freckles; I would love to be able to give memories like that to the children in my life. Many families use chickens for therapy, including for depression, anxiety, dementia and for children with autism. This is very important considering the alarming increase we are seeing of this condition.

The report lists several cons. On the topics I have included, please consider the following:

*Sanitation- anyone taking on any pet acknowledges that they will need to clean up after them, whether its dogs, cats, rabbits, reptiles, and, of course, chickens, so this is no different than raising any other animal. *Noise- Hens make far less noise than dogs barking or cats in heat. The Administrative Report shows the City received 10 (ten) complaints last year related to chickens, almost all due to roosters. In a city with a population of nearly 400,000, 10 (ten) is a negligible number to be used to attain the following conclusion: "the staff believes the City's interests would be best served by protecting the peace, quiet, and quality of life issues that are of paramount concern for single-family neighborhoods." *Rodents- Rodents are also attracted to cat and dog food, and even fruits, so, again, no different than raising other animals.

*Salmonella- a quick search on the CDC website (<https://www.cdc.gov/healthypets/diseases/salmonella.html>) provides the following information: "Many different animals and pets can carry these germs. Animals known to commonly spread *Salmonella* to humans include: Reptiles (turtles, lizards, and snakes), Amphibians (frogs and toads), Poultry (chicks, chickens, ducklings, ducks, geese, and turkeys), Other birds (parakeets, parrots, and wild birds), Rodents (mice, rats, hamsters, and guinea pigs), Other small mammals (hedgehogs), Farm animals (goats, calves, cows, sheep, and pigs), Dogs, Cats, Horses", also, no different than raising other pets.

Please carefully consider the benefits of urban hens and vote in favor of this initiative.

Thank you.

Sandy Berdon

From: [Leah Lynn](#)
To: [City Council](#); [City Clerk](#)
Subject: In Support of Urban Hens
Date: Tuesday, August 11, 2020 8:46:25 PM

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

Dear Council Members,

I support the backyard hen initiative and I hope you'll do the same.

Thank you!
Leah Simmons

--

Leah Lynn Simmons
missleahlynn@gmail.com

From: [Vincent Sorena](#)
To: [City Council](#); [City Clerk](#)
Subject: In Support Of Urban Hens
Date: Tuesday, August 11, 2020 6:49:53 PM

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

Dear Council Members,

I support the backyard hen initiative and hope you'll do the same.

Thank you for your consideration.

Regards,

Vincent Sorena

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Francisca Suasnabar](#)
To: [City Clerk](#)
Subject: In Support of Urban Hens"
Date: Tuesday, August 11, 2020 9:45:54 PM

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

>
> Dear Council Members,
>
> I support the backyard hen initiative and I hope you'll do the same.
>
> Thank you!
> Francisca Suasnabar

From: [Jean](#)
To: [City Clerk](#)
Subject: SUPPORT OF URBAN HENS
Date: Tuesday, August 11, 2020 7:21:16 PM

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

Members of the Board:

We support the Urban Hen initiative.

They are quiet, do not smell, educational for kids, provide tasks for kids (feeding them, collecting eggs), they provide eggs and in times of emergency dinner.

Please pass this worthwhile initiative.

Thank you,

Carl & Jean Park
City residents.

Sent from my iPad

From: jeanette@jeanetteredstone.com
To: [City Council](#)
Cc: [City Clerk](#)
Subject: In Support of Urban Hens
Date: Tuesday, August 11, 2020 7:41:33 PM

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

Dear Council Members,
I support the backyard hen initiative and I hope you'll do the same.

Thank you,
Jeanette Redstone

From: [Kailan Carr](#)
To: [City Council](#); [City Clerk](#)
Subject: In Support of Urban Hens
Date: Tuesday, August 11, 2020 7:16:31 PM

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

Dear Council Members,

I support the backyard hen initiative, and I hope you'll do the same. Hens provide fresh eggs and are quiet, low-maintenance pets. They do not disturb neighborhoods.

Urban gardens are becoming more abundant, and I think adding hens to the environment should be an option for any homeowner.

Thank you!
Kailan Carr

From: [1andre.ammons](#)
To: [City Council](#); [City Clerk](#)
Subject: Backyard Hen Initiative
Date: Tuesday, August 11, 2020 8:07:17 PM

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

Dear Council Members

I am in full support of Kalli Beckwith and the Backyard Hen Initiative. I hope that you support the right to raise hens in the safety of one's private property.

Thank you.

Andre Ammons

From: [this_low23@hotmail.com](mailto:low23@hotmail.com)
To: [City Council](#); [City Clerk](#)
Subject: In Support of Urban Hens
Date: Tuesday, August 11, 2020 7:01:58 PM

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

Dear Council Members,

I support the backyard hen initiative and I hope you'll do the same.

Thank you!
Angela Low

From: [Olga See](#)
To: [City Council](#); [City Clerk](#)
Subject: Subject: "In Support of Urban Hens" Dear Council Members, I support the backyard hen initiative and I hope you'll do the same. Thank you for your consideration.
Date: Tuesday, August 11, 2020 7:02:51 PM

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

Olga See

From: [renee nelson](#)
To: [City Clerk](#)
Cc: [renee nelson](#); [Paul Johnson](#)
Subject: Support Backyard Hens
Date: Tuesday, August 11, 2020 4:24:35 PM

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

Please confirm receipt of this email and forward to all council members! Thank you!

Dear Councilman Weir,

I am writing in support of expanding the by-right ownership of backyard hens to R-1 lots in the City of Bakersfield.

Regarding the staff report for this workshop, it mentions a permit system. Questions to ask include:

1. Would all homeowners, including the current by-right residents in A and R-S zoned lots, be required to obtain permits?
2. Would there be a fee?
3. One time or annual renewal of the permit?
4. Would there be a waiver system for low income residents?

The report referenced salmonella cases connected to backyard hens in the United States! A quick review of the CDC website notes that California had 35 cases for 2020 as of July. That is 35 instances in a state of 39.51 million people. We can continue to remind people to wash their hands, for so many reasons!

The maps provided illustrate just how interconnected the City of Bakersfield and the County of Kern are within the metropolitan area! The county allows 12 chickens per household. The City needs to grant it's residents the right to own chickens. I didn't recall a number of hens suggested but 12 would be in keeping with current county regulations.

Thank you for your consideration and the opportunity to comment.

Respectfully,

Renee Donato Nelson
Ward 3
12430 Backdrop Court
Bakersfield, California 93306

Find your Light & Love
Sent from my iPhone

From: [Tom Williams](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: Support chickens -All council members
Date: Tuesday, August 11, 2020 4:14:56 PM

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

Dear council members,

My husband and I are in favor of backyard hens.

Besides the amazing benefits to eating their high protein eggs, the hens provide entertainment, and bug and pest control, just to name a few benefits.

They only make some slight noisy when they lay an egg once a day. The sound is so much less noise than a yapping dog or dogs plural, that barks 24/7 in most yards.

They do not make noise at night when in their protected pens.

They do not smell nor do they attract flies when well cared for. Unlike dogs who smell and attract flies with their waste. A Hens waste can be used in gardening which is a win win! You cannot do that with dog poo.

I live in ward 3 and you can hear roosters every where and boy are they annoying! We do not advocate roosters- just friendly hens that can give us plenty of eggs.

In this time of food and other shortages due to Covid, it would be wonderful to have fresh eggs for our family and some to share with neighbors.

Please consider approving backyard hens. A lot of large cities have done this and it works so well. LOs Angeles, Sacramento and several other cities have seen the benefit and we want your vote for the same for our great town of Bakersfield.

Thank you,
Dee & Tom Williams

Blessings! Dee

From: [Kalli Beckwith](#)
To: [City Council](#); [City Clerk](#)
Cc: [AdmMgr](#); [DEVPln](#)
Subject: In Support of Urban Hens and a response to the Administrative Report
Date: Tuesday, August 11, 2020 11:34:20 PM

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

Dear Council Members,

I support urban hens and I hope you will too. The time has come to allow our community members within city limits in suburban neighborhoods to keep hens as pets. They are an important part of the food and family system. In reality, thousands of families in Bakersfield already own hens.

I spoke to the Supervisor at The Round Up Feed & Pet Supply on Rosedale Hwy. last week and she indicated that during “normal” years, they sell approximately 300 pullets (young hens) per week. However, during this pandemic, they sold up to 1,000 per week every week for more than 8 weeks. There are four feed stores in Kern County that I know of that were selling pullets, and all of them were selling out every week. Given that The Round Up is directly in the city of Bakersfield, it’s very presumable that more city residents than ever before currently own hens and will soon know the joy of discovering their own backyard eggs.

There are many benefits to keeping hens, including but not limited to:

1. Fresh, nutrient dense eggs (that are actually affordable).
2. Sustainable and lower environmental footprint.
3. Low maintenance, family-friendly pets.
4. Their waste provides inputs for the compost which produces safe plant food.
5. They eat food scraps and fallen fruit.
6. Pest management.

7.

They provide an education to our kids, as they learn to care for them, do their “chicken chores”, and observe them and the various biological cycles that occur.

Urban hens are far less invasive than pit bulls or small dogs with high-pitched, incessant barks.

Legalizing hens in the city will not become a slippery slope where individuals will soon be demanding for the rights to own goats, pigs, and horses in suburban backyards.

In addition to advocating my support for urban hens and this ordinance being proposed by our community group, I would also like to disagree with the conclusions drawn in the workshop report that was prepared in relation to this agenda item. I believe it has a negative bias against urban hen ownership.

The cons listed in the report all have workable solutions, and the positive impact of backyard hens for community members far outweigh the potential issues that *could* result from irresponsible owners. (There’s also a strong possibility that those same irresponsible owners will own them anyway, without regard for the city ordinances).

The report cited a USA Today article regarding a salmonella outbreak that they suspect was linked to backyard chickens and chicks. But what was left out was the CDC’s advice to mitigate these risks: “Don’t kiss backyard poultry or snuggle them and then touch your face or mouth,” the CDC says. “Don’t let backyard poultry inside the house, especially in areas where food or drink is prepared, served, or stored.” I think we can all agree to not kiss the chickens and not let them in the house. I’d also like to note that a single gram of dog waste can contain 23 million fecal coliform bacteria which can sicken humans. And according to the CDC, in 2019, there were five outbreaks of E. Coli. from factories and farms. **Dangers to public health are everywhere, but that should not preclude law-abiding and rule-following citizens from having the right to own a small flock of hens in their backyard.**

The Code Enforcement issues that were noted in the report include a laundry list. However, Code Enforcement currently responds to *ten* calls a year. Ten, in a city of nearly 400,000 residents, with thousands of families raising hens regardless of the ordinance. Furthermore, it concludes that “Most of those calls are relative to roosters.” We are not asking anyone to allow any roosters.

The report notes in its “conclusion, staff believes the **City’s interests would be best served** by protecting the peace, quiet, and quality of life issues that are of paramount concern for single-family neighborhoods, while noting that there are current provisions for the keeping of chickens within the City.”

I can assure you that a **flock of backyard pet hens *do* provide peace, quiet, and quality of life for so many families already in Bakersfield!** Furthermore, **most residents in Bakersfield do not have a lot that is 24,000 square feet or more, so the “current provisions for the keeping of chickens within the City” *are not good enough.***

And finally, the staff may believe this is in the *City’s* best interests to avoid the potential extra work it will create for code enforcement, but **what about the best interests of our local community and family units?**

This is a very simple issue with a simple answer: Please allow for backyard urban hens so that those who respect the rules and boundaries of the law will be able to legally own and tend to hens as pets and reap the many benefits for our families.

Sincerely,

Kalli Beckwith

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

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

From: [Janie Lugo](#)
To: [City Clerk](#)
Subject: Public statement 8/12/20 3:30 pm meeting
Date: Tuesday, August 11, 2020 4:24:45 PM

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

Dear Members of the Bakersfield City Council,

Thank you for taking the time to hear the community's concerns regarding backyard hens.

The presentation you will hear that was put together by the City Planning Department does not point out all the benefits of backyard hens but mostly concentrates on the potential negatives.

With the ownership of any animal as a pet there are always some things you have to take into consideration. Reptiles, parrots, even dogs and cats can be carriers of Salmonella as well as many other diseases. E.coli, salmonella, parasites, ringworm, and fleas are all things that our beloved dogs and cats are potential carriers of. However these potential risks do not prevent us from dog and cat ownership.

Salmonella transmission from chickens is one of the easiest things to avoid, and the majority of people who own chickens are already aware of this potential risk. You are far more likely to get food related illness from badly handled commercially produced food items. The answer to this concern over salmonella risk is to practice good hygiene and wash your hands. Washing your hands is something that should be done after handling any and all of our pets. Hopefully, considering Covid 19, good handwashing is something we have all learned in the last 6 months.

I believe that being allowed to own backyard hens within the city limits of Bakersfield will create many positive benefits for our citizens. Waste management, organic eggs, chickens raised in a humane and healthy environment, free organic compost for our gardens, pest control, fresh organic eggs, positive learning experiences for our children, affectionate pets etc.

I believe that the positive benefits far outweigh the possible concerns and that allowing backyard hens within the city limits of Bakersfield will greatly enhance our quality of life.

Again, thank you for taking the time to read all our emails and hear us out.

Thank you,

Janie Boland

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

From: [Becky Pelishek](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: Backyard Chickens!
Date: Tuesday, August 11, 2020 1:28:00 PM

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

To Bruce Freeman and other city council members,

I am a resident of Ward 5 (11 years). Although I would love to live in county zoning, moving is expensive and bigger pieces of land with county animal-allowing zoning are outside our budget.

Other than moving not being an option for us, self-sufficiency is important to us. We want to be able to take care of our own family, not depending on supply chains, distributors, government or even needing to go into the store, in times like this. Hens are a great option because they are quiet, friendly, and provide daily protein.

I wanted to add as well that having hens gives me an opportunity to teach my kids. Living in residential zoning this hasn't been an option for us before, but I would like to be able to teach them how doable and enjoyable it is. Lastly, I know dogs are allowed. One neighbor's dog poo is very smelly in the summer. The other's dog barks throughout the night. My understanding is hens are no louder than the neighborhood birds and really only make sound in the day.

Thank you for your time and consideration.
Becky Pelishek

From: [Tatum Langley](#)
To: [City Clerk](#)
Subject: In Support of Urban Hens
Date: Tuesday, August 11, 2020 11:43:27 PM

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

Dear Council Members,

We live on a 1/4 acre suburban neighborhood in Bakersfield, likely developed by Councilman Bruce Freeman. Within one mile, there are six other families (that we know of) who own hens.

Our family owns seven hens. We started with four two years ago and added another 3 baby chicks this spring. They're a very useful part of our backyard ecosystem. We grow hundreds of pounds of food from our garden and home orchard (all packed into our suburban lot). We do this using nature's ecosystem and with zero chemicals (so no pesticides, herbicides, or insecticides tainting the city's water supply). The hens play an integral role in this method, which uses permaculture principles and integrated pest management.

We make our own compost, and the hens provide an important nitrogen source to heat up the compost pile (hot composting is an effective way to keep rodents and other critters away, as the pile reaches 140+ degrees). When the pile cools in the winter, there have been some critters. Mice love to nest in a compost pile and cockroaches will outlast us all. But the solution? Open the compost bin door and send the flock in! They've eaten more mice and cockroaches from the deep reaches of the compost corners than I could count. The hens help strike a balance within this system and truly serve important roles.

And no, the cockroaches and mice don't come for the hen food, as there are a multitude of food storage and serving solutions to avoid that problem, and nearly all chicken owners are well versed in prevention of those issues. By the way, as someone who is terrified of cockroaches, I can tell you with all certainty that 10 years ago when I relandscaped and tore out a concrete border around nothing but a plot of grass and a few shallow holes from our only pet - a dog - they were already there. In the hundreds. The existence of chickens on a property won't exacerbate the local rodent, pest, or mosquito issues - they're already a problem. (If you're not sure how bad it is, go stand on a sidewalk in downtown Bakersfield around 8pm and watch them crawl from the sewers in droves! They're there at dusk for the walk back to your

car after a nice dinner out, and they're even there to greet you at 11pm as you leave a Condors game.)

Of course, the hens also produce nutrient-dense, deep orange eggs (impacted by their diet rich in xanthophylls and full of vitamins and minerals from fresh produce, grass, and bugs). Our young children excitedly search for new eggs daily.

These nutritious eggs have been more important than ever in the midst of a pandemic, with a tighter budget than ever and a new reliance on unemployment funds for our household.

There are many other benefits as well, especially when raising children *and* raising hens! These include the science lessons, the cooking lessons (how many ways can we make quiche?), and the really important stuff like teaching responsibility, hard work, compassionate care for animals, avoiding screen time, and contributing to the family unit.

The benefits of backyard hens for all residents of Bakersfield are real and important to families and our community.

I'd like to emphasize that the report states that the City only receives approximately ten (10) complaints annually. In a city of nearly 400,000 residents, this is extremely low. Furthermore, many residents already own chickens in the city (case in point). Our own neighbors had chickens for *five* years before we even knew.

As others have said, backyard hen ownership is everywhere in our city in R-1 neighborhoods. It has been for years. Ownership numbers have been going up over the past years while complaints have been going down. If you do not support this proposed ordinance regarding backyard hens, thousands of Bakersfield families will continue to own them anyway. But... for the sake of our fellow city dwellers who have intolerant neighbors, we truly hope you will support all of our rights to food sustainability and sovereignty.

Hens deserve a place in the backyards of city residents. Just as with the Victory Gardens following both world wars, we're in unprecedented times and our food supply has shown its fragility. If yappy dogs have a place in the backyard, then so should hens.

I support backyard hens and ask for your support as well.

Thank you for your time and consideration!

