

INTER-OFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: CHAIR AND MEMBERS DATE: 2020 MAY 26
SOCIAL PLANNING COMMITTEE

FROM: DEPUTY CITY CLERK FILE:

SUBJECT: FOOD SECURITY
NEW BUSINESS, COUNCIL MEETING 2020 MAY 25

Under the New Business portion of the Open Council meeting held on 2020 May 25, Councillor Keithley raised concerns regarding food security during COVID-19 pandemic.

Arising from discussion, Council introduced and adopted the following motion:

THAT correspondence from Marika Wasaznik (Item 3.1. Council Agenda 2020 April 20), Sherri Benjamin (Item 1.4. Council Correspondence Package 2020 May 21), Ginger Sedlarova (Item 1.7. Council Correspondence Package 2020 May 21), and Robert Wilmot (Item 3.7. Council Correspondence Package 2020 May 21) regarding backyard chickens be **REFERRED** to the Social Planning Committee for consideration.



Blanka Zeinabova
Deputy City Clerk

Copy: Director Planning & Building
Director Public Safety & Community Services

From: Marika Wasaznik [REDACTED]
Sent: April-03-20 10:54 AM
To: Mayor
Subject: RE: Backyard Chickens

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Hello,

Hope everyone is safe there!

I was wondering if the City of Burnaby was willing to revisit the possibility of issuing licences for individuals to keep up to 2 chickens as several other municipalities have done so successfully (Vancouver, North Vancouver, New Westminster etc).

Sincerely
Marika Wasaznik

Note from Director Planning and Building: Council adopted a report on 2010 June 21 regarding the keeping of hens on residential properties that recommended against permitting them. The report cited several concerns with the practice, notably the potential for the spread of disease. As such, unless otherwise directed by Council, staff will notify the writer of the current bylaw provisions.

Copied to:
City Manager
Dir. Corporate Services
Dir. Planning & Building
Dir. Public Safety & Community Services

From: Sherri Benjamin [REDACTED] >
Sent: Wednesday, May 20, 2020 2:33 PM
To: Clerks <Clerks@burnaby.ca>; Mayor <Mayor@burnaby.ca>; Keithley, Joe <Joe.Keithley@burnaby.ca>
Cc: ccampbell@burnabynow.com
Subject: Letter to Burnaby city Council regarding the removal of Backyard chickens

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Please find attached in PDF format, a copy of our letter to council and all attached appendices for consideration at the next council meeting dated May 25, 2020.

I would like to request if possible, to attend the council meeting if current social distancing measures are not of issue.

I am also aware that the Burnaby Now opinion piece regarding our chickens has been submitted to council as well.

Please let me know if there is anything else you require

Kind Regards
Sherri Benjamin

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Burnaby

May 20, 2020

Attention: Mayor Mike Hurley and the Burnaby City Council

Dear Mayor Hurley and Members of the Burnaby Council:

I am writing today regarding a letter we recently received from the City Licensing branch instructing us to remove our backyard chickens from our property at [REDACTED] by June 10th. This came as both a shock and disappointment to our family, as we have had our chickens since this time last year and they have become treasured family pets to our children, to my husband and to me. In addition, before we embarked on this project, we read through the city bylaws and saw nothing specific to indicate that this was against city bylaws and thus proceeded.

I have become aware that there was a letter sent to council some weeks ago regarding a request to revisit the zoning bylaws for backyard chickens (attached below). From my understanding, at that time council chose not to revisit the issue and referred to the decade-old June 2010 report. We would, however, respectfully request that you reconsider this item for further serious discussion and amending the bylaw, especially now, in keeping with the current times in which we find ourselves after COVID-19.

For your reference and understanding, and to substantiate our request, I would like to offer you a brief history of our situation.

We are a family of 4 with two boys who we have been homeschooling for several years now. Early last year our youngest son (now 11) expressed great interest in raising chickens as pets. He spent many hours and days researching all about what he would need to do to care for a flock, and in approximately May of last year, when his grandparents came to visit, set about a plan with his grandpa to build a small chicken coop. They spent a week sourcing materials and building this small coop together.

Current Residential Zoning Bylaws

To support the project, I set about researching the city bylaws including the Burnaby Animal Bylaw, City Bylaw and our Zoning bylaw. Here is a summary of what I found:

1. The Animal Bylaw clearly made provisions for poultry:

"No owner of an animal or poultry shall permit the animal or poultry, other than a cat, to be at large in the municipality. (Bylaw No. 13295)"

2. The Residential Zoning bylaw (R5) for our property makes no mention in "permitted Usage" the keeping pets - Dog, Cat or any other small animal or bird. One can only

determine from this fact that the Animal bylaw would be the sole source for regulation regarding the keeping of pets.

