

City Council Members,

Regrettably, I will not be able to attend the city council meeting tonight to participate in the urban chickens public hearing. I am out of town on business, but I wish to briefly add our comments and concerns to be added to the hearing as you see fit.

First, we thank the team for drafting this initial ordinance. Daniela and I agree a strict ordinance is necessary to maintain healthy, cared for flocks in healthy and progressive communities. Citizens in communities with newly adopted ordinances must be educated in the raising of hens to promote and encourage planning, proper implementation and responsibility for the flock. The worst case scenario is the allowance of members of our community to add flocks on a whim.

Comments on specific portions of the proposed ordinance:

1F: 25 Foot Rule

We believe 25 feet from property lines is excessive as this places coops towards the center of most lots. Those wishing to keep flocks may already have gardens in which they hope to aesthetically incorporate the coop. As we know, most gardens are placed around the borders of property lines with a sod area in the middle. Those without gardens have mostly sod on the entirety of the lot. We argue the 25 feet rule would potentially place coops in the least aesthetically pleasing areas of properties. We would be in favor of a 25 feet from neighbor's dwelling and 5 feet from property lines rule.

2A & 2D: Neighbor's Consent

In reviewing the minutes of the previous city council discussion on urban chickens, there seemed to be fair majority agreement that notification to neighbors was sufficient and consent was not necessary or desired. We agree with the tone of the previous meeting- notification over consent. Please reference Cedar Rapids' code.

Tax paying land owners do not have to obtain consent from neighbors for any other pets, fences, pools, etc. as allowed by city ordinances, we feel urban chickens do not necessitate this additional requirement, especially under a strict code.

2J: Covenants

We request legal clarification on the topic of voiding a permit based on private restrictions. Does the city government have the authority to void a permit based on private restrictions? There was some conversation on this topic during the initial urban chicken meeting and it was our understanding the city does not have basis to comment on private restrictions.

Please presume we are agreeable to all other portions of this initial proposed ordinance. We look forward to one day adding a flock as a instrumental part of a healthy urban landscape as part of a progressive community. Until then, Daniela and I will continue to educate ourselves in the skills required to responsibly raise hens.