Chicken Owner Anonymous

From: [Janie Lugo](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: City Council meeting 8/12 3:30 pm
Date: Tuesday, August 11, 2020 12:37:29 PM

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

Dear Members of the Bakersfield City Council,

Thank you for taking the time to hear the community's concerns regarding backyard hens.

The presentation you will hear that was put together by the City Planning Department does not point out all the benefits of backyard hens but mostly concentrates on the potential negatives.

With the ownership of any animal as a pet there are always some things you have to take into consideration. Reptiles, parrots, even dogs and cats can be carriers of Salmonella as well as many other diseases. E.coli, salmonella, parasites, ringworm, and fleas are all things that our beloved dogs and cats are potential carriers of. However these potential risks do not prevent us from dog and cat ownership.

Salmonella transmission from chickens is one of the easiest things to avoid, and the majority of people who own chickens are already aware of this potential risk. You are far more likely to get food related illness from badly handled commercially produced food items. The answer to this concern over salmonella risk is to practice good hygiene and wash your hands. Washing your hands is something that should be done after handling any and all of our pets. Hopefully, considering Covid 19, good handwashing is something we have all learned in the last 6 months.

I believe that being allowed to own backyard hens within the city limits of Bakersfield will create many positive benefits for our citizens. Waste management, organic eggs, chickens raised in a humane and healthy environment, free organic compost for our gardens, pest control, fresh organic eggs, positive learning experiences for our children, affectionate pets etc.

I believe that the positive benefits far outweigh the possible concerns and that allowing backyard hens within the city limits of Bakersfield will greatly enhance our quality of life.

Again, thank you for taking the time to read all our emails and hear us out.

Thank you,

Janie Boland

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

From: [Bruce Bagwell](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: Council Member Weir RE: Legalization of Backyard Hens
Date: Tuesday, August 11, 2020 4:14:33 PM

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

Dear Sir,

I wish to communicate my emphatically strong support for backyard hens. I have never involved myself in any political matter other than voting before. However, this issue is of great importance to me. I live in Ward 3 and as such you are my representative. It is my understanding that in the past you have been opposed to backyard hens. I strongly recommend that you reconsider. Having lived here for many years, I can say with certainty that many residents in my ward currently own chickens. If you walked around the ward as extensively as I have, you would realize just how common it is to have chickens. Many even have roosters, for which I am not advocating. In one walk I counted 5 different locations with roosters. This means that all their neighbors have accepted chickens as a reasonable and acceptable situation.

Food security is a major concern in our community. Even before this pandemic many family have shown concern about clean and secure food. Many are looking to grow their own food or to purchase from local small farmers such as Covenant Pastures (a local grass fed, grass finished beef operation), Broadfork Acres and Pickalittle Farms who provide clean and naturally grown produce. Teh pandemic just served to show how close to breaking the industrial food system is.

Chickens also provide family entertainment, develop responsibilities for children, teach families about stuff that almost all families knew in my parents day. Chickens are great pest control and provide amazing garden services in fertility, bug management, and weed suppression.

I have had chickens in the past as a kid and as an adult. Properly managed they are quieter than lawn mowers and dogs and so many other noise makers. Their noisy times are short and never at night, unlike dogs. They do not smell, unless they are poorly managed, the same as cats or dogs. As far as diseases, they are a concern, but no more than any other animal, wild or domestic, (or from onions...).

I further wish to express my dismay at the staff packet you have been presented with. It has a clear bias against chickens and has left out many items which show how well chickens integrate into a city like Bakersfield. Cities like Los Angeles, San Diego, Seattle and Phoenix have quite liberal policies regarding chickens.

This issue is one that has been growing and developing. I have started a petition that has so far had 769 signatures in support of the legalization of backyard hens. I am a part of a Facebook group called the City of Bakersfield Backyard Chicken Initiative. This group has 390 members and they are all in active support of backyard hens. We provide support, education, and resources for people in Bakersfield with chickens. Some people end up with an accidental rooster and we help re-home them. When COVID is no longer a threat, we will have workshops and coop tours. I am also a part of the Bakersfield Permaculture Gardening Club (a Facebook group) with 955 members, people who are also concerned with clean and healthy food issues and are generally supportive of backyard hens. This group also provides workshops and garden tours, many of which include chickens. This is a growing movement.

It may be time to re-envision Bakersfield as a "live and let live" town which is proud of individual freedom, which believes that its citizens can and do make rational choices and respect each other. Maybe this city can be known and valued as a hen friendly town.

Respectfully

Bruce Bagwell
2908 Maywood Dr
Bakersfield CA 93306
951/400-2793

From: [Sarah Appleton](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: All Council members- Support chickens
Date: Monday, August 10, 2020 12:53:11 PM

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

Dear council members, Please support amending the current city ordinance to allow backyard hens. The benefits of backyard hens to families are numerous including food security and teaching opportunities for children. These are always important, but especially now given the covid situation. The potential benefits far outweigh potential concerns or problems and I urge you to support this important change.
Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,
Dr. Sarah Appleton, LMFT, PsyD

From: [Ryan R. Dembosky](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: Support Chickens
Date: Monday, August 10, 2020 8:57:22 AM

Bakersfield City Council -

I am writing this letter to express my sincere support for the legalization of Backyard Hens.

After having reviewed the workshop packet provided to our organization I feel compelled to personally document my expressed desire to see our community legalize backyard chicken ownership. Bakersfield is an agriculture hub for the Central Valley and on many occasions has claimed to be a "progressive community".

I am writing to remind the council that progress takes many different shapes and forms. Currently - Bakersfield citizens are becoming increasingly interested in local food sourcing (this existed prior to Covid-19 - but as a urban farming community member I can attest to the increase in interest in personal food sourcing as of late). Responsible chicken ownership is a crucial and vital link in the backyard garden setting.

It is important for the council to understand that backyard hen ownership is NOT the sound of a rooster crowing, it is not a smell of an agricultural field and it is not the disturbance fear would dictate.

Backyard hen ownership is a clean, quiet and healthy way for our local community to source yet another means of providing food for their family and functions as an educational tool for our friends, family's and neighbors.

Overall - there is no downside to providing legalization for reasonable backyard hen ownership and I truly hope the council sides with the members of the BUBH group to provided a positive outlet for our community.

Respectfully submitted,

Ryan R. Dembosky
Fire Engineer, Bakersfield Fire Dept.

From: [Bruce Bagwell](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: RE backyard hens. keepingchickens.pdf
Date: Monday, August 10, 2020 6:53:33 PM
Attachments: [keepingchickens.pdf](#)

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

Attached is a flier published by the City of San Diego regarding their chicken ordinance.

Please read and support legalizing freedom in relation to hens.

Respectfully
Bruce Bagwell

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

KEEPING CHICKENS

in the CITY OF SAN DIEGO

In January 2012 the City of San Diego amended its Municipal Code to allow residents of single family homes, community gardens, and retail farms to keep and maintain chickens. The specific regulations are located in Section 42.0709 and can be found by downloading the following: [Chap 04 Art 02 Div 07, Animals and Poultry](#).

The number of chickens that may be kept on your property is based on how far the chicken coop is from your property lines (zone setback).

Generally, most single family homes in the City of San Diego would be allowed up to five chickens provided the chicken coop were located in the rear yard, 5 feet from side property lines, and 13 feet from the rear property line.

For specific information regarding the zone setback for your property go to the following link and type in your address: [View your property by address](#). You will then receive the zone name for your property. A link to "More Info" takes you to another page that directs you to the regulations for your zone. When viewing the regulations go to the Development Regulations Table for your zone and look up "Setback Requirements." You can also call the Development Services Department's information line at (619) 446-5000, provide your address and request the name of your zone and the zoning setback information. You will receive a return call with the information.



BENEFITS

There are many benefits that come with backyard chickens.

- A healthy adult hen generally lays up to 300 eggs a year. Five hens would supply approximately 30 eggs a week which would meet the needs of a typical family of four.
- Backyard eggs contain 25 percent more vitamin E, 33 percent more vitamin A, and 75 percent more beta carotene.
- Home raising reduces the need for transporting eggs from farm/factory to store to home resulting in a reduction in carbon emissions and packaging materials.
- Many see a benefit in knowing that the chickens are raised and fed in humane conditions.
- Chicken manure can be added to compost piles or used directly as a fertilizer when tilled into the soil.

RISKS

Health risks that can result from handling chickens or anything in the areas they occupy. Young children and those with immune impairment are especially at risk. Chickens may have Salmonella germs in their droppings and on their bodies even though they appear healthy. Salmonella can make people sick with diarrhea and fever, often with vomiting and abdominal cramps

REDUCING THE RISKS

- Do not let children younger than 5 years of age handle or touch chickens without supervision.
- Wash hands thoroughly with soap and water immediately after touching chickens or anything in the area where they occupy. Avoid touching your mouth before washing your hands. Use hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.
- Adults should supervise hand washing for young children.
- Wash hands after removing soiled clothes and shoes.
- Do not eat or drink in the area the chickens occupy.
- Do not let chickens inside the house or in areas where food or drink is prepared, served, or stored, such as kitchens, pantries, or outdoor patios.
- If you have free-roaming live poultry, assume that where they live and roam is contaminated.
- Clean equipment and materials associated with raising or caring for chickens such as coops, feed containers, and water containers, outside the house, not inside.



SUMMARY OF REGULATIONS

Chickens may be kept and maintained within on property developed with a with a single family residence, a community garden, or a retail farm in accordance with the following:

- No roosters are permitted.
- Up to five chickens may be kept when the coop is located outside of all required setbacks.
- Up to fifteen chickens may be kept when the coop is located 15 feet from all property lines and outside of all required setbacks, whichever is greater.
- Up to 25 chickens may be kept when the chickens are located at least 50 feet from any building used as a residence.
- A chicken coop shall be provided and must be predator proof, easily cleaned, well vented and large enough to provide for the free movement of the chickens.
- The outdoor enclosure shall be predator proof, easily cleaned, fenced to keep the chickens on the property and a minimum of 10 square feet per chicken.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Are chickens dirty?

As with any animal, chickens can be "dirty" if they are not properly cared for. A chicken that is properly cared for is just as clean as a well cared for dog or cat.

Are chickens noisy?

Roosters are noisy and prohibited. A hen will cackle at times during the day, and will occasionally squawk, but these, and most other sounds, are not very loud, and are quieter than most everything else that occurs in the surrounding neighborhood. Hens sleep once it is dark.

FAQS CONTINUED...

Should you have more than one hen?

Yes. Chickens have a strong social structure.

Do you have to have a rooster for a hen to lay eggs?

No. Without a rooster, hens will still lay eggs.
Roosters are only necessary to create fertile eggs.
Non-fertile eggs are as nutritious as fertile eggs.

At what age do hens start laying eggs?

Typically hens will start to lay when they are 5- 6 months of age.

How long do they lay eggs before they become non-laying hens?

Peak production generally occurs at two years of age and slowly declines thereafter. For this reason it is a good practice to vary the ages of your hens so that the older hens may "retire" while the younger ones continue to produce eggs.

How long do chickens live?

The typical life expectancy seems to be 5 to 10 years depending on care and protection from predators.

How do you deal with excrement?

It makes excellent compost, especially when combined with materials high in carbon such as the shavings, straw, and sawdust which are often used for litter. The mixture of these makes a balanced mixture for a compost pile.



OTHER INFORMATION RESOURCES

- USDA Food Safety & Inspection Service: www.fsis.usda.gov
- Centers for Disease Control (CDC) - Handling Chicks: www.cdc.gov
- San Diego County Veterinarian - Dead Animal Disposal: www.sdcountry.ca.gov
- Internet searches will provide many sites on how to get started and what you need to do to keep and maintain healthy egg laying chickens.



From: [David Brust](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: In favor of Bakersfield chicken ordinance
Date: Monday, August 10, 2020 2:22:02 PM

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

City of Bakersfield
August 10, 2020

Date:

City Clerk's Office
1600 Truxtun Avenue
Bakersfield, CA 93301

Subject: In Favor of the pending Bakersfield City Chicken Ordinance

Dear City Council,

I and my family are in favor of a Bakersfield City Ordinance that would allow homeowners to raise and care for hens. The COVID-19 Pandemic put a spot light on our food insecurity which continues today. In the beginning of the pandemic we had a run on things like toilet paper and bleach, but we had a larger run on foods including meat, poultry, milk and eggs. Many people legitimately worried about feeding their families and children. The need for responsible chicken ownership within the City of Bakersfield has never been more important than now.

The ability for our families to grow vegetables in backyard gardens is part of the answer to food insecurity and thousands of residents started gardens this year for that reason. They started these gardens to provide for their families, but vegetables aren't enough. We need a good source of protein and the best source within the City are fresh local chicken eggs.

Contrary to perpetuated myths chickens do not stink, they do not create more flies nor are hens loud. Four hens produce less feces than a small dog and unlike dogs their feces are used in gardens creating a net zero waste. Chickens are omnivores and besides eating grass, table scraps and chicken scratch they also eat bugs. While we all remember the rooster call as the "wake up call," in cartoons and movies these calls are not made from hens which are the egg laying of the two. Roosters aren't needed to produce eggs. Many of these myths are centered on large growing operations with thousands of chickens we are not seeking to own thousands of chickens, just a few for food and companionship. Hens make great pets and they can help to teach our children to be responsible and caring something we all can agree our society needs.

Please vote in favor of legal hen ownership in the City of Bakersfield our children and families need the food security and a legal opportunity to have these wonderful pets and providers.

Thanks,

David Brust

225 Oleander Avenue

Bakersfield, CA 93304

From: [MT Merickel](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: Support Chickens All Council Members
Date: Sunday, August 9, 2020 9:25:10 PM

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

Dear Council Members,

I support backyard chickens.

I read the workshop document for this upcoming Council meeting and it was not written in a way that will provide you with a balanced understanding of the important topics.

The author did not even address topics like: number of hens allowed, no permit or permit, and hens as pets versus farm animals. The topics the author did address in some detail, minimum lot size and setbacks, were so obviously one sided it is laughable. For example, four developed paragraphs for the larger examples to one paragraph for the lower examples. The one paragraph that was to inform you of the lower possible ranges was poorly written. Of the two cities that were mentioned in this paragraph the author only provided us with one example. The author failed to mention one of the city's minimum lot size and setbacks completely. How is that possible? This was the city the author chose to inform you of the possible lower end range. For some reason, the author then confuses the readers by getting off topic and mentioning a bird limit number.

If I had written an informative essay like this in class I would not have earned a passing grade. My teacher would have picked apart my flaws and then wrote on the top, "This is not an informative essay. It is a persuasive essay." And, you know, the kind of grade I would have received.

Please, study and analyze the chart of the ten comparable cities that the author provided. There are actually very favorable examples that are not extremely restrictive for the backyard hen owner. I do not understand why that was not shared with you in the author's writing. If you get a chance at the Council meeting, will you please ask the author to explain how this section is an example of balanced and objective writing and not blatant biased persuasion. I would be interested in hearing that answer.

Also, don't be persuaded with the author's conclusion. The author uses a lot of "may" and "potential" words. The document has factual information that shows it is reasonable to allow backyard hens. The real discussion now has to be about working out the details of what that looks like. There has to be a compromise that can be reached through collaboration. When you do begin to make those decisions, please make sure that you have been presented both sides of the discussion, so you may make an informed decision. I hope the author of this document has another chance to do a better job of that.

Thank you.

Future Voter,

Jack Merickel

From: [Sean Starr](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: Ward 3- Backyard Hens
Date: Saturday, August 8, 2020 4:20:42 PM

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

Hello,

My name is Sean Starr. I am a resident of Ward Three and a local teacher for the Kern High School District. I support the city adopting a new law that allows backyard hens. Roosters should still be illegal within city limits, but given the state of the country backyard chickens can help improve citizens access to affordable food. I propose that the limit of hens be ten per household. If the city council is against new legislation like this i would be in favor of a candidate that was. Thank you for your time.

From: [MT Merickel](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: Support Backyard Hens - All Council Members
Date: Saturday, August 8, 2020 4:23:22 PM

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

Dear Council Members,

I have been following the topic of backyard hens for months. After reading Friday's published workshop packet presentation this morning, I felt compelled to write to you to make sure you heard my voice of being in favor of amending the current City ordinance to allow backyard hens in the R-1 zone.

I support backyard hen ownership.

I do not believe that the conclusion of the workshop packet is fair or balanced. To dismiss all the benefits that are factual and true, while siding with concerns that are "potential", few, and that have working solutions for, is something I encourage you to reflect on.

The benefits are real and important to families, neighbors and neighborhoods. The conclusion should have been in the mindset of working together to develop a plan to make this work. Or, the conclusion should have left it up to the Council to draw their own conclusions. But, to have written such a negatively biased and unbalanced conclusion is not right. Nor is it accurate.

The report clearly states that the City only receives approximately ten (10) complaints annually.

Please keep this in mind when the City Employee presents to you on Wednesday. Every time you hear a statement of "potential" and "possible" remember the residents of Bakersfield are already making this work. Only approximately ten (10) annual complaints. Backyard hen ownership is everywhere in our city in R-1 neighborhoods. It has been for years. Ownership numbers have been going up over the past years while complaints have been going down. This is factual. Remember, only approximately ten (10) annual complaints.

Please ask the City Employee who presents to you on Wednesday at 3:30 to justify the stated conclusion. It just doesn't make sense, and it is not right to keep the benefits of hen ownership from the families of Bakersfield.

I support backyard hens.