3. Chickens are not included on the list of prohibited animals in Schedule D of the Animal Bylaw.

4. Chickens are also specifically excluded from the Schedule E list of animals that are not permitted to be harboured.

Based on this research, and the fact that I could see no regulations that would bar us from starting our backyard flock, we set about finding an incubator we could rent, and fertilized eggs from a farm in Delta, and on July 4, 2019 when they hatched the grand adventure began.

Having received our letter from the Licensing branch early this month, we contacted both the licensing officer and the City Clerk to gain more knowledge regarding the stance that Burnaby has taken against our backyard chickens.

I have been told by the Property Use Coordinator, Johnny Tran, that the call that they received was not a noise complaint, but merely a call to alert them to the fact that there were backyard chickens on our property.

Zoning laws are quite ambiguous in that there is no specific restriction for chickens. I was directed to the zoning bylaw for Agricultural land in our city as 'proof' that we were not permitted to have our backyard flock. The bylaws, as stated, point to general permissiveness.

I do not believe, nor do I feel it makes any logical sense that residents should be required to read ALR zoning bylaws to make inferences regarding residential zoning.

I believe there should be a distinction between zoning laws regarding large scale *commercial* agriculture for profit in our ALR, and those of *urban residents* who seek to decrease their cost of living by decreasing our reliance on conventional food distribution.

Enhancing Community

Our son has 5 hens, and a rooster in his flock. They have been his pets for almost a year. He has joined the 4-H club in Langley and has found a sense of responsibility for his flock that he takes seriously. He has gained much knowledge regarding chickens, from the stages of embryonic growth, how to care for baby chicks as they grew to full grown birds, how to clip wings, bathe them periodically, and overall animal husbandry.

We soon realized that this would not only be a learning experience for our son but was becoming a neighbourhood community-building experience. We see many local neighbours visit with our flock quite regularly and have had the opportunity to meet neighbours that we otherwise wouldn't have. We have found opportunities to engage with local children and teach them about chickens, their egg laying, the various different

colours of eggs that chickens will lay, and give them a more intimate understanding of where their food comes from. Overall, it has brought a unique camaraderie to our little neighbourhood.

I searched the city archives to obtain the June 2010 report mentioned above. I am providing an attachment regarding the concerns based on our experience with being stewards for our backyard flock. Many of the concerns noted in the report, though valid issues with large scale **commercial** chicken farms, are much diminished with a small backyard flock of pet chickens.

Food Security

Much has changed in our world over the past decade. Now more than ever, with the pandemic at hand and the fragility of our food security that has come to light during this time, urban residents are, more than rural ones, particularly affected by any disruption to the commercial food chain.

We as urban residents have far fewer options for seeking out food supply in any unconventional method. We don't have neighbours who we can call on with farms for produce, meat or egg production. We are at the sway of what is available in our grocery stores. We should be permitted to build an element of self-sustainability for providing our own food sources when space allows and in keeping with city Animal and Noise bylaws.

Request for Special Dispensation

I have been made aware by Rick McGowan, previous Green council candidate, that Special Dispensations have been made in Burnaby in the past. He specifically noted a resident in the Edmonds area who had been granted a special dispensation to have pigmy goats on his residential zoned property after their neighbour had alerted the city regarding their presence.

Our chicken coop is a 'blackout coop' so that our rooster does not rise with the sun.

In accordance with Noise bylaws our chickens are not released from their coop until after 7:30 am each morning. They also go to roost of their own accord as the evening light begins to diminish.

Our immediate neighbours have no problem with our flock being next door.

The expense of building our chickens' accommodations on our property has been great, and we would not have proceeded if restrictions in our zoning bylaws had been apparent.

If you were to allow us a special dispensation to keep our chickens, we would welcome an opportunity to become a test project for council as you consider the possibility of amending zoning bylaws to include them more specifically. I would be willing to discuss this with a committee if you are indeed willing to raise it for discussion.

I am including for your reference:

1. Our petition* that has been posted on our fence for the past few days.
2. A copy of our online petition.
3. An opinion article from *Burnaby Now* as well as letter to the editor from another Burnaby resident in response.
4. Benefits of Backyard Chickens pamphlet by the "ChickensForLangley" organization.

I would like to extend an invitation to all council members to visit us and our backyard chicken coop - [REDACTED]. It may go a long way to allay some of the concerns and misconceptions around backyard chicken coops.

In keeping with all the details outlined above, our family is appealing to you today and specifically requesting that you:

1. Grant us a 90-day extension on the removal of our flock (as the June 10 deadline is approaching quickly) to allow council time to consider the following two points:
2. Extending a special dispensation to keep our chickens, and;
3. Amendments to the Residential Zoning Bylaws to allow for non-commercial backyard flocks.