Sincerely,
Heather Merickel

From: [MT Merickel](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: All Council Members - Supporting Chickens
Date: Saturday, August 8, 2020 4:30:41 PM

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

Dear Council Members,
I support having backyard chickens. Please consider changing the law to allow this. I think having chickens as pets have many more benefits than negatives. Many of my friends do too.
Thank you,
Luke Merickel

From: [Paul Grubb](#)
To: [City Clerk](#)
Subject: Backyard hens
Date: Friday, August 7, 2020 9:36:24 PM

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

Dear members,

I lived in Portland Oregon for many years. As you know Portland is a large metropolitan city. They also allow backyard hens, no roosters. They have a limit on the number of hens you can keep of course. And conditions they need to be kept in like any animal. They are a great source of steady protein with egg production. That's becoming more important in the situation we have now. It's a great self reliance tool. They are clean and quiet. Great for kids as a learning experience. They recycle most food scraps and waste that ends up in the landfill. There just isn't enough of any downside to keep them out of our backyards. I respectfully ask that you allow us to bring this valuable resource into and onto our private property. Thankyou

Paul Grubb

Sent from my Boost Mobile Phone.

From: [MT Merickel](#)
To: jacque@libertystar.net; bobsmith727@icloud.com; [Andrade, Giselle](#)
Cc: [bakersfield mayor](#); [Paul Johnson](#)
Subject: Backyard Hens
Date: Tuesday, August 4, 2020 8:24:35 AM

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

Dear Council Members Sullivan, Smith and Gonzales, (Giselle Andrade, please forward to Mr. Gonzales):

You are the only Council Members that have taken me up on my numerous offers and requests to have a conversation regarding backyard hens. Thank you.

I have been informed that backyard hens will most likely be on the August 12th, 3:30 City Council meeting agenda as a workshop presentation.

I am sharing three videos with you that our group, Bakersfield Urban Backyard Hens, have produced as a Public Service Announcement with hopes of educating the public. These are actual Bakersfield residents and their backyard hens.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mIqbGVpEWUo>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eZ22g20FcwI>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MLryq5_nehI&t=58s

The videos are short. They average about five minutes in length. I hope you find the time to watch them prior to the August 12th meeting. I am confident that you will enjoy seeing healthy, happy Bakersfield residents sharing their interest in backyard hens with others.

As always, you are welcome to reach out to me with any questions. Thank you again for your support of backyard hens and for your service to our great city.

Sincerely,
MT Merickel
thebubh.wixsite.com/bubh

From: [Susan Hopkins](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: attn. Council Member Bruce Freeman - Backyard Hens Initiative
Date: Wednesday, July 22, 2020 7:53:43 PM

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

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,

Susan Hopkins

From: [Macario Visto](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: Support for Backyard hens; All Council Members
Date: Thursday, July 16, 2020 10:23:34 PM

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

Dear Council Member,

Please support the “City of Bakersfield Backyard Chicken Initiative”. There is wide-spread backing to allow single resident home owners to own a small flock of hens in their backyards. What is your position on this topic?

Thank you,

Macario Jun Visto Jr

From: [Monica Bribiesca](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: Resident of Kern County!! We need hens!!
Date: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 6:47:16 AM

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

Hens would be a great part of our environment in our daily life

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Monica Bribiesca](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: Resident of Kern County. We need hens!!
Date: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 6:51:35 AM

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

Hi my name is Monica Bribiesca. Hens would be a great part of our environment and daily life...it would be great to be open to anyone to raise hens in their back yard it is very beneficial for anyone that would like to have them. We have a big back yard and all the reasons that I'm about to share would be a big reason and benefit for us

From: [Monica Bribiesca](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: Resident of Kern county! We need hens!!
Date: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 6:55:41 AM
Attachments: [image0.jpeg](#)

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

Hi my name is Monica Bribiesca. Hens would be a great part of our environment and daily life...it would be great to be opened to anyone to raise hens in their back yard it is very beneficial for anyone that would like to have them. We have a big back yard and all the reasons that Im about to share will be a big reason and benefit for us



Please make it and open option for anyone who would love to have them!!

Sent from my iPhone



BAKERSFIELD

THE SOUND OF *Something Better*

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE MEMORANDUM

August 17, 2020

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND COUNCILMEMBERS

FROM: JULIE DRIMAKIS, CITY CLERK

**SUBJECT: COUNCIL MEETING OF AUGUST 12, 2020,
AGENDA ITEM WORKSHOPS 3.a.**

Transmitting additional correspondence received.

Attachments
lr

Lorraine Reza

From: Lori Park <lorimpark@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 12, 2020 12:46 PM
To: City_Clerk; Ciy_Council@bakersfieldcity.us
Subject: In support of urban hens

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

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

Dear Council Members,

I support the backyard hen initiative and I hope you'll do the same. While I would not support backyard roosters, hens are quiet, food producing, easily housed pets. The waste produced from these pets amounts to less than a medium sized dog, they don't bark, and they naturally keep insects under control.

Thank you!
Lori Park

Send to: City_Council@bakersfieldcity.us; City_Clerk@bakersfieldcity.us

If you're interested in a little more back story (from what I know), attempts were made in 2012 - 2013 to legalize backyard hens in city limits but the efforts failed. There was different management at the time. A lot has evolved since 2013 in regard to homesteading, edible landscaping, urban gardening/farming, and our food supply and food sovereignty. Even our local restaurant scene looks much different and more progressive than ever before. We believe the time is right to finally legalize hens here, but the time is NOW.

A group of people have worked tirelessly all summer to establish a city ordinance that allows homeowners to maintain a small flock of backyard hens as pets (<https://thebubh.wixsite.com/bubh>).

Tomorrow the City Council has "Urban Hens" as 1 of 2 agenda items and will review the Administrative Report in their meeting. Despite the report stating that the City received 10 (TEN) total complaints last year related to chickens (almost all of them due to roosters), in a city of almost 400,000, the report concluded with negative bias that the staff believes the City's interests would "be best served by protecting the peace, quiet, and quality of life issues that are of paramount concern for single-family neighborhoods."

I can assure you that a flock of backyard hens that provide fresh eggs (and also make sweet, low-maintenance pets), IS peace, quiet, and quality of life for so many families already in Bakersfield!

We know that 3 council members support the ordinance to allow backyard hens. Two oppose it, and 2 are unknown. Four votes will be needed to approve the ordinance.

So PLEASE show your support for our right to raise hens in our own homes and send a public comment at the emails above.

Thank you!!!

Lorraine Reza

From: Katie Rose <krblewis@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 12, 2020 1:58 PM
To: City_Council; City_Clerk
Subject: We support urban hens

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

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



I Love My
chickens and I
think my friends
should have them
too.

Marshall, age 8

Lorraine Reza

From: Marah Jackson <mmarah@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 13, 2020 10:20 AM
To: City_Council; City_Clerk
Subject: In Support of Urban Hens

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

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

Dear Council Members,

I support the backyard hen initiative and I hope you'll do the same.

Thank you!

Marah Meek

Ordinance Concerning the Keeping of Chickens within Comparable Cities

Fremont

6.10.040 Chickens, rabbits, pigeons, doves.

On real property zoned residential with an area of more than 6,000 square feet, a pet owner may keep up to six chickens, rabbits, pigeons, and doves, unless a permit is issued under Chapter [6.40](#). A maximum of two species of those animals allowed under this section may be kept on one lot. (Ord. 16-2018 § 1, 6-5-18.)

Fresno

SEC. 15-2707. ANIMAL KEEPING.

B. Lots of 36,000 Square Feet or Less in Residential Districts.

Household Pets are permitted subject to the following.

2. Prohibited Pets. Household Pets shall not include horses, miniature horses (except as a guide animal), cows, goats, sheep or other equine, bovine, ovine or ruminant animals, pigs, chickens, ducks, geese, turkeys, game birds, or fowl that normally constitute an agricultural use.

C. Lots Greater than 36,000 Square Feet in Residential Districts. In addition to Household Pets, the following are permitted:

1. Permitted Pets. The keeping of horses, cows, goats, sheep or other equine, bovine, ovine or ruminant animals is permitted, as are those identified in Subsection B above.

d. Chickens, Ducks, Geese, Turkeys, Game Birds, or Fowl. Total number shall not exceed 12 birds per gross acre.

4. Setbacks. All animals other than household pets shall be housed or penned at a minimum distance of 40 feet from property lines and 50 feet from neighboring residences (e.g. residential structure). All areas and structures used in conjunction with the keeping of animals other than household pets shall be maintained and cleaned so as not to present a public hazard or nuisance.

Glendale

6.04.050 Number of fowl or rabbits permitted.

A. No person shall keep or maintain more than twelve (12) rabbits, hares, chickens, turkeys, geese, ducks, pigeons or pheasants or any combination thereof, within three hundred (300) feet of any residence or dwelling house other than that occupied by such

person. This section shall not apply to the live sale of poultry, rabbits, canaries or birds of the psittacinae family.

Modesto

10-7.407 - Animals and Fowl.

- (a) There shall be a minimum of forty (40) feet between the window or door of any building used for human habitation and pens, coops, cages or similar housings where animals and fowl, except household pets, are kept.
- (b) There shall be a minimum separation equal to the required side yard between any property line and any pens, coops, cages or similar housings for animals and fowl.
- (c) All animals and fowl shall be kept in conformance with all other laws, ordinances and regulations governing them, including licensing regulations.
- (d) Failure to comply with the provisions of this section shall be unlawful and punishable as an infraction.

Oxnard

SEC. 5-30. RABBITS OR POULTRY.

- (A) Except for registered homing pigeons, no person shall maintain or permit to be maintained more than 25 in all of rabbits or poultry upon any premises located in a residential or commercial zone of the city.

Ontario

5.01.005: Establishment of Base Zoning Districts

A. Residential Zoning Districts.

1. AR-2 (Residential-Agricultural—0 to 2.0 DU/Acre) Zoning District. The AR-2 zoning district is hereby established to accommodate single-family residences on large lots, at a density range of 0 to 2.0 dwelling units per acre, and allow for limited agricultural activities and animal keeping within a rural environment. The AR-2 zoning district is further intended to maintain a rural agricultural heritage and protect the area from suburban infringement, while maintaining a harmonious relationship between the rural and adjacent suburban land uses. The AR-2 zoning district is consistent with and implements the Rural Residential land use designation of the Policy Plan component of The Ontario Plan.
2. RE-2 Rural Estate—0 to 2.0 DU/Acre) Zoning District. The RE-2 zoning district is hereby established to accommodate single-family residences on larger lots, at a density range of 0 to 2.0 dwelling units per acre, in a semi-rural environment where limited animal keeping is permitted. The RE-2 zoning district is consistent with and implements the Rural Residential land use designation of the Policy Plan component of The Ontario Plan.

5.03.410: Urban Agriculture

(1) Residential Zones. Residential animal keeping is permitted by right within the AR-2 and RE-2 zoning districts in conjunction with a single-family dwelling.

(c) Proximity of Animals to Yards, Property Lines, Dwellings and Residential Accessory Structures—

(iii) It shall be unlawful for any person to keep any hobby, show or game bird, fowl, or rabbit, other than a household pet, within 30 FT of any structure, other than that of the owner, which is used for human habitation, or for educational, health care, social assistance, religious assembly, food service, or governmental purposes.

(e) Maximum Animal Keeping Densities. Table 5.03-7 (Maximum Animal Keeping Densities as an Accessory Use), below, establishes the maximum number of animals that may be maintained on a lot, provided the particular animal type is allowed pursuant to Table 5.01-1

H. Poultry and Fowl One animal for each 1,000 SF of lot area

Pasadena

6.20.030 - Fowls and rabbits—Keeping.

A. It is declared to be a nuisance, and no person shall keep geese, ducks, turkeys, pheasants, doves, pigeons, squabs or similar fowls or rabbits, owned or controlled by him or it within 50 feet of any street line or within 50 feet of any property line, or within 100 feet of any dwelling house or structure used as a dwelling, church, school, hospital or place where food products are kept, stored, manufactured or served to the public, unless such house or structure is occupied by him or it.

B. It is declared to be a nuisance, and no person shall keep chickens owned or controlled by him or it within 35 feet of any dwelling house or structure used as a dwelling, church, school, hospital or place where food products are kept, stored, manufactured or served to the public, unless such house or structure is occupied by him or it, and not within a required setback as prescribed in the zoning code, or to keep any rooster inside the city limits of Pasadena.

6.20.031 - Chickens—Enclosure and shelter.

Adequate enclosure or fencing shall be required sufficient to contain live chickens on the property to prevent escape. The enclosure shall be a minimum size of ten (10) square feet of permeable land per chicken. Adequate shelter shall be required sufficient to protect chickens from the elements, and to prevent wildlife or other predators from gaining entry.

6.20.032 - Chickens—Registration required.

No person shall have, keep, maintain, or have custody or control of live chickens on residential property within the city without first registering with the poundmaster, and

submitting a completed self-certification which verifies that the owner complies with the requirements of this chapter.

6.20.040 - Fowls and rabbits—Number allowed.

It is declared to be a nuisance and no person shall keep on any premises more than 10 in all of chickens, geese, ducks, turkeys, pheasants, doves, pigeons, squabs or similar fowls, rabbits, or birds of the psittacinae family; provided, however, that this provision shall not apply to veterinary hospitals, pet shops, or medical and research laboratories.

Riverside

19.455.030 - Site location, operation and development standards.

The standards set forth in Article V, Base Zones and Related Use and Development Provisions, shall apply to all domestic and non-domestic animal keeping unless otherwise specified here.

A. Domestic animal keeping.

1. Domestic animal keeping is permitted in all residential and mixed use zones.

B. Non-domestic animal keeping in the RR Zone.

1. Poultry, rabbits, crowing fowl and crowing roosters.

a. A minimum lot size of 20,000 square feet of net area is required for the noncommercial keeping of any poultry or rabbits.

b. The noncommercial keeping of not more than five poultry and four rabbits is permitted. Such animals shall be housed, kept or penned at least 50 feet from any residence on an adjoining lot or parcel, excluding the residence on the lot where the animals are kept.

c. Where poultry and rabbits are housed, kept, or penned at least 100 feet from any residence, excluding the residence on the lot where the animals are kept, the noncommercial keeping of not more than 50 poultry and 45 rabbits on any lot is permitted.

d. Additional poultry and rabbits for noncommercial or commercial purposes may be permitted subject to the granting of a Minor Conditional Use Permit.

C. Non-domestic animal keeping in the RA-5 Zone.

1. Poultry, rabbits, crowing fowl and crowing roosters.

a. The noncommercial keeping of not more than five poultry, including crowing fowl (except crowing roosters), and 18 rabbits is permitted. Such animals shall be housed, kept or penned at least 50 feet from any residence on an adjoining lot or parcel, including the residence on the lot where the animals are kept.

b. Where poultry and rabbits are housed, kept, or penned at least 100 feet from any residence, the noncommercial keeping of not more than 50 poultry, and 45 rabbits on any lot is permitted. The keeping of not more than seven crowing roosters are permitted on any lot, provided that such roosters are housed from sunset to sunrise in an acoustical structure so as to reduce noise emitted by such roosters and such structure is at least 100 feet from any residential structure on an adjoining lot.

- c. Additional poultry and rabbits for noncommercial or commercial purposes may be permitted subject to the granting of a discretionary permit.
- D. Non-domestic animal keeping in the RC Zone.
 - 1. Poultry, rabbits crowing fowl and crowing roosters.
 - a. The noncommercial keeping of not more than five poultry, including crowing fowl (except crowing roosters), and 18 rabbits is permitted. Such animals shall be housed, kept or penned at least 50 feet from any residence on an adjoining lot or parcel, including the residence on the lot where the animals are kept.
 - b. Where poultry and rabbits are housed, kept, or penned at least 100 feet from any residence, the noncommercial keeping of not more than 50 poultry and 45 rabbits on any lot is permitted. The keeping of not more than seven crowing roosters are permitted on any lot, provided that such roosters are housed from sunset to sunrise in an acoustical structure so as to reduce noise emitted by such roosters and such structure is at least 100 feet from any residential structure on an adjoining lot.
 - c. Additional poultry and rabbits for noncommercial or commercial purposes may be permitted subject to the granting of a discretionary permit.

San Bernardino

6.05.020 Domestic Fowl Not Permitted Within Fifty Feet of Human Dwelling

It is unlawful for any person, firm, or corporation to keep, or cause to be kept, or allow to roam, any domestic fowl within fifty feet of any building or structure used or intended for human occupancy.

6.05.030 Domestic Fowl Permitted If Kept More than Fifty Feet Away From Human Dwelling

It is unlawful for any person, firm or corporation to keep, or cause to be kept or allowed to roam, more than two domestic fowls between fifty and one hundred feet of any building or structure used or intended for human occupancy. The maximum number of domestic fowl on any lot is twenty-four fowl.

Stockton

6.04.420 Keeping and maintaining animals or domestic fowl.

It is unlawful for any person, firm, or corporation to keep any domestic or wild animal (excluding dogs, cats and other household pets), reptile, apiary, or fowl, within the City except where permitted within a particular zone or district as provided in the Development Code of the City.

TABLE 3-14 ANIMAL-KEEPING STANDARDS

Poultry, fowl (not including roosters or cockerels)	100 animals per acre	1/2 acre	50 feet	RE, IG
-----------------------------------------------------	----------------------	----------	---------	--------

IG is an industrial zone.

Minimum lot size in the RE (Residential Estate) Zone District is 1 acre.

Ownership of Chickens in Urban Residential Zones

City Council Workshop

August 12, 2020



1918

- Ordinance prohibited chickens unless kept securely enclosed in a yard or pen at all times

2011

- Ordinance allowed chickens in agricultural and agricultural-type residential zones

2012-2013 (Committee)

- November 2012 - present ordinance options to CC
- April 2013 - deny options for an expanded allowance for chickens in the ordinance.