I look forward to dialogue with you regarding this issue.

With Care and Respect,

Sherri Benjamin

[REDACTED]

Burnaby, BC [REDACTED]

Tel: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

*A copy of paper petition, signed by 44 individuals, is available for viewing in the Office of the City Clerk.

June 2010 report

Smell

Chickens droppings are nothing like livestock. Certainly the presence of a large scale enclosed chicken farm would come with issues, but this is not the case with a small backyard flock. Their manure is a source of compost for vegetable garden and flower beds.

Noise

As I stated, we keep our flock cooped until 7:30 am. Any early crowing is muffled and cannot be heard by our immediate neighbours in their homes. I am amused by the concern regarding the noise of hens however. They certainly will 'squabble' over their favoured nesting box, but this is short lived kerfuffle, potentially once per day, but is far from the normal daily occurrence with a small flock. Living in a city there are all manner of noise disturbances that are louder throughout the day and night - Barking dogs, idling cars without a muffler, exotic birds yelling from windows, sewer trucks, construction - this is part of living in a city.

Wildlife Control

Though we are resigned to the fact that Roosters would probably not be a part of bylaw amendments, there are a number of benefits to having a rooster in a flock primarily regarding the safety of the hens. A rooster's job is to take care of the flock.

Prior to installing our coop and flock there was a family of Raccoons who travelled through our yard every evening. This is no longer the case, we haven't seen them in a year.

Rats

Food sources as a lure for rats would be the main concern. I am quite certain that anyone keeping chickens as pets is focused on ONLY feeding their flock, and keeping food stores from being contaminated by pests. I believe that our garbage and green bins, and fruit bearing trees in the city are a far greater lure for vermin.

Each evening we secure the chicken feed in the enclosed coop along with the chickens. All other food stores are kept in sealed bins in our indoor storage area.

Coyotes - Are nocturnal. Chickens are not. The coyote hunting cycle is the opposite of the chicken who, with terrible sight at night will go to roost at the first signs of the sun going down.

Bugs and pests - Chickens are an excellent bird to control bug, ant and flying pest populations in the community.

Virus transmission.

Salmonella - 94% of all human cases are transmitted by undercooked meat or unwashed produce.

Salmonella could only be transmitted by a backyard flock to those who are handling chickens and not following proper hygiene protocols afterwards. This poses no threat to our neighbourhood given that our chicken's free range pen is set back from the street and neighbours.

Avian Flu - is carried by wild geese and ducks. While a large scale free range chicken farm would be potentially susceptible due to the large spaces where chickens would roam and geese can land to cause cross transmission. This is not a concern for a small backyard chicken enclosure.

Staph infection - As you probably know Staph bacteria is carried by everyone as a beneficial bacteria in general. It is an overpopulation - usually for those who are immune-compromised where it becomes an issue, and would usually require direct contact with an open wound. Again, not a public issue in regards to a backyard chicken coop.

Unwanted poultry

Every Saturday in Langley there is a livestock and poultry auction. Any unwanted chickens or roosters can easily be taken there. This would not be a strain on local shelters.

Since the writing of the June 2010 report, North Vancouver has also included hens in their residential zoning bylaws.

From: Marika Wasaznik [REDACTED]
Sent: April-03-20 10:54 AM
To: Mayor
Subject: RE: Backyard Chickens

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I was wondering if the City of Burnaby was willing to revisit the possibility of issuing licences for individuals to keep up to 2 chickens as several other municipalities have done so successfully (Vancouver, North Vancouver, New Westminster etc).

Sincerely
Marika Wasaznik

Note from Director Planning and Building: Council adopted a report on 2010 June 21 regarding the keeping of hens on residential properties that recommended against permitting them. The report cited several concerns with the practice, notably the potential for the spread of disease. As such, unless otherwise directed by Council, staff will notify the writer of the current bylaw provisions.

Copied to:
City Manager
Dir. Corporate Services
Dir. Planning & Building
Dir. Public Safety & Community Services

Opinion: 'No-fun' Burnaby forces woman to get rid of chickens, rooster

[Chris Campbell](#) / Burnaby Now

MAY 8, 2020 01:07 PM

[Now & Then](#)



This rooster is being forced out by the City of Burnaby. Submitted photo



The COVID-19 pandemic has reminded us all about the value of food security.

Our supply chains are good, but at the height of the pandemic, some stores did run out of things like meat and eggs.

This was just a hint of what is possible.

I bring this up because of the case of the City of Burnaby cracking down on a local resident who was keeping some chickens and a rooster at her home in order to have fresh eggs.

It's part of a growing urban movement, with some cities opening their minds to allowing residents to do more to be food secure and have access to free-range, organic options.