History

Current Ordinance allows for the Breeding, Hatching, Raising of Poultry and Fowl

Permitted Zones

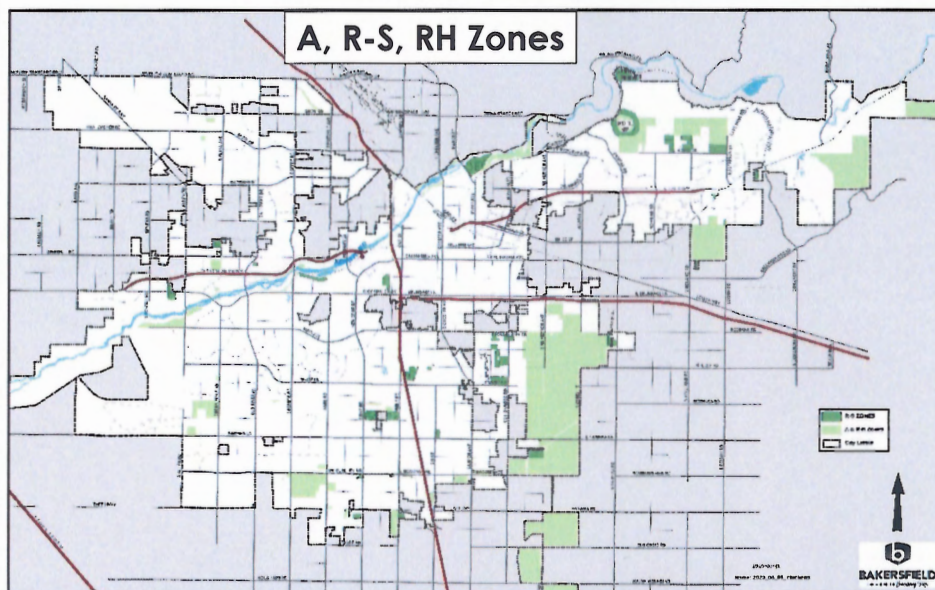
- A (Agricultural) Zone
- RH (Residential Holding) Zone
- R-S (Residential Suburban) Zone
 - 24,000 sq. ft. minimum lot size

Limitations

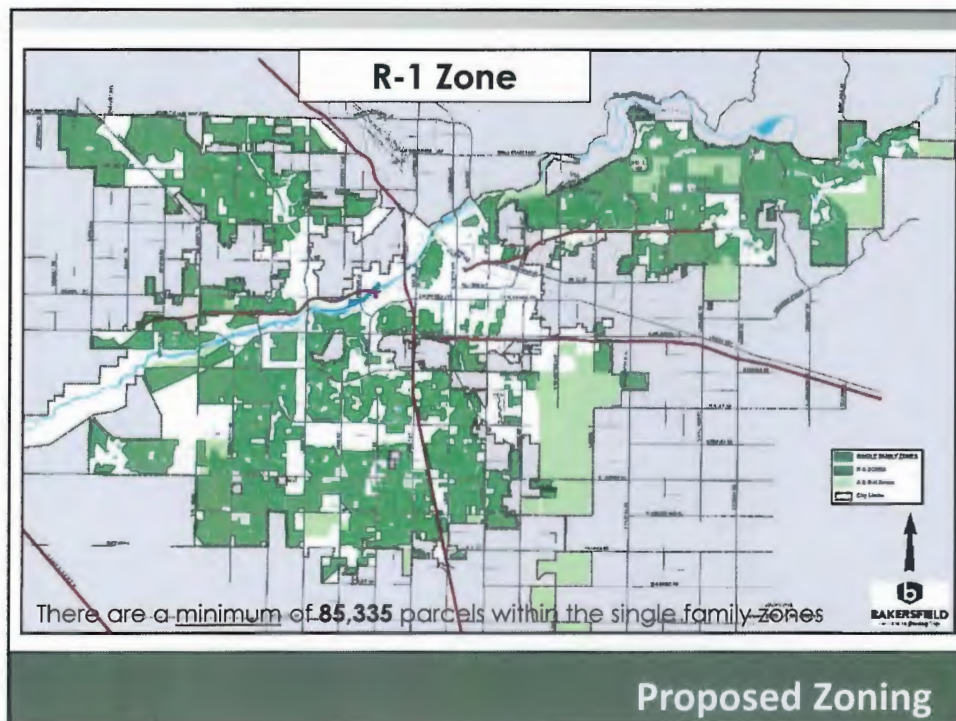
- Enclosed in a yard or pen at all times.
- 100 ft. setback from front lot line, 50 ft. to residence in the R-S Zone.



Current Regulations



Current Zoning



Pros

There are potential benefits to keeping chickens:

- Fresh eggs; food security, and lessens need for commercially produced eggs.
- Pest control; reduces bugs.
- Waste (manure); enhancement to compost.
- Chickens are pets; can be relaxing, calming, social, and entertaining animals.
- Inexpensive animals; easy to maintain.



Pro - Con



Welcome to Bakersfield Urban Backyard Hens

Known as: B.U.B.H. and pronounced 'bub' because the 'H' is quiet, just like our backyard hens. The "egg song" only occurs when laying and never at night!

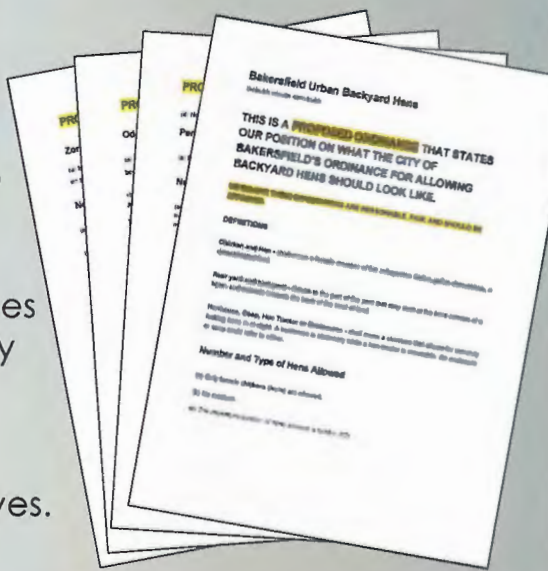



Proponent

Proposed Ordinance
"we believe these expectations are reasonable, fair, and should be approved."

But, the ordinance does not address potentially negative impacts –

Focus is only on positives.

All Pro Information

Cons

Chickens can be attributed to multiple nuisances:

- Sanitation issues; with odors and flies
- Noise from roosters; some dominant hens crow.
- Attract rodents and vermin to feed and manure.
- Health concerns with e-coli and salmonella
- Chicks can be difficult to sex; not all chicks are sold as hens
- Respiratory diseases; easily spread to other birds



Pro - Con

BackYard Chickens

Home About News Links Help

Learn more Register

If this is your first time on BYC, we suggest you start with one of these three options:

- [Raising Chicken 101](#)
- [Over 2,500 Chicken Coops](#)
- [Why Join BYC?](#)

Join BYC FREE here to see fewer ads, post questions, & [produce yourself](#) in our community forum.


Featured Content

- [10 Great Coops Made From Recycled Materials](#)
- [10 Great Coops Made From Recycled Materials](#)

Stats Online Recent

Threads:	1,322,466
Messages:	22,367,468
Members:	417,393
Latest member:	MikaelaW11
Recent bookmarks:	2

Research



Dog barking at chickens

Help! New neighbor suddenly hates chickens!
Bantumbarnyard · Jul 28, 2020

Mites? Scaley LEG MITes?!?
Neighbor threatened to shoot chickens

Coccidiosis -Please help! I think my chicken has this :-(
chickens45 · Jul 23, 2020

How to get rid of smell?
Need advice/help for sick, dying flock
alladnar · Yesterday at 4:21 PM

Chicken Fight
Brandy2512 · Jul 27, 2020

Help! There is a skunk in my coop now!
webbysmeme · Mar 1, 2020

RATS RATS EVERYWHERE!
equivix · Jun 11, 2020

Chicks dropping dead
MargieandMagic · Tuesday at 5:33 PM

Research

Outbreaks of *Salmonella* Infections Linked to Backyard Poultry


Investigation Notice

Posted July 29, 2020 at 6:00 PM ET

CDC and public health officials in 48 states are investigating 15 multistate outbreaks of *Salmonella* infections linked to contact with poultry in backyard flocks, such as chicks and ducklings. The number of illnesses reported this year exceeds the number reported at the same time of the year in previous outbreaks linked to backyard flocks.

Stay healthy around your backyard flock by washing your hands, keeping your birds outside your house, and supervising young children around your flock.

Latest Outbreak Information



- Since the last update on June 24, 2020, 473 more ill people were added to this investigation.
- As of July 28, 2020, 938 people infected with one of the outbreak strains of *Salmonella* have been reported from 48 states.
 - 151 people (33% of those with information available) have been hospitalized.
 - One death in Oklahoma has been reported.
 - 28% of ill people are children younger than 5 years of age.

At A Glance

- Reported Cases: 938
- States: 48
- Hospitalizations: 151
- Death: 1

Research

Because of the potential negative aspects, cities adopt ordinances and require permits. . .

- Ordinance addresses . . . Minimum lot size, enclosure size, setbacks of enclosure to dwellings and to property lines.
- Maximum number of chickens (or other fowl).
- Use of chicken eggs; personal or business sales.
- Adjacent property owner signature in agreement.
- Establish contingency plan for the removal of animals that have expired.
- Provides a permitting structure to promote success and minimize conflict with neighbors.



Standards - Guidelines

Purpose is to mitigate adverse impacts on adjacent properties by reason of dust, noise, visual blight, odor, fumes, bright lights, insect infestations, etc.

Comparable City Research					
City	Allowed - Y/N	Maximum No.	Minimum Lot Size	Setback (to on-site residence)	Setback (to off-site residence)
Fremont	Y	6	6,000 sf	--	--
Fresno	Y	12 per acre	36,000 sf	40 feet to PL	50 feet
Glendale	Y	12	--	--	300 feet
Modesto	Y	12	--	40 feet	40 feet
Ontario	Y	1 per 1000 sf	1/2 acre	30 feet	30 feet
Oxnard	Y	25	--	--	--
Pasadena	Y	10	--	outside setback area	35 feet
Riverside	Y	5 to 50	20,000 sf to 5 acres	--	50 to 100 feet
San Bernardino	Y	2 to 24	--	50 to 100	50 to 100 feet
Stockton	Y	100 per acre	1 acre	50 feet	50 feet



Comparable Cities

Mitigate adverse impacts through setbacks. . .

Comparable City Research					
City	Allowed - Y/N	Maximum No.	Minimum Lot Size	Setback (to on-site residence)	Setback (to off-site residence)
Fremont	Y	6	6,000 sf	--	--
Fresno	Y	12 per acre	36,000 sf	40 feet to PL	50 feet
Glendale	Y	12	--	--	300 feet
Modesto	Y	12	--	40 feet	40 feet
Ontario	Y	1 per 1000 sf	1/2 acre	30 feet	30 feet
Oxnard	Y	25	--	--	--
Pasadena	Y	10	--	outside setback area	35 feet
Riverside	Y	5 to 50	20,000 sf to 5 acres	--	50 to 100 feet
San Bernardino	Y	2 to 24	--	50 to 100	50 to 100 feet
Stockton	Y	100 per acre	1 acre	50 feet	50 feet



Comparable Cities



Large lots to achieve 30 foot setback. 7 of 74 lots.

Setback Scenario



Or mitigate adverse impacts through both . . .

Comparable City Research					
City	Allowed - Y/N	Maximum No.	Minimum Lot Size	Setback (to on-site residence)	Setback (to off-site residence)
Fremont	Y	6	6,000 sf	--	--
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Glendale	Y	12	--	--	300 feet
Modesto	Y	12	--	40 feet	40 feet
Ontario	Y	1 per 1,000 sf	1/2 acre	30 feet	30 feet
Oxnard	Y	25	--	--	--
Pasadena	Y	10	--	outside setback area	35 feet
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Stockton	Y	100 per acre	1 acre	50 feet	50 feet



Spoke with Officer Edith Villalobos of Oxnard PD

Comparable City Research					
City	Allowed - Y/N	Maximum No.	Minimum Lot Size	Setback (to on-site residence)	Setback (to off-site residence)
Fremont	Y	6	6,000 sf	--	--
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San Bernardino	Y	2 to 24	--	50 to 100	50 to 100 feet
Stockton	Y	100 per acre	1 acre	50 feet	50 feet



Comparable Cities

- There are benefits of keeping chickens.
- Citizen's interests best served by protecting the peace, quiet, and quality of life issues that are of paramount concern for residential neighborhoods.
- Cities adopt ordinances and require permits to protect citizen interests.
- "By Right" allowance in R-1 zones has potential for problems/complaints disproportionate to benefits.
- Addl. demand on Code Enforcement in addressing nuisances, a resource better utilized elsewhere.
- Fee-permitting system and establishing provisions may reduce the potential impacts on City staff and resources and on neighbors.



Conclusion

No Change in Ordinance

- Allowance in Ag and ag-related residential zones (A, RH, R-S)

Proponent Request for By-Right in R-1 Zones

- Adopt proposed ordinance, 12 chickens max. in backyards of all R-1 parcels.

Direct Staff to Prepare Amended Ordinance

- Include specific performance standards.
- Discretionary or ministerial permitting system.
- Owners sign acknowledging compliance.
- Noticing of neighbors



Options

Questions



Questions

4:36



I am very interested in owning chickens again, I miss them. They give eggs and eat bugs and are fun to watch. Vary interesting and silly little tings and just so darn cute They can even learn to come when called for. I say yes on hens but no roosters. Please, please, please allow this 😊😊

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)



Dana Cornelius

From: Tami Dockter <tdockter16@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, May 10, 2020 9:40 AM
To: City_Council
Subject: Please allow Hens in city limits

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

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

Dear Councilman Bob Smith,

I am a resident of Ward 4 in Bakersfield, CA. I would like to express my support in allowing backyard chickens within city limits. Chickens can be a great benefit for the family and community. Chickens provide many benefits including economic and organic gardening, fresh eggs, insect control, and can be a great learning experience for children. Especially in times like these, it is important to have the opportunities to be self-sufficient and live a healthy way of life. I believe allowing hens, along with some limits such as no roosters allowed and only up to 5 hens, would be a great benefit to our community. Thank you for your consideration and I hope our community can count on your support to allow hens in Ward 4.

Sincerely,
Tami Dockter

Dana Cornelius

2

From: alex.dulay@att.net
Sent: Sunday, July 12, 2020 10:36 AM
To: City_Council
Subject: Backyard Chicken Initiative

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

Please support the "City of Bakersfield Backyard Chicken Initiative". There is wide-spread backing to allow single resident home owners to own a small flock of hens in their backyards. What is your position on this topic?

Thank you,

Alex A. Dulay
7201 Three Rivers Drive
Bakersfield 93311

Dana Cornelius

3

From: Azadiax <girafmew@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, May 08, 2020 4:44 PM
To: City_Council
Subject: Yes on chickens

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

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

Dana Cornelius

4

From: Bruce Bagwell <sdbruceb@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 02, 2020 4:08 PM
To: City_Council
Subject: CHICKENS

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

Dear Councilwoman Sullivan

I am not in your ward but I just read that you will not be seeking reelection. I have appreciated that in our last attempt to legalize chickens you were an encouraging voice. For a number of reasons myself and a group of local citizens have come together to revisit the issue. Our group has grown by 69 members since May 5th, with a current membership of 163. I am sure you are aware that many people in the city already have chickens. As I go on walks I can occasionally even hear roosters.

For many people, especially in the uncertain times we find ourselves in, chickens are a source of food security, providing healthy eggs and part of an overall gardening renewal in the great city.

I know that Sacramento claims the title of Farm to Fork Capital, but I think that Bakersfield should post a challenge to that claim. The Bakersfield Permaculture Gardening Club has 794 members who are gardening using organic and natural methods. Chickens are often viewed as part of that practice.

There are so many benefits and so few problems associated with chickens. I understand the city is currently reviewing this issue and we would like a seat at the table.

There is an amazing website for this local movement, created by one of our leading members. It is full of helpful information on questions, answers, potential problems, solutions and the benefits of chickens.

I would urge you to check it out.
<https://thebubh.wixsite.com/bubh>

Is there any way that we might have any input in this process? We would be delighted to talk to anyone you suggest.

Thank you so much for all that you have brought to our community. May your last days with the council be a joy, even in these tumultuous times.

Blessings with gratitude

Bruce Bagwell
951.400.2793

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

Dana Cornelius

5

From: Carla & John <cjmccoy@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, June 20, 2020 7:27 PM
To: City_Council
Subject: Backyard Hens

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

Dear Council Member Freeman,

Please support the "City of Bakersfield Backyard Chicken Initiative". There are many who are backing the idea of allowing single Bakersfield resident homeowners to own a small flock of hens in their backyards.

This is such an important decision in our community in the wake of COVID when self-sustainability is SO important. Less trips to the grocery store can keep our city healthier. Bakersfield is in the dark ages when it comes to this concept. My kids are louder than hens are. Should my kids not be allowed? What about the neighbor with the loud music that police don't do anything about? I can't have hens, but they can blast their music until 2am? Something seems seriously wrong here.

I would love to hear your opinion on this topic.

Thank you,
Carla McCoy
Embracing the Hour...
...through Parenting, Homeschooling, and Loving one heart at a time.
<http://www.EmbracingTheHour.com>

Dana Cornelius

6

From: Kristi F <1happyfool@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 12, 2020 9:55 AM
To: City_Council
Subject: Possibility of chickens being kept within city limits

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

Hello,

I would like to begin by expressing my appreciation for all the hard work that you and other elected officials perform on behalf of our little corner of the world, thank you. I've been told that there is going to be a workshop to explore the pros and cons of legalizing chickens inside the limits of our city. I am writing because I believe that this could be a very positive thing for our community. The city of Austin, TX has largely legalized chickens in order to reduce food waste in their landfills. Chickens also minimize yard waste and offer chemical free pest control. I grew up with poultry and can attest that a laying hen makes considerably less noise than a barking dog, which we already tolerate due to the benefits of their companionship. I strongly urge you to consider how backyard chickens could enhance our lives.