Vancouver, New Westminster and North Vancouver all allow backyard chickens (not roosters) and, by all accounts, this hasn't caused any major problems.

I was contacted by a friend who says her Burnaby neighbour added the chickens and rooster more than a year ago. (My friend didn't want her name used.)

"These chickens and their rooster - all of whom have fun names - have become not just a food source but part of their family," said my friend. "And as time went on since their introduction to our little local community, they've also become an important part of the neighbourhood. As their house is on a corner lot, their backyard is visually accessible to anyone passing by, and we've all become addicted to stopping by to say hello to these fowl friends of ours. The local children love them, and people stop every day by the dozens. They've had many people tell them how much being able to pop by and see the chickens has meant to them while they're on their socially-distanced walks."

Sadly, she said, "no-fun" Burnaby recently told her the chickens had to go. I'm assuming someone in the neighbourhood snitched on the chicken woman because of course someone did.

Burnaby does not allow these kinds of backyard chickens. This issue actually just came up at council when local resident Marika Wasaznik asked the city to reconsider its rules around keeping backyard chickens in residential areas of the neighbourhood.

In Vancouver, up to four hens are allowed at a residential property, and in New Westminster and the City of North Vancouver, up to eight chickens are allowed on a property – as long as the properties are big enough. In Burnaby, chickens are only allowed on properties zoned A1 (agricultural) and A2 (small holdings).

In a City of Burnaby report, staff acknowledged that other cities do allow the keeping of chickens on residential properties, but cited concerns around noise, pests, disease and unwanted hens after they've finished laying eggs.

That just seems so short-sighted.

We're in a new age. Why not try a pilot project? Why not try and be bold?

Burnaby can be so frustratingly stuffy. How does it know better than New West or Vancouver?

It's time to join more progressive cities on this issue.

- With files from Dustin Godfrey

Follow Chris Campbell on Twitter @shinebox44.

Letter: Allowing chickens in Burnaby just like backyard pets

Burnaby Now

MAY 11, 2020 08:48 AM



A New West bylaw allows folks to have hens on their property (a maximum of 50), but certain rules must be followed
Photograph By ENNFER GAUTHER

Editor:

[*'No-fun' Burnaby forces woman to get rid of chickens, rooster*](#), **NOW** Opinion

It is clear to me that there is a lack of distinction between bylaws that allow for a few hens, such as those in Vancouver, versus a full-fledged ALR (agricultural land reserve) production. There are sustainable methods of having a backyard inhabited by hens. Seemingly novel, this practice is applied in urban areas, both the UK and the U.S.

If we adopt the same bylaws as Vancouver, the allowance of four hens maximum, it would not be dissimilar to having a backyard pet like a dog or cat.

With COVID-19 being a rude awakening for many, it is clear that residents in Burnaby now realize that they are increasingly reliant on consumer products. As many scientists have warned, COVID-19 will not be the last epidemic that we may face.

Through the practice of owning hens, residents are given the opportunity to establish a sustainable backyard agro-ecosystem that can decrease their dependency on major food chains and garner a better understanding of environmental stewardship.

Warren Wong, Burnaby

Recipient: Mike Hurley, Joe Keithley, Pietro Calendino, Sav Dhaliwal, Dan Johnston, Colleen Jordan, Paul McDonell, Nick Volkow, James Wang

Letter: Greetings,

Save our backyard chickens in Burnaby,

With the current pandemic at hand, now more than ever, food security has been an issue and is at the forefront of conversation. With the current and apparent weaknesses in the supply chain, limited resources in our grocery stores, and with food contamination concerns, we as a community should have the right to raise, produce, and grow, all forms of natural and untainted food resources. Community and backyard vegetable gardens have been a beneficial contribution to allowing Burnaby residences to support their food supply. Allowing the raising of a small number of backyard chickens can only serve to enhance this.

We have just been informed that the backyard chickens at [REDACTED] are against residential zoning bylaws in Burnaby and are required to be removed.

We are aware that:

- the Burnaby animal control bylaws have long had provisions for poultry;
- the residential zoning bylaws in Burnaby do not include specific restrictions regarding backyard chickens, and;
- the last serious review of backyard chickens by Burnaby City Council was a decade ago. (June 2010).

Since this is a non-commercial venture and intended only to feed our family and a few friends, we urge you to:

1. Consider granting a special dispensation to allow the chickens to remain at [REDACTED].
2. or, Suspend this bylaw enforcement for 90 days to allow time for City Council to review this policy,
2. Consider using the backyard chickens at [REDACTED] as a pilot project as you review current regulations, and to assess how backyard chickens would benefit our local community,
3. Update the current residential zoning bylaws to include backyard chickens in the permitted uses, in keeping with the climate of the current times we're facing,

We thank you for reviewing our requests and look forward to working with you to continue to enhance our Burnaby community.

Signatures

Name	Location	Date
Sherri Benjamin	Burnaby, Canada	2020-05-10
Lynda Reis	Kelowna, Canada	2020-05-10
Taylor Russell	Surrey, Canada	2020-05-10
Natasha Knox	Coquitlam, Canada	2020-05-10
Don Sparling	Burnaby, Canada	2020-05-10
Graham Barlow	Langley, Canada	2020-05-10
Rory Booth	Richmond, Canada	2020-05-10
Lara Onaba	Burnaby, Canada	2020-05-10
Melanie Wilkins-Ho	Burnaby, Canada	2020-05-10
Diana Cloutier	Chilliwack, Canada	2020-05-10
erin henderson	Chilliwack, Canada	2020-05-10
Amy Childs	Vancouver, Canada	2020-05-10
Jackie Smith	Chilliwack, Canada	2020-05-10
Naomi Mccann	Surrey, Canada	2020-05-10
Kimberly Calkins	Burnaby, Canada	2020-05-10
davina lawlor	New Westminster, Canada	2020-05-10
n Devenney	Chilliwack, Canada	2020-05-10
Michal Sirton	Delta, Canada	2020-05-10
Sarah Mast	Langley, Canada	2020-05-10
Andrea Pohlers	Vancouver, Canada	2020-05-10

Name	Location	Date
Pearce benjamin	Vancouver, Canada	2020-05-10
Haide Giesbrecht	Langley, Canada	2020-05-10
Anjula Benjamin	Vancouver, Canada	2020-05-10
Lynne Stasko	Vancouver, Canada	2020-05-10
Jennifer O'Neill-baas	Langley, Canada	2020-05-10
Marta Rogic	Burnaby, Canada	2020-05-10
Kerry Goulding	Burnaby, Canada	2020-05-10
Heather Kastelan	Vancouver, Canada	2020-05-10
Shannon Caldwell	Surrey, Canada	2020-05-10
Jen Hogg	Merritt, Canada	2020-05-10
Danielle Gallant	Saint John, Canada	2020-05-10
Jacqueline Jones	Burnaby, Canada	2020-05-10
banjot ward	Lawrencetown, Canada	2020-05-10
Marlene Smith	Burnaby, Canada	2020-05-10
Nickie Brideau	Long Reach, Canada	2020-05-10
Cassandra M	Canada	2020-05-10
Gloria Chamberlain	Victoria, Canada	2020-05-10
John Szabo	London, Canada	2020-05-10
carlina balan	sundre ab, Canada	2020-05-10
Julia McKenzie	Chilliwack, Canada	2020-05-10
H Ward	Burnaby, Canada	2020-05-11
Tova Krause Grindlay	Vancouver, Canada	2020-05-11

Name	Location	Date
Arick Allen	Chilliwack, Canada	2020-05-11
Teresa Forbrigger	Smithers, Canada	2020-05-11
sky leuba	Burnaby, Canada	2020-05-11
Tabatha Berggren	Powell River, Canada	2020-05-11
Chantal Harlick	Burnaby, Canada	2020-05-11
Kurt Ward-Theiss	Burnaby, Canada	2020-05-11
angela collins	richmond, Canada	2020-05-11
Amy Friesen	Surrey, Canada	2020-05-11
L Ingram	Vancouver, Canada	2020-05-11
Mason Carr	Fredericton, Canada	2020-05-11
Nicole Burt	Langley, Canada	2020-05-11
Danielle Tatarin	Puebla, Mexico	2020-05-11
Robert Snow	Leverville, Canada	2020-05-11
Leah Pillet	Maple Ridge, Canada	2020-05-11
Pam Boyd	Langley, Canada	2020-05-11
Manu S-M	Hamilton, Canada	2020-05-11
Raniela Bovey	Burnaby, Canada	2020-05-11
Jennifer Maki	New Westminister, Canada	2020-05-11
James Frederick	Las Vegas, Nevada, US	2020-05-11
Victoria Johnstone	Surrey, Canada	2020-05-11
Evan Wickens	Burnaby, Canada	2020-05-11
Farista Sairuv	Edmonton, Canada	2020-05-11