Warm regards,
Kristina Ferdon



Virus-free. www.avg.com

Dana Cornelius



From: Sean Starr <s.starr20@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, May 08, 2020 2:58 PM
To: City_Council
Subject: Ward 3

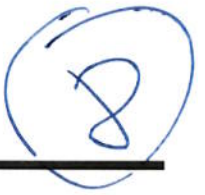
Warning: This email originated from outside the City of Bakersfield. Think before you click!

Hello,

My name is Sean Starr. I am a local high school teacher and live in ward 3. It would be great if the city adopted the new ordinance allowing chickens within city limits. Of course we should exclude roosters on smaller properties. During these strange times we find ourselves in having access to affordable and fresh food is extremely important. Thank you.

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

Dana Cornelius



From: p31mom@live.com
Sent: Saturday, May 09, 2020 9:21 AM
To: City_Council
Subject: Hens in City Limits

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

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

Good Morning! I hope you are well during this time and I would like to thank you for your service to our community and my Ward. I am writing to ask that you support the topic of allowing chickens/hens within the city limits of Bakersfield. In our ward specifically, many people live on the outskirts of town and are well equip to raise chickens/hens on their property. Allowing homeowners to raise chickens/hens is a wonderful way to produce eggs and help families be self sufficient as well as teach our children about the rich farming and agricultural benefits of living in Bakersfield. Please stand with the many people in Ward 3 and vote to allow chickens/hens within the City Limits.

Thank you,

Andrea Selvey

9

From: Kristin Weber <kristinweber77@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 02, 2020 12:11 PM
To: City_Council
Subject: Ward 5
Attachments: IMG_3134.jpg; IMG_3138.jpg; IMG_3139.jpg; IMG_3140.jpg

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

Dear Council Member Freeman:

As a community advocate I can assure you that by developing the appropriate policies related to backyard hens, we can make a positive impact on the community you have been entrusted to serve. In no way am I suggesting that we advocate for huge flocks of chickens in backyards all over Bakersfield, but there are many good arguments to be made for the inclusion of a limited number of backyard hens. I'm attaching a photo of my small, fully screened in coop and chicken run, so that you can see it would not be a nuisance to any of the neighborhoods in your ward or in the other wards, nor would it bring down my property value, in fact my neighbors (elderly and forced to stay at home right now) have benefited greatly during this pandemic from my backyard hens by receiving fresh, organic eggs from my hens and produce from my garden. Additionally, it has been a wonderful way for our family to work together and bond while creating our own food source during this pandemic. Our fourteen year old son is responsible for cleaning, feeding, watering and entertaining the hens daily. We feed them food out of our beautiful garden and they have been a source of joy during this year which has been very isolating and strange for all of us.

I would appreciate your consideration in creating a smart, effective policy to allow backyard hens. In fact, I would be happy to lend my thoughts to how you would go about creating such a policy if you were interested.

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,

Kristin Weber

Sent from Mail for Windows 10

10

Dana Cornelius

From: julia.vlahos@gmail.com
Sent: Saturday, May 09, 2020 2:25 PM
To: City_Council
Subject: Backyard chickens

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

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

I would like to express that I am in favor of permitting Bakersfield city residents to own a limited number of backyard chickens.

Dana Cornelius

From: Kimberly Klaas <kimberlyklaas@mac.com>
Sent: Saturday, May 09, 2020 4:27 PM
To: City_Council
Subject: Ms. Sullivan- backyard chickens

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

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

To Ms Sullivan,
My name is Kimberly Cuhendis-Klaas @ 2709 Carlisle Ct. 93309

I am writing today to encourage you to support Bakersfield city residents in our quest to have backyard chickens. I believe this current climate of recession and pandemic has shown how important it is to give people the right and opportunity to provide for themselves. As an added benefit, chickens are amazing contributors to soil health.

I would also like to add that urban areas, such as San Francisco, have had backyard chickens for decades with great success and much less space. If it works in such small areas there, we can certainly implement it here with certainty of success.

To sum it up- please vote to make backyard chickens legal in Bakersfield.

Thank you,
Kimberly Cuhendis-Klaas
415-290-5675 cell

Sent from my iPhone

12

Dana Cornelius

From: Monique Gonzales <532787@kernhigh.org>
Sent: Sunday, May 10, 2020 12:41 PM
To: City_Council
Subject: government

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

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

Hello , I am addressing the rule that citizens can not have chickens in the city . I believe that we should have the right to own chickens in our city , why may people be able to have other animals but not chickens ? We should be allowed to have the ownership of chickens as long as we take responsibility for them and take care of them . Chickens are just like any animal and they would have no where to go if we just put them out .

13

Dana Cornelius

From: A.lyday@sbcglobal.net
Sent: Friday, May 08, 2020 7:39 PM
To: City_Council
Subject: Backyard chickens

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

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

I urge you to work toward allowing a limited number of chickens in a closed coop in backyards of Bakersfield. It's time to ease the food insecurity and let us grow our own healthy food! (I'm a resident of Quailwood)

Dana Cornelius

14

From: jmwagener <jmwagener@yahoo.com>
Sent: Saturday, May 09, 2020 8:57 AM
To: City_Council
Subject: Backyard chickens

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

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

I am writing regarding the legalization of backyard chickens within Bakersfield city limits. As residents of ward 7 and longtime 4H ♣ family, we would greatly benefit from being able to raise chickens. Fresh eggs, each hen lays about 5 eggs a week. Chickens help to refuse kitchen scraps, therefore reducing the amount of trash that goes to the landfill. (Every little bit counts right??) They help by keeping down garden pest like catapillars, grasshoppers, grubs. Natural pest control! Did I mention they are fun to watch? I would suggest only allowing city backyards to only have hens, as roosters make to much noise. In light of the current situation I appreciate the fact the families are spending more quality with each other, not so much always on the go. Once things go back to normal hopefully we can still hold on to our new found ways of life where we can just be still, be together, and watch the chickens scratch and peck! Thanks again for taking the time to listen.

Regards,
Jessica Wagener
9022 Kellyann st
Bakersfield Ca, 93313

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

15

Dana Cornelius

From: Becky Pelishek <neverbelacking@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, May 10, 2020 7:52 AM
To: City_Council
Subject: Backyard Chickens!

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

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

Dear Bruce Freeman and other city council members,

High five from Ward 5! We would very much like you to allow backyard chickens. It would allow our family to be more self-sufficient, as well as allow my children the enjoyment of raising these animals. My kids are 4-H, living in the city, but I think every family should be allowed the opportunity to have chickens, if they want.

More than ever, it's important we help each family be more self-sufficient, by allowing or even promoting things like a victory garden and chickens. A nice thing is that chickens- without a rooster- are very quiet animals!

Sincerely,
Becky & Matt Pelishek

16

Dana Cornelius

From: Michelle Harp <harpomm@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, May 10, 2020 11:40 AM
To: City_Council
Subject: Fw: Special attention to Councilman Bruce Freeman, Chickens in the city creating revenue for the city of Bakersfield
Attachments: Bruce Freeman.docx; keepingchickens (1).pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

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

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: Michelle Harp <harpomm@yahoo.com>
To: City_Council@bakersfieldcity.us <City_Council@bakersfieldcity.us>
Sent: Tuesday, July 25, 2017, 07:03:22 PM PDT
Subject: Special attention to Councilman Bruce Freeman, Chickens in the city creating revenue for the city of Bakersfield

Hi My Name is Michelle Harp I live in the beautiful city of Bakersfield Ward 5,
Attached is a consideration for the council to produce revenue for the city.
I would appreciate if you would take the time to read it over.
Michelle Harp
661-345-8682



Virus-free. www.avast.com

17

Dana Cornelius

From: Michael Garcia <gigglesmainman@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 02, 2020 2:59 PM
To: City_Council
Subject: Support on Bakersfield Urban Backyard Hens

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

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

17

Dana Cornelius

From: Michael Garcia <gigglesmainman@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 02, 2020 3:03 PM
To: City_Council
Subject: Support on Bakersfield Urban Backyard Hens

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

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

18

Dana Cornelius

From: Olinda Garcia <giggles287@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 02, 2020 2:10 PM
To: City_Council
Subject: Support on Bakersfield Urban Backyard Hens

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

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,

Olinda Garcia

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPad](#)

Dana Cornelius

From: Olinda Garcia <giggles287@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 02, 2020 2:12 PM
To: City_Council
Subject: Support on Bakersfield Urban Backyard Hen

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

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,

Olinda Garcia

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPad](#)

18

Dana Cornelius

From: Olinda Garcia <giggles287@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 02, 2020 2:15 PM
To: City_Council
Subject: Support on Bakersfield Urban Backyard Hens

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

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,

Olinda Garcia

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPad](#)

18

Dana Cornelius

From: Olinda Garcia <giggles287@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 02, 2020 2:16 PM
To: City_Council
Subject: Support on Bakersfield Urban Backyard Hens

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

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,

Olinda Garcia

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPad](#)

Dana Cornelius

From: Kirk Boland <poprocksncoke0013@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 03, 2020 1:11 PM
To: AdmMgr
Subject: Backyard Chickens

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

Mr. Clegg,

I have been speaking with Council Member Bob Smith about the possibility of the City of Bakersfield allowing backyard chickens with some regulations. The last I talked to him he told me there was no specific date set for supporters to speak at City Council. We were wondering if there was a date you may think this could come before council? We would need to have ample time to notify supporters to show up to the council meeting.

We thank you for your help.

Dana Cornelius

From: Kirk Boland <poprocksncoke0013@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 25, 2020 2:11 PM
To: AdmMgr
Subject: July 15th Council Meeting

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

Dear Mr. Clegg,

I am writing to you to ask for the Bakersfield City Council to bring the subject of backyard chickens to the agenda for the July 15th City Council meeting. As of now there seems to be no end in sight to the Covid-19 pandemic and possibility of it getting worse. This pandemic has broken the food chain supply and left the citizens of Bakersfield unable to purchase many of the groceries that they need including eggs.

It has come to my attention that the public was allowed to speak before the City Council at the June 24th City Council meeting. We would like to have our voices heard as well as we feel it would be in the best interest of the community and will be beneficial if this pandemic becomes worse as has been predicted.

Thank you

19

Dana Cornelius

From: Kirk Boland <poprocksncoke0013@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 10, 2020 3:14 PM
To: City_Council
Subject: Willie Rivera

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

Dear Council Member,

I am writing to express my support of allowing backyard hens within the city limits of Bakersfield.

Keeping backyard hens is part of a growing movement to live a healthier, more sustainable lifestyle. A small flock of hens in your backyard has many benefits, from supplying you with fresh, healthy eggs, giving you great fertilizer for gardening, to providing lively pets. Also teaching children the process of caring for the hens and help them develop a greater appreciation for the food on their plate. Backyard hens also provide outstanding pest control, eating ticks, flies, spiders, mosquitoes and many other insects.

I am asking that the City Council allow its citizens the opportunity to provide for their families and have a greater level of self-sufficiency, as well as a healthier way of life. I appreciate your consideration and ask for your support on this topic.

Thank you,

Kirk Boland

Dana Cornelius

From: Kirk Boland <poprocksncoke0013@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 10, 2020 3:15 PM
To: City_Council
Subject: Andrae Gonzales

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

Dear Council Member,

I am writing to express my support of allowing backyard hens within the city limits of Bakersfield.

Keeping backyard hens is part of a growing movement to live a healthier, more sustainable lifestyle. A small flock of hens in your backyard has many benefits, from supplying you with fresh, healthy eggs, giving you great fertilizer for gardening, to providing lively pets. Also teaching children the process of caring for the hens and help them develop a greater appreciation for the food on their plate. Backyard hens also provide outstanding pest control, eating ticks, flies, spiders, mosquitoes and many other insects.

I am asking that the City Council allow its citizens the opportunity to provide for their families and have a greater level of self-sufficiency, as well as a healthier way of life. I appreciate your consideration and ask for your support on this topic.

Thank you,

Kirk Boland

Dana Cornelius

From: Kirk Boland <poprocksncoke0013@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 10, 2020 3:15 PM
To: City_Council
Subject: Ken Weir

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

Dear Council Member,

I am writing to express my support of allowing backyard hens within the city limits of Bakersfield.

Keeping backyard hens is part of a growing movement to live a healthier, more sustainable lifestyle. A small flock of hens in your backyard has many benefits, from supplying you with fresh, healthy eggs, giving you great fertilizer for gardening, to providing lively pets. Also teaching children the process of caring for the hens and help them develop a greater appreciation for the food on their plate. Backyard hens also provide outstanding pest control, eating ticks, flies, spiders, mosquitoes and many other insects.

I am asking that the City Council allow its citizens the opportunity to provide for their families and have a greater level of self-sufficiency, as well as a healthier way of life. I appreciate your consideration and ask for your support on this topic.

Thank you,

Kirk Boland

19

Dana Cornelius

From: Kirk Boland <poprocksncoke0013@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 10, 2020 3:16 PM
To: City_Council
Subject: Bob Smith

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

Dear Council Member,

I am writing to express my support of allowing backyard hens within the city limits of Bakersfield.

Keeping backyard hens is part of a growing movement to live a healthier, more sustainable lifestyle. A small flock of hens in your backyard has many benefits, from supplying you with fresh, healthy eggs, giving you great fertilizer for gardening, to providing lively pets. Also teaching children the process of caring for the hens and help them develop a greater appreciation for the food on their plate. Backyard hens also provide outstanding pest control, eating ticks, flies, spiders, mosquitoes and many other insects.

I am asking that the City Council allow its citizens the opportunity to provide for their families and have a greater level of self-sufficiency, as well as a healthier way of life. I appreciate your consideration and ask for your support on this topic.

Thank you,

Kirk Boland

19

Dana Cornelius

From: Kirk Boland <poprocksncoke0013@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 10, 2020 3:16 PM
To: City_Council
Subject: Bruce Freeman

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

Dear Council Member,

I am writing to express my support of allowing backyard hens within the city limits of Bakersfield.

Keeping backyard hens is part of a growing movement to live a healthier, more sustainable lifestyle. A small flock of hens in your backyard has many benefits, from supplying you with fresh, healthy eggs, giving you great fertilizer for gardening, to providing lively pets. Also teaching children the process of caring for the hens and help them develop a greater appreciation for the food on their plate. Backyard hens also provide outstanding pest control, eating ticks, flies, spiders, mosquitoes and many other insects.

I am asking that the City Council allow its citizens the opportunity to provide for their families and have a greater level of self-sufficiency, as well as a healthier way of life. I appreciate your consideration and ask for your support on this topic.

Thank you,

Kirk Boland

19

Dana Cornelius

From: Kirk Boland <poprocksncoke0013@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 10, 2020 3:17 PM
To: City_Council
Subject: Chris Parlier

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

Dear Council Member,

I am writing to express my support of allowing backyard hens within the city limits of Bakersfield.

Keeping backyard hens is part of a growing movement to live a healthier, more sustainable lifestyle. A small flock of hens in your backyard has many benefits, from supplying you with fresh, healthy eggs, giving you great fertilizer for gardening, to providing lively pets. Also teaching children the process of caring for the hens and help them develop a greater appreciation for the food on their plate. Backyard hens also provide outstanding pest control, eating ticks, flies, spiders, mosquitoes and many other insects.

I am asking that the City Council allow its citizens the opportunity to provide for their families and have a greater level of self-sufficiency, as well as a healthier way of life. I appreciate your consideration and ask for your support on this topic.

Thank you,

Kirk Boland

Dana Cornelius

From: Kirk Boland <poprocksncoke0013@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 10, 2020 3:17 PM
To: City_Council
Subject: Jacquie Sullivan

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

Dear Council Member,

I am writing to express my support of allowing backyard hens within the city limits of Bakersfield.

Keeping backyard hens is part of a growing movement to live a healthier, more sustainable lifestyle. A small flock of hens in your backyard has many benefits, from supplying you with fresh, healthy eggs, giving you great fertilizer for gardening, to providing lively pets. Also teaching children the process of caring for the hens and help them develop a greater appreciation for the food on their plate. Backyard hens also provide outstanding pest control, eating ticks, flies, spiders, mosquitoes and many other insects.

I am asking that the City Council allow its citizens the opportunity to provide for their families and have a greater level of self-sufficiency, as well as a healthier way of life. I appreciate your consideration and ask for your support on this topic.

Thank you,

Kirk Boland

20

Dana Cornelius

From: Darlene Cowart <rdcowart@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Saturday, May 09, 2020 8:28 PM
To: City_Council
Subject: Yes on Chicken ordinance

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

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

Bob Smith, Ward 7

Please vote to allow chickens to be raised in the Bakersfield city limits. I suggest using the Kern county chicken ordinance which seems simple and fair. It is important to allow our citizens to provide more nutritious quality of food for their families and use a more sustainable form of holistic gardening if they desire.

This should also allow raising other similar birds: turkeys, quails, pigeons, ducks, and pheasants.

Sincerely,

Randy Cowart
616 Arroyo Seco Dr.
Bakersfield

21

Dana Cornelius

From: Daniel Olivares <dannyolivares.85@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, May 08, 2020 8:17 PM
To: City_Council
Subject: Urban chickens

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

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

Hello Mr Parlier, I am a resident in your ward and with recent events such as covid-19 and increase prices on everything I would be excited if the city of Bakersfield would allow its residents to have backyard chickens. I have looked at major city's such as Los Angeles, Pasadena and San Diego, San Fransisco and even our capital Sacramento, and they do allow chickens with limits on how many chickens and if roosters are allowed or not. I feel like Bakersfield is a great place to have chickens in our own backyard because,

1. It will cut down on pollution since there wont be a need to drive to the store for eggs, it will help our air quality.
2. Our kids can learn and have a appreciation for livestock and be self reliant.
3. Chickens help with bugs and pest.