Name	Location	Date
Karen Randall	North Vancouver, Canada	2020-05-11
Jevona Klassen	Abbotsford, Canada	2020-05-11
Melissa Hodges	Vancouver, Canada	2020-05-12
Donna Hansen	Vancouver, Canada	2020-05-12
Sophia Beaumont	Vancouver, Canada	2020-05-12
Elsa Wiens	Cloverdale, Canada	2020-05-12
kathryn spurr	Vancouver, Canada	2020-05-12
D. Bosch	West Kelowna, Canada	2020-05-12
Michelle Dubeau	Coquitlam, Canada	2020-05-12
Chris Mann	Burnaby, Canada	2020-05-12
Matt Giammarino	Coquitlam, Canada	2020-05-12
Emily van Lidth de Jeude	Bowen Island, Canada	2020-05-12
Colleen Eguia	Surrey, Canada	2020-05-12
Sharon Velez	Chilliwack, Canada	2020-05-12
Marilyn Payan	Port Coquitlam, Canada	2020-05-12
leah stoltz	Burnaby, Canada	2020-05-12
Dino DiNicolo	N. Vancouver, Canada	2020-05-12
Chrysann Gentles	Grande Prairie, Canada	2020-05-13
Carolina Acosta Guadarrama	Parksville, Canada	2020-05-13
Brian Hunt	Grande Prairie, Canada	2020-05-13
Lynn GRANT	Richmond, Canada	2020-05-13
Carl Mulherin	Delta, Canada	2020-05-13

Name	Location	Date
Tammy Keleher	Quispamsis, Canada	2020-05-13
Stephanie Howie	Vancouver, Canada	2020-05-13
Jan Roscovich	Richmond, Canada	2020-05-13
Joy Robinson	Victoria, Canada	2020-05-13
Carola Mueller	Panama, Panama	2020-05-13
JoAnne Vasil	Shelbyville, Tennessee, US	2020-05-13
Lori Froese	Calgary, Canada	2020-05-14
Susan Olsen	Shelbyville, Tennessee, US	2020-05-14
Grey Saager	Vancouver, Canada	2020-05-14
Ron Morneau	Maple Ridge, Canada	2020-05-14
Gigi Vincent	Montréal, Canada	2020-05-14
Grace Smith	Scarborough, Canada	2020-05-14
Adam Kaluba	Burleson, US	2020-05-14
Veronica Walls-good	Nanaimo, Canada	2020-05-14
Amber Krise	Mahanoy City, US	2020-05-14
Dawn Ayotte	Chilliwack, Canada	2020-05-14
Miles Jackson	Sturgeon County, Canada	2020-05-14
Bonita Mckay-Larsen	Vancouver, Canada	2020-05-14
Keith Vaters	St John's, Canada	2020-05-14
alice killerich	Canada	2020-05-14
Shelley MacKinnon	Ottawa, Canada	2020-05-14
albert wierenga	Bradford, Canada	2020-05-14

Name	Location	Date
Terena Campbell	Burnaby, Canada	2020-05-14
Jennica Hookstra	Richmond, Canada	2020-05-14
Jillian Glass	Vancouver, Canada	2020-05-15
Rachel Kumar	Vancouver, Canada	2020-05-15
Katharina Knodel	CALGARY, Canada	2020-05-15
Ryanna Cortez	Shelbyville, US	2020-05-15
Genevieve dupont	Vancouver, Canada	2020-05-15
Queenie Cheung	New Westminster, Canada	2020-05-15
Traci Sparling	Calgary, Canada	2020-05-16
Lidia Pinheiro	Burnaby, Canada	2020-05-17
Dorothy godlinski	Vancouver, Canada	2020-05-18
Shannon fedewa	Burnaby, Canada	2020-05-20
Jessica Kamsteeg	Ladysmith, Canada	2020-05-20
Beth Moore	Burnaby, Canada	2020-05-20
Angel Santos	Surrey, Canada	2020-05-20
Kitty Cheung	Burnaby, Canada	2020-05-20
Natalie Rosecky	Burnaby, Canada	2020-05-20
Jacklyn simington	North Vancouver, Canada	2020-05-20
Graham Cross	Gibsons, Canada	2020-05-20
Peggy Wong	Burnaby, Canada	2020-05-20
Magda Dominik	Vancouver, Canada	2020-05-20

Sample of cities that allow backyard chickens:

- Burnaby
- Esquimalt
- Gibsons
- Kamloops
- Oak Bay
- New Westminster
- Port Coquitlam
- North Vancouver
- Powell River
- Rossland
- Richmond
- Rossland
- Rupert
- Saanich
- Smithers
- Terrace
- Vancouver
- Victoria
- West Vancouver
- Whitehorse

Seattle, Washington allows up to 8 hens (this was increased from the original 3 permitted) Residents may keep up to 3 chickens on an apartment patio!

If we want to eliminate all things that can attract rats, we should look at:

- Dogs
- Cats
- Bird feeders
- Water fountains
- Fruit trees
- Grapevines
- Wood piles
- Gardens
- Nut trees
- Construction
- Natural habitation
- Tree removal

What can you feed a chicken?

Anything you can eat . . .
any scraps you can throw away. A chicken free ranging in the yard/field will eat many pests, insects, worms, small rodents etc.
They will eat your garden and table scraps. If a chicken breaks an egg they usually will eat it. If they catch a mouse in their travels they will rarely pass it up as a meal!

Sustainability Charter – Benefits of Backyard Chickens

How do Backyard Chickens fit into the goals and the vision of the Sustainability Charter?

Allowing backyard chickens in Langley:

- celebrates our heritage by promoting awareness of heritage values
- helps us prepare for emergencies and disasters by providing reliable local food sources and food sovereignty
- fosters a preventative approach to personal and community safety by providing an educational and wholesome leisure activity
- nurtures a mindset of sustainability by incorporating a sustainability mentality into the community
- reduces air pollution
- respects our rural character and rural heritage
- recognizes the rural character as an essential community feature
- promotes stewardship by establishing and strengthening stewardship partnerships
- practices the 3Rs – reduce, reuse, and recycle

Backyard chickens reduce the amount of waste that goes into our green bins.

They will eat many pests, insects, small rodents, as well garden and table scraps.

We enrich the soil and our environment by composting their waste on site.

This in turn reduces our carbon footprint. Fewer trips to the dump site = reduced fuel consumption and reduced costs to the taxpayer.

*Why Did the Rat Cross the Road?
To Get Away from the Chicken!*

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/ChickensForLangley/>



**BACKYARD CHICKENS
IN TOWNSHIP OF LANGLEY**

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Don't hens belong on the farm?

At one time dogs and cats were seen as strictly working farm animals. The gallus domesticus (chicken) is a domesticated bird that has been kept in urban settings up until the mid-1900's. Only within "the past few decades" have hens been removed from cities, to farms. Over 100 North American municipalities encourage raising backyard hens.

Are hens smelly or dirty?

A hen that is properly cared for is just as clean as a well-cared for dog or cat. A coop that is properly ventilated and cleaned will not smell.

How do you deal with excrement?

Hen droppings make excellent compost, especially when combined with materials high in carbon (leaves, pine shavings, and straw which are often used for bedding). Use your nose; if it starts to smell, add more carbon. Same rule applies to your kitchen and compost.

Are hens noisy?

No. Some hens sing a short 'egg song' after laying. Hens sleep through the night once the sun sets. Traffic, dogs barking, lawn mowers, and children playing all rank higher in decibel levels than hens.

Should you have more than one hen?

Yes. Chickens have a strong need for socialization and maintain a hierarchical social structure, similar to dogs and other pack/flock animals. Hens generate body heat and huddle together to conserve energy during winter. For both these reasons, many North American municipalities allow 4- 6 hens at a time.

Will backyard hens (BYH) attract rodents?

No. Rodents are already present within our city. "Rats are the most common urban pest in the Lower Mainland and most homeowners are not even aware of their existence."
<http://www.vancouverwildlife.com>

What about other predators?

Predators of hens are the same as those of cats, small dogs, wild rabbits, squirrels, chipmunks, small birds, and other local animals already present in our community, they do not themselves attract predators to the area.

Coops can be designed in such a way as to be impermeable to rodents, wild birds, and predators, including, but not limited to, cats coyotes, dogs, raccoons and skunks.

What about Avian Flu and other diseases?

Research shows that there are actually more diseases that can be spread from dogs and cats than from hens. There is a far greater risk of Avian Flu from wild birds - which fly and thus can transport - than there is from a flightless hen.

- "Bird flu does not evolve to highly pathogenic forms in backyard poultry operations, where low-density and genetic diversity keep the viral load to low levels." (GRAIN, 2006, 8)
- "Health authorities in Canada consider the risk of H5N1 reaching North America, or other HPAI subtypes spreading among backyard hens, to be extremely limited, particularly if biosecurity measures, such as those recommended by the CFIA, are followed."
(City of Vancouver, 2010)

Will backyard hens burden Animal services?

When chickens were permitted in the City of Vancouver, there were concerns about abandoned chickens and complaints. Three years later, there have been few chickens that have needed shelter and there have been less than 20 complaints per year.

What if not everyone is in support of this?

The movement to allow backyard chickens in urban settings has gained momentum and support across the country and across the world.

Before chickens were permitted in the City of Vancouver, there were concerns about abandoned chickens and complaints. Three years later, there have been few chickens that have needed shelter and there have been less than 20 complaints per year.

The many cities and towns that allow backyard chickens are evidence that this *can* work and it can work *well*.