I do agree that there need to be a set number allowed along with other regulations but I am completely for chickens(hens) in residential backyards regardless of property size.

Your constituent
Daniel Olivares

22

Dana Cornelius

From: Janie Lugo <jane32778@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, July 10, 2020 1:05 PM
To: City_Council
Subject: Backyard hens in Bakersfield City

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

Dear Council Member Willie Rivera,

I would like to communicate my support of allowing backyard hens within the city limits.

Allowing Bakersfield citizens to keep backyard hens will provide so many benefits to families. My family would love the opportunity to raise our own hens and have fresh organic eggs from hens that we know are well cared for.

I would be so happy to be able to use fertilizer from my own hens in my organic garden. Every year I buy chicken manure to use as fertilizer and it would be so nice, and cost effective to be able to use fertilizer from my own hens.

Raising hens is an incredibly positive experience for children. It helps to develop a broader range of knowledge regarding different types of pets. It helps children develop a greater sense of responsibility as they learn to care for them. It also helps them to appreciate where eggs come from and allows them to be involved in the process.

I could go on and on about all the benefits of keeping backyard hens such as pest control, natural garbage disposal, weed control, eco-friendly, and even companionship. I believe the benefits of keeping backyard hens far outweigh any possible concerns.

I have had experience with chickens growing up and I would also like to mention that hens are quiet birds as long as there are no roosters. They are much quieter than other animals that people are allowed to keep as pets.

I appreciate your time and consideration and hope that our family can count on your support.

Sincerely,

Janie Boland

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

22

Dana Cornelius

From: Janie Lugo <jane32778@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, July 10, 2020 1:11 PM
To: City_Council
Subject: Backyard hens in Bakersfield City

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

Dear Council Member Andrae Gonzales,

I would like to communicate my support of allowing backyard hens within the city limits.

Allowing Bakersfield citizens to keep backyard hens will provide so many benefits to families. My family would love the opportunity to raise our own hens and have fresh organic eggs from hens that we know are well cared for.

I would be so happy to be able to use fertilizer from my own hens in my organic garden. Every year I buy chicken manure to use as fertilizer and it would be so nice, and cost effective to be able to use fertilizer from my own hens.

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I have had experience with chickens growing up and I would also like to mention that hens are quiet birds as long as there are no roosters. They are much quieter than other animals that people are allowed to keep as pets.

I appreciate your time and consideration and hope that our family can count on your support.

Sincerely,

Janie Boland

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

Dana Cornelius

From: Janie Lugo <jane32778@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, July 10, 2020 1:16 PM
To: City_Council
Subject: Backyard hens in Bakersfield City

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

Dear Council Member Ken Weir,

I would like to communicate my support of allowing backyard hens within the city limits.

Allowing Bakersfield citizens to keep backyard hens will provide so many benefits to families. My family would love the opportunity to raise our own hens and have fresh organic eggs from hens that we know are well cared for.

I would be so happy to be able to use fertilizer from my own hens in my organic garden. Every year I buy chicken manure to use as fertilizer and it would be so nice, and cost effective to be able to use fertilizer from my own hens.

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I have had experience with chickens growing up and I would also like to mention that hens are quiet birds as long as there are no roosters. They are much quieter than other animals that people are allowed to keep as pets.

I appreciate your time and consideration and hope that our family can count on your support.

Sincerely,

Janie Boland

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

22

Dana Cornelius

From: Janie Lugo <jane32778@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, July 10, 2020 1:18 PM
To: City_Council
Subject: Backyard hens in Bakersfield City

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

Dear Council Member Bob Smith,

I would like to communicate my support of allowing backyard hens within the city limits.

Allowing Bakersfield citizens to keep backyard hens will provide so many benefits to families. My family would love the opportunity to raise our own hens and have fresh organic eggs from hens that we know are well cared for.

I would be so happy to be able to use fertilizer from my own hens in my organic garden. Every year I buy chicken manure to use as fertilizer and it would be so nice, and cost effective to be able to use fertilizer from my own hens.

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I have had experience with chickens growing up and I would also like to mention that hens are quiet birds as long as there are no roosters. They are much quieter than other animals that people are allowed to keep as pets.

I appreciate your time and consideration and hope that our family can count on your support.

Sincerely,

Janie Boland

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

Dana Cornelius

From: Janie Lugo <jane32778@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, July 10, 2020 1:22 PM
To: City_Council
Subject: Backyard hens in Bakersfield City

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

Dear Council Member Bruce Freeman,

I would like to communicate my support of allowing backyard hens within the city limits.

Allowing Bakersfield citizens to keep backyard hens will provide so many benefits to families. My family would love the opportunity to raise our own hens and have fresh organic eggs from hens that we know are well cared for.

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I have had experience with chickens growing up and I would also like to mention that hens are quiet birds as long as there are no roosters. They are much quieter than other animals that people are allowed to keep as pets.

I appreciate your time and consideration and hope that our family can count on your support.

Sincerely,

Janie Boland

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

22

Dana Cornelius

From: Janie Lugo <jane32778@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, July 10, 2020 1:25 PM
To: City_Council
Subject: Backyard hens in Bakersfield City

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

Dear Council Member Sullivan,

I would like to communicate my support of allowing backyard hens within the city limits.

Allowing Bakersfield citizens to keep backyard hens will provide so many benefits to families. My family would love the opportunity to raise our own hens and have fresh organic eggs from hens that we know are well cared for.

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Sincerely,

Janie Boland

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

22

Dana Cornelius

From: Janie Lugo <jane32778@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, July 10, 2020 1:29 PM
To: City_Council
Subject: Backyard hens in Bakersfield City

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

Dear Council Member Chris Parlier,

I would like to communicate my support of allowing backyard hens within the city limits.

Allowing Bakersfield citizens to keep backyard hens will provide so many benefits to families. My family would love the opportunity to raise our own hens and have fresh organic eggs from hens that we know are well cared for.

I would be so happy to be able to use fertilizer from my own hens in my organic garden. Every year I buy chicken manure to use as fertilizer and it would be so nice, and cost effective to be able to use fertilizer from my own hens.

Raising hens is an incredibly positive experience for children. It helps to develop a broader range of knowledge regarding different types of pets. It helps children develop a greater sense of responsibility as they learn to care for them. It also helps them to appreciate where eggs come from and allows them to be involved in the process.

I could go on and on about all the benefits of keeping backyard hens such as pest control, natural garbage disposal, weed control, eco-friendly, and even companionship. I believe the benefits of keeping backyard hens far outweigh any possible concerns.

I have had experience with chickens growing up and I would also like to mention that hens are quiet birds as long as there are no roosters. They are much quieter than other animals that people are allowed to keep as pets.

I appreciate your time and consideration and hope that our family can count on your support.

Sincerely,

Janie Boland

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

22

Dana Cornelius

From: Janie Lugo <jane32778@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 12:24 PM
To: City_Council
Subject: Public Statement 7/15/2020

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

Dear Council Members,

I would like to communicate my support of allowing backyard hens within the city limits.

Allowing Bakersfield citizens to keep backyard hens will provide so many benefits to families. My family would love the opportunity to raise our own hens and have fresh organic eggs from hens that we know are well cared for.

I would be so happy to be able to use fertilizer from my own hens in my organic garden. Every year I buy chicken manure to use as fertilizer and it would be so nice, and cost effective to be able to use fertilizer from my own hens.

Raising hens is an incredibly positive experience for children. It helps to develop a broader range of knowledge regarding different types of pets. It helps children develop a greater sense of responsibility as they learn to care for them. It also helps them to appreciate where eggs come from and allows them to be involved in the process.

I could go on and on about all the benefits of keeping backyard hens such as pest control, natural garbage disposal, weed control, eco-friendly, and even companionship. I believe the benefits of keeping backyard hens far outweigh any possible concerns.

I have had experience with chickens growing up and I would also like to mention that hens are quiet birds as long as there are no roosters. They are much quieter than other animals that people are allowed to keep as pets.

I appreciate your time and consideration and hope that our family can count on your support.

Sincerely,

Janie Boland

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

23

Dana Cornelius

From: Kevster Lugo <kevsterlugo@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 09, 2020 8:27 PM
To: City_Council
Subject: To: Willie Rivera

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

Dear Council Member Willie Rivera,

Please support the "City of Bakersfield Backyard Chicken Initiative". There is wide-spread backing to allow Bakersfield homeowners to own a small flock of hens in their backyards. It is essential to give residents of Bakersfield the opportunity to become self-sufficient and lead healthier lifestyles, allowing homeowners to raise their own chickens will give our community a greater sense of sustainability and overall better quality of life. This is necessary especially in trying times such as these.

Thank you,

Kevin Lugo

Dana Cornelius

From: Kevster Lugster <kevsterluego@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 09, 2020 8:29 PM
To: City_Council
Subject: To: Andrae Gonzales

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

Dear Council Member Andrae Gonzales,

Please support the "City of Bakersfield Backyard Chicken Initiative". There is wide-spread backing to allow Bakersfield homeowners to own a small flock of hens in their backyards. It is essential to give residents of Bakersfield the opportunity to become self-sufficient and lead healthier lifestyles, allowing homeowners to raise their own chickens will give our community a greater sense of sustainability and overall better quality of life. This is necessary especially in trying times such as these.

Thank you,

Kevin Lugo

23

Dana Cornelius

From: Kevster Lugo <kevsterlugo@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 09, 2020 8:31 PM
To: City_Council
Subject: To: Ken Weir

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

Dear Council Member Ken Weir,

Please support the "City of Bakersfield Backyard Chicken Initiative". There is wide-spread backing to allow Bakersfield homeowners to own a small flock of hens in their backyards. It is essential to give residents of Bakersfield the opportunity to become self-sufficient and lead healthier lifestyles, allowing homeowners to raise their own chickens will give our community a greater sense of sustainability and overall better quality of life. This is necessary especially in trying times such as these.

Thank you,

Kevin Lugo

23

Dana Cornelius

From: Kevster Lugo <kevsterlugo@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 09, 2020 8:32 PM
To: City_Council
Subject: To: Bob Smith

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

Dear Council Member Bob Smith,

Please support the "City of Bakersfield Backyard Chicken Initiative". There is wide-spread backing to allow Bakersfield homeowners to own a small flock of hens in their backyards. It is essential to give residents of Bakersfield the opportunity to become self-sufficient and lead healthier lifestyles, allowing homeowners to raise their own chickens will give our community a greater sense of sustainability and overall better quality of life. This is necessary especially in trying times such as these.

Thank you,

Kevin Lugo

23

Dana Cornelius

From: Kevster Lugo <kevsterlugo@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 09, 2020 8:34 PM
To: City_Council
Subject: To: Bruce Freeman

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

Dear Council Member Bruce Freeman,

Please support the "City of Bakersfield Backyard Chicken Initiative". There is wide-spread backing to allow Bakersfield homeowners to own a small flock of hens in their backyards. It is essential to give residents of Bakersfield the opportunity to become self-sufficient and lead healthier lifestyles, allowing homeowners to raise their own chickens will give our community a greater sense of sustainability and overall better quality of life. This is necessary especially in trying times such as these.

Thank you,

Kevin Lugo

Dana Cornelius

From: Kevster Lugo <kevsterlugo@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 09, 2020 8:35 PM
To: City_Council
Subject: To: Jacquie Sullivan

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

Dear Council Member Jacquie Sullivan,

Please support the "City of Bakersfield Backyard Chicken Initiative". There is wide-spread backing to allow Bakersfield homeowners to own a small flock of hens in their backyards. It is essential to give residents of Bakersfield the opportunity to become self-sufficient and lead healthier lifestyles, allowing homeowners to raise their own chickens will give our community a greater sense of sustainability and overall better quality of life. This is necessary especially in trying times such as these.

Thank you,

Kevin Lugo

23

Dana Cornelius

From: Kevster Lugster <kevsterluego@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 09, 2020 8:36 PM
To: City_Council
Subject: To: Chris Parlier

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

Dear Council Member Chris Parlier,

Please support the "City of Bakersfield Backyard Chicken Initiative". There is wide-spread backing to allow Bakersfield homeowners to own a small flock of hens in their backyards. It is essential to give residents of Bakersfield the opportunity to become self-sufficient and lead healthier lifestyles, allowing homeowners to raise their own chickens will give our community a greater sense of sustainability and overall better quality of life. This is necessary especially in trying times such as these.

Thank you,

Kevin Lugo

(24)

Dana Cornelius

From: MT Merickel <mtmerickel@icloud.com>
Sent: Monday, May 11, 2020 8:49 PM
To: City_Council
Subject: City of Bakersfield Backyard Chicken Initiative

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

Dear Mr. Bruce Freeman,

Thank you for representing Ward 5 as our elected city council member. I am the current principal of Stockdale Elementary in the Panama Buena-Vista Union School District, a graduate of Cal State Bakersfield and a father of two sons. I live in Stockdale Estates.

I am taking an active roll in a growing initiative called Bakersfield Backyard Chickens. It is our goal to change the current City of Bakersfield's legislation to allow for the keeping of a small number of hens per household. Many cities in California have passed ordinances which allow backyard chickens. There are numerous benefits for allowing this. I hope you are in agreement. If not, I look forward to having respectful discussions with you in the near future. Thank you for your service and for advocating for the voices of Ward 5.

Sincerely,
MT Merickel

Sent from my iPad

Dana Cornelius

From: Merickel Family Email <mmerickel@bak.rr.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 19, 2020 6:37 PM
To: City_Council
Subject: Eventual Bakersfield Backyard Chicken Initiative

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

Dear Councilman Bob Smith:

I am an avid cyclist and have waved to you many times on the bike trail over the years. You once, years ago, spoke to my youngest son and his cub scout den. I live in Ward 5 where Bruce Freeman is my council member. I am just sharing a topic with you that is very important to me, and I wanted to put it on your radar.

If you find the time, please take a moment to visit the web page "Bakersfield Urban Backyard Hens" at:

<https://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. I am part of an organized group that has a growing number of participants that all share similar opinions on the topic of allowing hens as backyard pets.

I would be interested in hearing your views and thoughts on this topic. I am also available as a knowledgeable resource if you have questions or would like more information on this topic.

I hope you and your loved ones are safe and healthy.

Sincerely,

MT Merickel



Virus-free. www.avg.com



Brianna Carrier | Administrative Analyst III
City Manager's Office

City of Bakersfield

email: bcARRIER@bakersfieldcity.us

web: www.bakersfieldcity.us

phone: 661-326-3751



24

From: Merickel Family Email <mmerickel@bak.rr.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 19, 2020 6:37 PM
To: City_Council <City_Council@bakersfieldcity.us>
Subject: Eventual Bakersfield Backyard Chicken Initiative

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

Dear Councilman Bob Smith:

I am an avid cyclist and have waved to you many times on the bike trail over the years. You once, years ago, spoke to my youngest son and his cub scout den. I live in Ward 5 where Bruce Freeman is my council member. I am just sharing a topic with you that is very important to me, and I wanted to put it on your radar.

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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. I am part of an organized group that has a growing number of participants that all share similar opinions on the topic of allowing hens as backyard pets.

I would be interested in hearing your views and thoughts on this topic. I am also available as a knowledgeable resource if you have questions or would like more information on this topic.

I hope you and your loved ones are safe and healthy.

24

Sincerely,
MT Merickel



Virus-free. www.avg.com

24

Dana Cornelius

From: Merickel Family Email <mmerickel@bak.rr.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 20, 2020 6:53 PM
To: Brianna Carrier
Cc: City_Council
Subject: FW: Eventual Bakersfield Backyard Chicken Initiative

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

Dear Brianna Carrier,

Thank you for forwarding my email "to the staff members who will be preparing a presentation on this topic, to be presented at a future City Council meeting." I appreciate that. Who are those individuals? I would appreciate knowing so that I may have opportunities to share my views on this topic with them and learn their views. I would hope that they are in favor of allowing backyard hens. However, if they are not for some reason, I would expect opportunities to share factual data and real-life, current examples of how this can and does work in cities in our state and across our nation. I would also want to clearly articulate the numerous benefits that include: pride in community, positive mental health aspects, pest and weed control, self-reliance of food source and even possible cost savings for the city. When is this "presentation at a future City council meeting" scheduled for? Also, My email was addressed to Councilman Bob Smith. I asked him to share his views on this important and relevant topic with me. I would still like to know his personal views on allowing backyard hens.

Thank you for responding to my following questions and requests. Much appreciation in advance.

Sincerely,
MT Merickel

From: City_Council [mailto:City_Council@bakersfieldcity.us]
Sent: Wednesday, May 20, 2020 12:05 PM
To: Merickel Family Email <mmerickel@bak.rr.com>
Subject: RE: Eventual Bakersfield Backyard Chicken Initiative

Good afternoon,

Thank you for your message regarding chickens within City limits. I have forwarded your message on to the staff members who will be preparing a presentation on this topic, to be presented at a future City Council meeting. Any public comments received on this topic will also be included in the record for the Councilmember's consideration.

Have a wonderful day,

Brianna

Dana Cornelius

24

From: MT Merickel <thebubh@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 21, 2020 6:52 PM
To: City_Council
Subject: Bakersfield Urban Backyard Hen Initiative

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

Councilwoman Jacquie Sullivan,

My name is MT Merickel, and I am the principal of Stockdale Elementary. I live in Ward 5 where Bruce Freeman is my Councilman. I am writing to you regarding a Bakersfield Backyard Initiative. I have also written Mr. Freeman and Mr. Smith.

It is my understanding that in 2013 you were a positive supporter of an attempt to pass an ordinance to allow backyard hens. Thank you. I hope your views on this subject have only grown stronger in support over the years. I am part of a movement where citizens and neighbors are actively trying to make this happen.