If Vancouver can do this with its tiny lot sizes and large urban density, then Langley should be able to as well



Note from Council Correspondence Package 2020.05.21.: The keeping of hens in residential neighbourhoods may be of interest to some residents, however concerns regarding noise, odour, spread of disease, and risks to public health and safety have been raised by the community, which resulted in limiting the keeping of backyard chickens to agricultural properties where similar uses are permitted. In general, residential properties in an urban setting do not have adequate lot area to provide the required setbacks from neighbouring properties to minimize anticipated noise concerns which can be a recurring issue. The elimination of unpleasant odour requires regular cleaning and disposal of waste which some owners may fail to satisfy, especially if chickens are kept only as a food source. While sales of unwanted poultry at livestock and poultry auctions is an option, not all poultry owners choose this option, and as such dealing with unwanted poultry remains an issue in residential neighbourhoods. Permitting backyard chickens in urban residential neighbourhoods requires a detailed review and public input as the community's concerns are more significant when it comes to the keeping of chickens as a pet, compared to other animals typically associated with pets.

From: Wong, Elaine <Elaine.Wong@burnaby.ca>
Sent: Monday, May 11, 2020 7:50 PM
To: OConnell, Kate <Kate.OConnell@burnaby.ca>
Cc: Keithley, Joe <Joe.Keithley@burnaby.ca>
Subject: FW: Burnaby issue

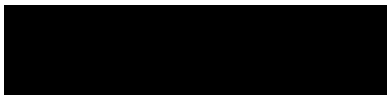
From: Ginger [[mailto:\[REDACTED\]](mailto:[REDACTED])]
Sent: May-09-20 9:15 AM
To: Mayor; Keithley, Joe; Chris Campbell
Subject: Burnaby issue

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I am forwarding the following blog post from my friend and the editor of the Burnaby Now. I'm the unnamed woman quoted in this post, and I am asking Burnaby City Council to look at changing the bylaws quickly to allow people to have chickens on their property, such as in nearby municipalities. I was extremely disappointed to hear that when this issue was recently raised with the council, (see the current issue of the Burnaby Now, page 21) "Wasaznik's letter... was presented to council recently but was met with little interest from staff." I realize council has bigger issues to deal with during the pandemic, but as a Burnaby resident, I am asking that you postpone all removal of these animals from people's property for the time being until this issue can be properly discussed and dealt with in the (hopefully) near future. These chickens are both being used as a food source for the family and are extremely popular and mood-lifting for many dozens of us who live nearby and visit with them during daily distanced walks. I invite you to drop by their property (am happy to provide the address) and see the situation and the joy they provide for all of us. Burnaby needs more uplifting in small ways such as this, especially now. Thank you for your time and consideration, and I look forward to hearing back from you -
Ginger Sedlarova, Burnaby

<https://www.burnabynow.com/opinion/blogs/opinion-no-fun-burnaby-forces-woman-to-get-rid-of-chickens-rooster-1.24132122>

Sent from my iPad



Note from Council Correspondence Package 2020.05.21.: In 2010, staff conducted a review regarding the keeping of hens in Burnaby's residential zoning districts. The report indicates that despite some interests to keep hens as local food source and fertilizer, as well as personal rewards, there are significant concerns in the urban residential areas including:

- risks to public health, domestic animals and surrounding wildlife by spread of disease;*
- impacts on the neighbouring properties regarding noise and odour; and,*
- risks to public safety and health by attracting predators, rodents and other pests.*

Considering the benefits, concerns, and challenges to protect the interests of all property owners and residents related to the keeping of hens, Council adopted the recommendation to continue to restrict this activity in urban residential areas where lot sizes and building setbacks are not in line with the farming activities' requirements. Considering that the raised issues related to the keeping of hens, especially the potential for the spread of disease remain the main concern at this time, it is advisable to continue to restrict the keeping of chickens in urban residential areas, unless otherwise directed by Council.

From: Robert Wilmot [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, May 15, 2020 1:54 PM
To: Clerks <Clerks@burnaby.ca>
Subject: Chickens

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Dear Mayor and Council.

So disappointed that you decided not to change the current Burnaby policy so it would allow for people not living in A1 and A2 areas to keep chickens in their backyards and used a 2010 staff report as rationale for that decision. One of the concerns raised in that report was around noise. The noise from chickens is minuscule. The noise from gas lawnmowers, gas and electric blowers, power washers and multiple other noise creating and polluting machines owned and used by many homeowners and tenants far exceeds the noise of a couple of chickens.

I would have thought a "progressive" focused council which includes a Green Party member would show and practice much more progressive, environment friendly and sustainable policies like other urban communities in the Lower Mainland rather than relying on a 10 year old staff report.

Then again, this is the same Council, with a couple of changes, that until very recently refused to deal with the issue of homelessness in Burnaby, so I shouldn't be surprised by such a narrow minded decision.

As we work our way through the COVID pandemic, we, particularly elected officials, should be looking at many more ways that citizens can be more self sufficient and engaged in sustainable food practices.

Robert Wilmot

[REDACTED]

Burnaby

[REDACTED]