I invite you to visit the web page thebubh.wixsite.com/bubh where you can learn all about our commitment to working as a community in a respectful manner to pass an ordinance that allows backyard hens. BUBH stands for Bakersfield Urban Backyard Hens.

I am available anytime to be a resource on this topic or to discuss it further with you or other city officials.

What is your current position on the topic of allowing residents to own backyard hens?

Thank you for your service and time. I look forward to hearing from you and hopefully working together to make Bakersfield better.

Sincerely
MT Merickel

From: MT Merickel <thebubh@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, May 22, 2020 8:43 PM
To: City_Council
Subject: To Bruce Freeman Regarding Backyard Hens

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

Dear Councilman Bruce Freeman:

As your constituent, I am reaching out to you to express my desire to see an ordinance changed. My name is MT Merickel. I have been the principal of Stockdale Elementary for the past nine years. I have lived in the Stockdale Estates community for the past fourteen years.

Please take a moment to visit the Facebook page "[City of Bakersfield Backyard Chickens](#)" 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. I look forward to hearing your views on this subject. After visiting the web site, it will be clear to you why I am in favor of allowing backyard hens. Also, you will see the numerous benefits for individuals, families, neighborhoods and cities. Thank you for getting back to me. I look forward to getting to know you and working together; as I have taken on leadership roles with the growing number of citizens that are in favor of this topic.

When the time comes, I encourage you to vote in support for the "City of Bakersfield Backyard Chicken Initiative".

Sincerely,

MT Merickel

From: MT Merickel <thebubh@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, May 31, 2020 5:57 PM
To: City_Council
Subject: Jacquie Sullivan regarding Backyard Hens

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

Dear Councilwoman Jacquie Sullivan,

My name is MT Merickel. I have been a resident of Bakersfield since 1989. I am married with two boys. For the past nine years I have been the principal of Stockdale Elementary where we have been recognized twice as a California Distinguished school. I share these things with you to establish that I am a contributing, caring and invested member of our great city.

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. I am the creator and manager of this web site. 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. Many people in Bakersfield are reaching out to me with questions, needs, and a willingness to assist with changing the current city ordinance that prohibits hen ownership. While on the web site please take our survey. I have a blog posted there that is documenting the process of trying to work respectfully with the city government of Bakersfield that you might also want to view.

It is my understanding that several years ago you were in support of backing an ordinance to allow backyard hens. Disappointingly our city did not move forward with this action at that time.

In many people's opinion the city should have because backyard hen ownership would have enhance the quality of life for the residents of Bakersfield. There is so much support and interest currently with this same topic.

I would appreciate and gladly welcome you to reach out to me to discuss this topic further. I can make myself available to be on a city committee to provide insight and answer questions for those tasked with the responsibility of discussing why we should consider making backyard hen ownership legal.

You can reach me through my web site or email mail me at thebubh@gmail.com. I look forward to the possibility of partnering with you in collaboration to change our city's ordinance.

Though there are numerous benefits of hen ownership, the data from the web site survey is showing the the three most important reasons for backyard hen ownership are: food security concerns, a desire to have a pet that is entertaining, easy to care for and inexpensive and, companionship to assist with mental health issue such as loneliness, anxiety and depression.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

MT Merickel

24

Dana Cornelius

From: MT Merickel <thebubh@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 01, 2020 1:43 PM
To: Paul Johnson
Subject: Bakersfield Urban Backyard Hens

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

Dear Paul,

Thank you for your time today on the phone. It was a pleasure talking with you. The web site will be a helpful resource for you: thebubh.wixsite.com/bubh . Thank you for taking some time to look at it. I own the web site and you are welcome to reach out to me with questions, concerns and/or positive feedback. On Facebook, at "City of Bakersfield Backyard Chicken Initiative", there is another opportunity to see the interest and support for this topic from our Bakersfield community. You may reach me at thebubh@gmail.com or my cell # (661)-747-4285. I look forward to the opportunity to work with the city in a respectful and collaborative manner.

Sincerely,
MT Merickel

Dana Cornelius

24

From: Paul Johnson
Sent: Monday, June 01, 2020 1:55 PM
To: MT Merickel
Cc: Brianna Carrier
Subject: RE: Bakersfield Urban Backyard Hens

Mr. Merickel,

Thank you for speaking with me today. Per our discussion, the topic of "Urban Chickens" will be brought back to City Council for an information workshop at a future Council meeting. That date is still to be determined, but your email will be included as part of the record for Council's consideration.

Regards,

Paul



Paul Johnson | Planning Director
Development Services/Planning Division

City of Bakersfield

email: PJohnson@bakersfieldcity.us

web: www.bakersfieldcity.us

phone: 661-326-3681



From: MT Merickel <thebubh@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 1, 2020 1:43 PM
To: Paul Johnson <pjohnson@bakersfieldcity.us>
Subject: Bakersfield Urban Backyard Hens

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

Dear Paul,

Thank you for your time today on the phone. It was a pleasure talking with you. The web site will be a helpful resource for you: thebubh.wixsite.com/bubh . Thank you for taking some time to look at it. I own the web site and you are welcome to reach out to me with questions, concerns and/or positive feedback. On Facebook, at "City of Bakersfield Backyard Chicken Initiative", there is another opportunity to see the interest and support for this topic from our Bakersfield community. You may reach me at thebubh@gmail.com or my cell # (661)-747-4285. I look forward to the opportunity to work with the city in a respectful and collaborative manner.

Sincerely,
MT Merickel

From: MT Merickel <thebubh@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, June 12, 2020 12:46 PM
To: City_Council
Subject: Councilwoman Sullivan, Backyard Hens

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

Councilwoman Jacquie Sullivan,

I wanted to take a moment to thank you for your support at the June 10th City Council meeting. I appreciate it. Below is an email I sent to you weeks ago. I'm not sure if you received it.

"My name is MT Merickel, and I am the principal of Stockdale Elementary. I live in Ward 5 where Bruce Freeman is my Councilman. I am writing to you regarding a Bakersfield Backyard Initiative. I have also written Mr. Freeman and Mr. Smith.

It is my understanding that in 2012 you were a positive supporter of an attempt to pass an ordinance to allow backyard hens. Thank you. I hope your views on this subject have only grown stronger in support over the years. I am part of a movement where citizens and neighbors are actively trying to make this happen.

I invite you to visit the web page thebubh.wixsite.com/bubh where you can learn all about our commitment to working as a community in a respectful manner to pass an ordinance that allows backyard hens. BUBH stands for Bakersfield Urban Backyard Hens.

I am available anytime to be a resource on this topic or to discuss it further with you or other city officials.

What is your current position on the topic of allowing residents to own backyard hens?

Thank you for your service and time. I look forward to hearing from you and hopefully working together to make Bakersfield better.

Sincerely
MT Merickel"



Virus-free. www.avg.com

Dana Cornelius

24

From: MT Merickel <thebubh@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, June 12, 2020 1:09 PM
To: City_Council
Subject: Councilman Smith, Backyard Hens

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

Dear Councilman Smith,

Thank you for the time you gave me while riding bikes the other day on the subject of backyard hens. I appreciate it.

The website is called "Bakersfield Urban Backyard Hens".

The address is: thebubh.wixsite.com/bubh

My email address is thebubh@gmmal.com

We have a Facebook page: "City of Bakersfield Backyard Chicken Initiative".

We use the hashtag, #henfriendlybakersfield to post related pictures on social media.

If you visit the website please take the survey. I think you will find that the website is a great resource and full of useful information.

The hen community and I really appreciate your willingness to support the expanding of the city ordinance to allow backyard hens for R-1 zones.

If you would be willing to join a few of the key/main organizers of our group sometime for a short Zoom meeting we would love to share more with you and answer any possible questions you might have. We generally meet once a week on Mondays at 7:00 PM. (But, we could make any time work that is convenient for you.)

Thank you again for your time and attention to this topic. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,
MT Merickel



Virus-free. www.avg.com

Dana Cornelius

24

From: MT Merickel <thebubh@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 29, 2020 11:21 AM
To: City_Council
Cc: MT Merickel
Subject: Mr. Bruce Freeman, Regarding Support For Backyard Hens

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

Dear Council Member Freeman:

I am in favor of changing the current city ordinance to allow for the owning of hens as a backyard pet. I live and work in Ward 5. I have spoken at the past two City Council meetings to provide information and updates on this important topic to our Council Members. I would appreciate a conversation with you regarding your stance on this topic. Hopefully you are in support of allowing backyard hens as many Ward 5 residents are. However, if you have concerns, I would love to hear and understand them from your perspective. Please call me at (661) 747-4285 when it is convenient for you.

I wanted you to know that it is my opinion that a community with an existing HOA that prohibits backyard hens should be honored and respected. If I am correct, HOAs may be more restrictive than City Ordinances; if that community agrees to it. Also, HOAs have their own process to amend or change the agreement.

Thank you in advance for getting in contact with me.

Sincerely,

MT Merickel

24

Dana Cornelius

From: MT Merickel <thebubh@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 29, 2020 11:29 AM
To: City_Council
Cc: MT Merickel
Subject: Council Member Rivera Regarding Backyard Hens

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

Dear Council Member Rivera,

I am the gentleman that has spoken at the past two City Council meetings in support of expanding the city's ordinance to allow backyard hens for R-1 zones.

I would like to know your stance on this topic. Hopefully, you agree with the many residents of Bakersfield that would like to see this happen. However, if you have concerns, I would appreciate an opportunity to speak with you to hear and understand your point of view.

When it is convenient for you please call me at (661) 747-4285. I will respect your time and will keep our conversation brief.

Thank you for serving our city and for your intentions of helping to make Bakersfield a wonderful place to live.

Sincerely,

MT Merickel

24

From: MT Merickel <thebubh@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 29, 2020 11:32 AM
To: City_Council; MT Merickel
Subject: Council Member Ken Weir, Support For Backyard Hens

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

Dear Council Member Weir,

I am the gentleman that has spoken at the past two City Council meetings in support of expanding the city's ordinance to allow backyard hens for R-1 zones.

I would like to know your stance on this topic. Hopefully, you agree with the many residents of Bakersfield that would like to see this happen. However, if you have concerns, I would appreciate an opportunity to speak with you to hear and understand your point of view.

When it is convenient for you please call me at (661) 747-4285. I will respect your time and will keep our conversation brief.

Thank you for serving our city and for your intentions of helping to make Bakersfield a wonderful place to live.

Sincerely,

MT Merickel

24

Dana Cornelius

From: MT Merickel <thebubh@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 29, 2020 11:35 AM
To: City_Council; MT Merickel
Subject: Vice Mayor Parlier Regarding Backyard Hens

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

Dear Vice Mayor Parlier,

I am the gentleman that has spoken at the past two City Council meetings in support of expanding the city's ordinance to allow backyard hens for R-1 zones.

I would like to know your stance on this topic. Hopefully, you agree with the many residents of Bakersfield that would like to see this happen. However, if you have concerns, I would appreciate an opportunity to speak with you to hear and understand your point of view.

When it is convenient for you please call me at (661) 747-4285. I will respect your time and will keep our conversation brief.

Thank you for serving our city and for your intentions of helping to make Bakersfield a wonderful place to live.

Sincerely,

MT Merickel

24

Dana Cornelius

From: MT Merickel <thebubh@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 29, 2020 11:38 AM
To: City_Council; MT Merickel
Subject: Council Member Gonzales Regarding Backyard Hens

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

Dear Council Member Gonzales,

I am the gentleman that has spoken at the past two City Council meetings in support of expanding the city's ordinance to allow backyard hens for R-1 zones.

I would like to know your stance on this topic. Hopefully, you agree with the many residents of Bakersfield that would like to see this happen. However, if you have concerns, I would appreciate an opportunity to speak with you to hear and understand your point of view.

When it is convenient for you please call me at (661) 747-4285. I will respect your time and will keep our conversation brief.

Thank you for serving our city and for your intentions of helping to make Bakersfield a wonderful place to live.

Sincerely,

MT Merickel

(I apologize if you received this email twice. I failed to write your name and topic in the "subject" line the first time.)

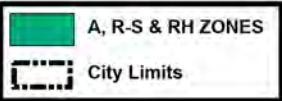
24

Dana Cornelius

From: voicemail@pub-um.hvs.att.com
Sent: Monday, June 01, 2020 9:40 AM
To: Paul Johnson
Cc: Paul Johnson
Subject: Voice Message Attached from 6617474285 - MATTHEW MERICKE
Attachments: 6617474285_20200601_093941.wav

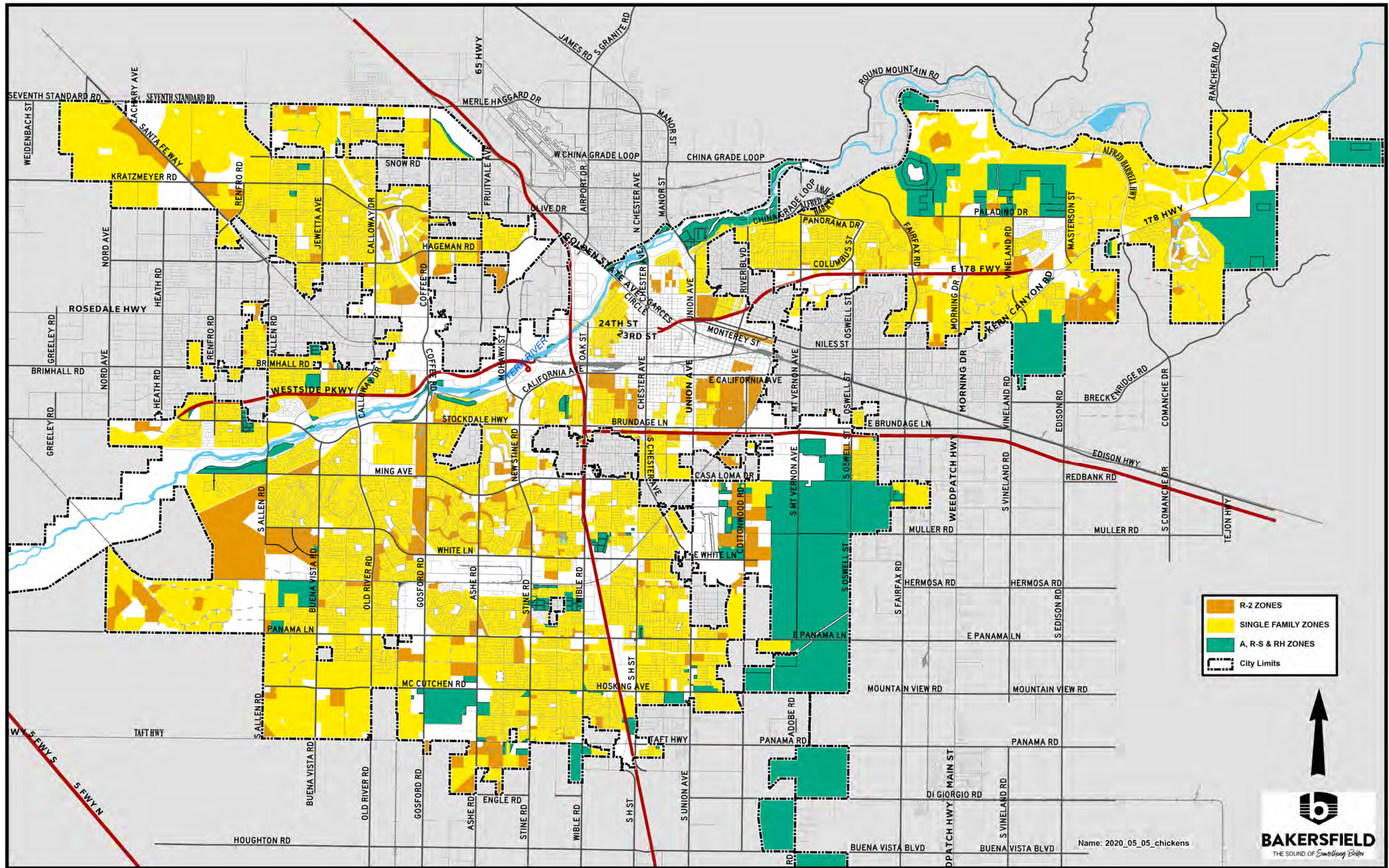
Warning: This email originated from outside the City of Bakersfield. Think before you click!

Time: Jun 1, 2020 9:39:41 AM
Click attachment to listen to Voice Message



BAKERSFIELD
THE SOUND OF *SmartLiving* Better

Name: 2020_05_05_chickens



Name: 2020_05_05_chickens



MT Merickel.

I would like to publicly state that I am disappointed with the unbalanced presentation of the workshop packet.

I have provided you a research based and reasonable "Proposed Ordinance". I am confident that after you hear how respectful and responsible the hen community is, that you will be in agreement, that amending the ordinance to allow backyard hens is the right thing to do.

Here are a few statements that I believe we can all agree on.

- Chickens are domesticated animals that people currently have as pets.
- Many cities in California and our nation allow chickens.
- Most citizens will not want to own chickens, as not all residents want to own dogs.
- Bakersfield's city's boundaries intertwine with the county's boundaries.
- "Approximately 10" annual dog complaints would be a very low number, and our Code Enforcement department would be thankful for those responsible dog owners.
- The phrase "social outcry" should be reserved for such topics as "Black Lives Matter", "Food Security" and "Public Safety", and not the backyard hen topic, as it is in this workshop packet.
- A decrease in the number of complaints from approximately 35, as documented in the 2013 Majority Report, to "approximately ten" as reported in today's Workshop Packet would be something to recognize as positive and be celebrated.
- Received 64 emails "in favor for", while receiving zero documented comments against, would be evidence of community support.
- The process of a hen laying an egg, is a miracle.

"Did you know?"

- Did you know that the R-1 zone allows 60 pigeons with no permit required?
- Did you know that the R-S zone allows unlimited roosters and hens without a permit?
- Did you know that the 2013 Majority Report was wrong in their conclusion when they thought the number of chicken complaints would go up?
- Did you know that backyard hens actually save the City money by reducing kitchen and yard waste?
- Did you know that half, 5 of the 10 cities, that have been provided to you in the "Comparable Cities" chart have zero minimum lot size requirements?
- Did you know that the average hens allowed for those same 5 "Comparable Cities" have an average of 16 hens allowed?
- Did you know that this process does not have to be complicated?

We have already done the work. Please review our "Proposed ordinance". Our request is reasonable. As you work towards amending the City ordinance to allow backyard hens, I am available, right now to answer any questions you might have on the topic.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Bakersfield Urban Backyard Hens

PROPOSED ORDINANCE: This ordinance clearly addresses the issues and conditions needed to allow backyard hens. It is our belief that these expectations are reasonable, fair, and should be approved.

DEFINITIONS

Chicken and Hen - shall mean a female member of the subspecies *Gallus gallus domesticus*, a domesticated fowl.

Rear yard and backyard - Refers to the part of the yard that may start at the front corners of a home and extends towards the back of the tract of land.

Henhouse, Coop, Hen Tractor or Enclosures - shall mean a structure that allows for securely locking hens in at night. A henhouse is stationary while a hen tractor is moveable. An enclosure or coop could refer to either.

Number and Type of Hens Allowed

- (a) Only female chickens (hens) are allowed.
- (b) No roosters.
- (c) The maximum number of hens allowed is twelve (12)

Zoning Districts Allowed

- (a) Hens will be permissible for tracts of land located in residential districts as identified as R-1 on the current Official Zoning Map on file with the City of Bakersfield.

Non-Commercial Use Only

- (a) Hen breeding for commercial purposes is prohibited.

(b) Hen fertilizer production for commercial purposes is prohibited.

(c) Maintaining hens for the purpose of selling eggs is prohibited.

Enclosures

(a) Hens must be kept in an enclosure or fenced area at all times. This would include a fenced backyard.

(b) Hens must be secured within a henhouse or hen tractor during non-daylight hours.

(c) Enclosures must be kept in a clean, dry, odor-free, and sanitary condition at all times.

(d) Enclosures must provide adequate ventilation and water.

(e) Enclosures must provide adequate exposure to sun and shade.

(f) Enclosures must provide at least (2) square feet per bird.

(g) Enclosures shall only be located in the rear yard.

(h) Enclosures must be located at least ten (10) feet from any neighboring residential dwelling, church, school or place of business. (It is understood that following fire and easement expectations is mandatory.)

Odor and Noise Impacts

(a) Odors from hens, hen manure, or other hen related substances shall not be perceptible beyond the boundaries of the tract of land to disturb a person of reasonable sensitivity.

(b) Noise from hens shall not be loud enough beyond the boundaries of the tract of land at the property boundaries to disturb persons of reasonable sensitivity.

Feed and Water

(a) Hens shall be provided with access to feed and clean water in a manner to provide for their good health and basic needs.

(b) Hen's food shall be stored in a sealed plastic or metal container that has a secure lid.

Chickens at Large

(a) The owner shall not allow the hens to roam off the tract of backyard land.

(b) No dog or other domesticated animal which kills a hen off the tract of land will, for that reason alone, not be considered a dangerous or aggressive animal or the city's responsibility to enforce its animal control provisions.

Unlawful Acts

(a) It shall be unlawful for any person to keep hens in violation of any provision of this Chapter or any other provision of the Bakersfield Municipal Code.

(b) It shall be unlawful for any owner, renter or leaseholder of property to allow hens to be kept on the property in violation of the provisions of this article.

(c) No person shall keep a rooster.

(d) No person shall keep hens on a vacant or uninhabited tract of land.

Permits

(a) No permit required to own less than the maximum allowed number of hens.

Nuisances

(a) Any violation of the terms of this Chapter that constitutes a health hazard or that interferes with the use or enjoyment of neighboring property is a nuisance and may be abated under the general nuisance abatement provisions of Bakersfield Municipal Code.

6/12/20 3:30pm 3a

Dear Members of the Bakersfield City Council,

Thank you for taking the time to hear the community's concerns regarding backyard hens.

The presentation you will hear that was put together by the City Planning Department does not point out all the benefits of backyard hens but mostly concentrates on the potential negatives.

With the ownership of any animal as a pet there are always some things you have to take into consideration. Reptiles, parrots, even dogs and cats can be carriers of Salmonella as well as many other diseases. E.coli, salmonella, parasites, ringworm, and fleas are all things that our beloved dogs and cats are potential carriers of. However these potential risks do not prevent us from dog and cat ownership.

Salmonella transmission from chickens is one of the easiest things to avoid, and the majority of people who own chickens are already aware of this potential risk. You are far more likely to get food related illness from badly handled commercially produced food items. The answer to this concern over salmonella risk is to practice good hygiene and wash your hands. Washing your hands is something that should be done after handling any and all of our pets. Hopefully, considering Covid 19, good handwashing is something we have all learned in the last 6 months.

I believe that being allowed to own backyard hens within the city limits of Bakersfield will create many positive benefits for our citizens. Waste management, organic eggs, chickens raised in a humane and healthy environment, free organic compost for our gardens, pest control, fresh organic eggs, positive learning experiences for our children, affectionate pets etc.

I believe that the positive benefits far outweigh the possible concerns and that allowing backyard hens within the city limits of Bakersfield will greatly enhance our quality of life.

Again, thank you for taking the time to read all our emails and hear us out.

Thank you,

Janie Boland

RE: [EXTERNAL] City Ordinance

From: Sennett, Leslie (lsennett@sandiego.gov)

To: poprocksncoke0013@yahoo.com

Date: Monday, July 13, 2020, 01:26 PM PDT

Good afternoon, Mr. Boland. The ordinance allowing backyard chickens has not had a major impact on the amount of calls received by Code Enforcement Division. Calls regarding this issue are very rare. There are no other problems regarding this ordinance of which I am aware.

Leslie Sennett

Deputy Director

Development Services Department

T 619-446-5278

What's the Latest?

Visit sandiego.gov/dsd to keep up-to-date with DSD's operational and program updates. You can also stay informed about the City's response to COVID-19 by visiting the [City's COVID-19 information page](#).

DSD Email Updates

Visit sandiego.gov/dsd-email to receive the latest operational updates from DSD directly into your email inbox.

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From: Kirk Boland <poprocksncoke0013@yahoo.com>

Sent: Friday, July 10, 2020 4:53 PM

To: CLK City Clerk <CityClerk@sandiego.gov>

Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] City Ordinance

****This email came from an external source. Be cautious about clicking on any links in this email or opening attachments.****

Diana,

Thank you, yes I have tried to get in touch with code compliance but was told the only way I could contact them is if I made a complaint online. I don't have a complaint so I was not sure who else I could ask. I would really like to know if the City in general has had any problems resulting from the ordinance.

Thank you,

Kirk Boland

On Friday, July 10, 2020, 04:48:28 PM PDT, CLK City Clerk <cityclerk@sandiego.gov> wrote:

Good Afternoon:

Are you asking about the amount of calls our Office specifically receives or the City in general? I can only speak for our Office and it has not been a big impact and I am not aware of issues. You may want to check with DSD Code Compliance. <https://www.sandiego.gov/development-services/code-enforcement>

Thanks,

Diana E. Fuentes

Deputy Director,

Elections and Research

Office of the City Clerk

dfuentes@sandiego.gov

619-533-4081

From: Kirk Boland <poprocksncoke0013@yahoo.com>

Sent: Friday, July 10, 2020 10:35 AM

To: CLK City Clerk <CityClerk@sandiego.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] City Ordinance

****This email came from an external source. Be cautious about clicking on any links in this email or opening attachments.****

Hi, I am writing you in regards to the allowance of backyard chickens the City of San Diego approved in 2012. I am currently doing some research on this subject and would like some information if you are willing to share with me?

Has there been any other problems regarding this ordinance that you are aware of?

Any help with these questions would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you,

Kirk Boland

RE: [EXTERNAL] Ordinance help please

From: code (code@srcity.org)

To: poprocksncoke0013@yahoo.com

Date: Wednesday, August 12, 2020, 01:55 PM PDT

Hi Kirk,

I have attached the ordinance. For future reference please refer to our website at srcity.org.

I've been in this position a little over a year but there's been no major impact of calls or problems that I'm aware of.

Regards,

Jenny L. Marquez | Senior Administrative Assistant

Code Enforcement | Neighborhood Revitalization Program

Housing and Community Services | 90 Santa Rosa Ave | Santa Rosa, CA 95404

Tel. (707) 543-3319 | Fax (707) 543-4315 | jennymarquez@srcity.org

Planning and Economic Development public counter hours:

100 Santa Rosa Ave Rm 3, Santa Rosa CA 95404

Mon, Tues, Thurs: 8am - 4:30pm (No new applications accepted after 3:30pm)

Wed: 10:30am - 4:30pm (No new applications accepted after 3:30pm)

Fri: 8am - 12pm (No new applications accepted after 11:00am)

20-42.040 Animal keeping.

Animal keeping shall comply with the requirements of this Section, where allowed by Division 2 (Zoning Districts and Allowable Land Uses).

of this Zoning Code.

B. On any lot in a residential zoning district, or in conjunction with any residential use in any other district, a total of five animals (domestic or exotic) may be kept on one lot, of which not more than three may be dogs, and not more than one may be a pot-bellied pig. In addition to the five animal total, hens may be kept in accordance with the limitations of Table 4-1 and the development standards below.

C. Development standards for hen keeping. All hen keeping shall be in compliance with all of the following development standards and requirements.

1. Roosters are prohibited.
2. Hens shall be kept in a securely fenced area within the rear yard of the residential property. A coop and pen are required.
3. The coop and pen shall comply with the following development standards:
 - a. Setbacks. For keeping of six or fewer hens, the coop shall be set back a minimum of five feet from side or rear property lines. For keeping of more than six hens, the coop shall be set back a minimum of 10 feet from side or rear property lines. For all hen keeping, the coop shall be located a minimum of 20 feet from habitable structures on adjacent properties; greater distances are encouraged where practicable.
 - b. Coop height. Coops shall be no taller than eight feet in height.
 - c. Coop and pen design and maintenance. The coop and pen shall be designed, constructed, and maintained such that the hens are securely contained.
 - d. Ongoing maintenance and care. The coop and pen shall be maintained in a clean and sanitary condition. All enclosures shall be constructed and maintained to prevent rats or other rodents from being harbored underneath, within, or within the walls of the enclosure. All feed and other items associated with hen keeping shall be managed to minimize contact with rodents.

Table 4-1—Number of Hens Allowed

Lots 5,000 sq ft or less	Lots 5,001—10,000 sq ft	Lots 10,001—43,560 sq ft	Lots over one acre
3	6	6 hens per 10,000 sq ft of lot area up to 12 hens	6 hens per 10,000 square feet of lot area up to 30 hens

D. Where allowed by Division 2 (Zoning Districts and Allowable Land Uses), livestock farming shall be limited to the raising, feeding, maintaining, and breeding of livestock, subject to a minimum 20,000 square foot gross lot area and the following cumulative limitations and conditions:

1. One hog or pig per each 20,000 square feet of gross lot area; or
2. One horse or mule or cow or steer per each 20,000 square feet of gross lot area; or
3. Twenty-five chickens per each 20,000 square feet of gross lot area; or
4. Three goats or sheep or similar livestock per each 20,000 square feet of gross lot area; or
5. Ten ducks or rabbits or similar livestock per each 20,000 square feet of gross lot area; or
6. Twenty-five pigeons or 50 ornamental or song birds per each 20,000 square feet of gross lot area.

The development standards for hen keeping are not applicable to livestock farming. The lot area used to justify one class of animals shall not be used concurrently to justify another class of animals.

View the [mobile version](#).

From: Kirk Boland <poprocksncoke0013@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 12, 2020 9:50 AM
To: code <code@srcity.org>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Ordinance help please

Hi, Mr McKay asked me to inquire with you about the keeping of hens within the city limits of Santa Rosa.

I am currently doing some research on this subject and would like some information if you are willing to share with me?

Has the ordinance had a major impact on the amount of calls you receive? If so what has the impact been?

Has there been any other problems regarding this ordinance that you are aware of?

Any help with these questions would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you,

Kirk Boland

RE: City Ordinance

From: AnimalCare (animalcare@longbeach.gov)

To: poprocksncoke0013@yahoo.com

Date: Friday, August 7, 2020, 11:48 AM PDT

No impact. Not very many permits requested and no additional complaints received.

No problems with the ordinance.

Thank you,

David Linn

Field Operations Supervisor

City of Long Beach Parks, Recreation & Marine | Animal Care Services

[7700 E. Spring St. | Long Beach, CA 90815](#)

Office: (562) 570-3066

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From: AnimalCare

Sent: Friday, August 07, 2020 9:54 AM

To: Alfredo Magana <Alfredo.Magana@longbeach.gov>; David Linn <David.Linn@longbeach.gov>

Subject: FW: City Ordinance

Danielle Shinnebarger

Customer Service Representative

City of Long Beach Parks, Recreation & Marine | Animal Care Services

7700 E. Spring St. | Long Beach, CA 90815

Office: 562-570-7387

From: Kirk Boland [<mailto:poprocksncoke0013@yahoo.com>]

Sent: Friday, August 07, 2020 8:27 AM

To: AnimalCare <AnimalCare@longbeach.gov>

Subject: City Ordinance

-EXTERNAL-

Hi, I am writing you in regards to the allowance of backyard chickens in the City of Long Beach. I am currently doing some research on this subject and would like some information if you are willing to share with me?

Has the ordinance had a major impact on the amount of calls you receive? If so what has the impact been?

Has there been any other problems regarding this ordinance that you are aware of?

Any help with these questions would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you,

Kirk Boland

Re: Ordinance

From: Villalobos, Edith (edith.villalobos@oxnardpd.org)

To: poprocksncoke0013@yahoo.com

Date: Tuesday, August 11, 2020, 08:25 AM PDT

Good morning Kirk,

Hope all is well with you. I'll be happy to share any information with you regarding our ordinance. You will find my response if blue.

- Has the ordinance had a major impact on the number of calls you receive? If so what has the impact been?

Calls for service reference issues, concerns, or nuisance complaints involving chickens are minimal (unlike roosters). These types of calls do not impact our call volume as they are minimal.

- Has there been any other problems regarding this ordinance that you are aware of?

When addressing these calls, the two common complaints are in reference to loose chickens and unsanitary conditions. No other pattern of problems have been identified at this time.

Hope this helps.

Regards,

On Mon, Aug 10, 2020 at 2:38 PM 'Kirk Boland' via Oxnard Animal Safety <oxas@oxnard.org> wrote:

Hi, I am writing you in regards to the allowance of backyard chickens in the City of Oxnard. I am currently doing some research on this subject and would like some information if you are willing to share with me?

Has the ordinance had a major impact on the amount of calls you receive? If so what has the impact been?

Has there been any other problems regarding this ordinance that you are aware of?

Any help with these questions would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you,

Kirk Boland

--
Edith Villalobos
Supervising Animal Safety Officer
Oxnard Police Department /Animal Safety
Phone: (805) 385-7640
Mon-Thur 7am-5pm

RE: City Ordinance

From: Houser, Catherine (chouser@murrietaca.gov)

To: poprocksncoke0013@yahoo.com

Date: Monday, July 27, 2020, 11:24 AM PDT

Good morning Kirk,

Sorry I am just back in the office, thank you for your patience.

We do allow chickens in some residential areas. We limit the coop distance to the fence lines and the number of chickens per land size. I am sure you saw all of that already. I have not had any issues really, I get very few calls, really only when the coops are not properly distanced or there are too many chickens or there is a rooster. But overall, the calls and issues are very low for our City. I hope this has been helpful, feel free to let me know if you need further information. Enjoy your day.

All the Best,

Cathy Houser

Code Enforcement Office Assistant

1 Town Square | Murrieta, CA | 92562

Code Department Main Line: (951) 461-6332

<http://www.murrietaca.gov/FormCenter/Development-Services-4/Code-Enforcement-Complaint-76>

[http://library.amlegal.com/nxt/gateway.dll/California/murrieta_ca/murrietacaliforniamunicipalcode?
f=templates\\$fn=default.htm\\$3.0\\$vid=amlegal:murrieta_ca](http://library.amlegal.com/nxt/gateway.dll/California/murrieta_ca/murrietacaliforniamunicipalcode?f=templates$fn=default.htm$3.0$vid=amlegal:murrieta_ca)

www.MurrietaCa.gov

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From: Kirk Boland <poprocksncoke0013@yahoo.com>

Sent: Friday, July 10, 2020 1:12 PM

Subject: City Ordinance

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi, I am writing you in regards to the allowance of backyard chickens the City of Murrieta which I believe was approved in 2016. I am currently doing some research on this subject and would like some information if you are willing to share with me?

Has the ordinance had a major impact on the amount of calls you receive? If so what has the impact been?

Has there been any other problems regarding this ordinance that you are aware of?

Any help with these questions would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you,

Kirk Boland



ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

MEETING DATE: 8/12/2020

Workshops 3. b.

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council
FROM: Jacqui Kitchen, Assistant City Manager
DATE: 7/23/2020
WARD:
SUBJECT: Quarterly update from the Bakersfield-Kern Regional Homeless Collaborative (BKRHC) on Homeless System Performance Metrics.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends to receive and file.

BACKGROUND:

A quarterly report will be provided by the BKRHC.



ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

MEETING DATE: 8/12/2020

Closed Session 4. a.

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council

FROM: Virginia Gennaro, City Attorney

DATE: 7/29/2020

WARD:

SUBJECT: Conference with Labor Negotiator pursuant to Government Code section 54957.6.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

BACKGROUND: