

**Comments submitted by Roberta dePonte-Jacobs on 12/16/2015**

Re: Amendments to the City of Hayward Livestock Regs.

I own property in Hayward and was raised in that home. My mother nearly always had hens and we had fresh eggs. I think it was wonderful and believe citizens should be able to have chickens.

Regarding bees, I don't know how we can protect those that are allergic to bee stings so keeping bees in densely populated area seems problematic.

Keeping other small animals; I am glad the city will require permits and will be willing to monitor to protect citizens from odors, flies and other unhealthy affects of anyone that does not do the work to responsibly maintain the animals and environment. I believe people keeping small animals should be required to have a vet and to take their animals to the vet at least one time per year to make sure the animals get their rabies shots etc. as a requirement of having the "small animals" in our city limits.

Thank you for your consideration.

**Comments submitted by Deborah McHenry on 8/18/2015**

I am unable to attend tonight's discussion, but I would like to state my strong opposition to allowing chickens or other livestock to be raised in backyards. A few reasons follow:

.When we moved to Hayward 25+ years ago, we were consciously choosing city living.

.Some years ago, our next door neighbor attempted to raise chickens, and we were constantly awakened and disturbed by the noise. ( When we complained, they got rid of the animals.) .There were/are undesirable odors associated with these animals.

.Our home backs up to a canyon, and the presence of chicken or other livestock will encourage insects, predators and other unwanted animals.

Please inform me of the next step after this discussion, but it is my hope that the discussion tonight will end any consideration for allowing chickens or any livestock to be raised at residences within the city's boundaries.

\*\*Deborah McHenry

(Will provide address if needed)

**Comments submitted by Frank Andel on 8/18/2015**

Dear Michael,

In lieu of attending this evening's meeting about keeping chickens in residential backyards due to a schedule conflict, I am sending this email in hopes that you read it and pass it on to the planning committee for their consideration. I am against the keeping of backyard chickens in the city of Hayward.

I am a resident of Hayward who lives on Skyline Drive. Last year, my neighbor acquired 3 chickens and thank goodness the city ordinance/code did not allow them to be kept. I experienced the following problems:

- Constant clucking and screeching

- Terrible smell from feces
- A subsequent invasion of rats feasting on the seed spread on the ground for the chickens

Between the noise and the smell and my subsequent efforts at trapping and removing a large number of rats, I finally contacted animal control who required removal of the chickens. I honestly don't know how the owners could stand it themselves.

I urge caution on loosening the requirements for livestock use permits in the city. For every potentially responsible chicken owner, there will be many more irresponsible ones like the neighbor I experienced. Think about how the city can truly enforce that any neighbor won't experience the same problems that I have if you allow backyard chickens. And, think of the escalation of the number of complaints about backyard chickens and also how many chickens are going to end up at the animal control shelter from irresponsible owners.

I also live right up against an open space that has many wonderful natural features including wildlife. Some of the animals are bobcats, cougars, and coyotes who would be enticed by these backyard chickens. How will you control this aspect of the proposed change? Will only certain zones in Hayward be allowed to have backyard chickens based upon these concerns?

There is also the compatibility with other animals that are pets such as dogs and cats. Since my own personal backyard chicken neighbor experience, I have adopted a dog that I am training to be a field champion. This means hunting large game birds. Having chickens next door would be an incompatible nightmare for me and my dog. How will you ensure that the permitted individuals for backyard chickens are compatible with the nearest neighbors?

I therefore oppose the allowance of backyard chickens in residential areas for the following reasons:

1. Difficulty in enforcing proper animal husbandry and sanitation.
2. Difficulty in mitigating chicken noise.
3. Difficulty in controlling smell from feces.
4. Potential rise in filed complaints, animal abandonment, and increase in shelter drop offs.
5. Difficulty in controlling interaction with wildlife (predatory or otherwise) in zones that abut open space districts.
6. Lack of compatibility with traditional pets owned by neighbors.

Can the residents in Hayward who are pushing so hard for backyard chickens simply go to the grocery store and buy eggs? Are my neighbors going to be able to get backyard chickens again and make my life hell?

It seems that these changes are being pushed through by political will rather than what is reasonable for most residents in Hayward. I've been told that moving ahead to change the ordinance is likely since residents are already violating the established rules therein. I hope that this is not the case. I'm sure that there are not many people in Hayward who have had to experience backyard chickens like we did. But if they did, they would surely be opposed to their neighbors having them. Think about what I went through and please ask yourself, would you want your next door neighbor to have chickens?

Not in my backyard please, nor my neighbor's,

Frank Andel

Please acknowledge receipt of this email and feel free to contact me anytime for follow up.

### **Comments submitted by Rob Ludlow on 8/18/2015**

Hello Mr. Christensen,

I'm the owner of [www.BackYardChickens.com](http://www.BackYardChickens.com) & co-author of the book "Raising Chickens For Dummies". My wife and I lived in Hayward for 3 years when we got married (right off of D Street), her grandparents have lived there for 30 years, I went to school at CSU Hayward, and also worked as an intern for the VP of Finance / Business at CSU Hayward.

I'd like to submit my support of allowing chickens to be raised legally in Hayward!

There are still a lot of misconceptions about raising backyard chickens as pets. People remember grandparents with stinky / noisy chickens, but in most of those cases they were talking about 50+ chickens raised in very tight conditions and that were raised just for eggs & meat, and in less-than ideal situations. In comparison, think about what a dog pound or kennel is like: noisy, smelly, etc. What if everyone thought owning a dog in your backyard would smell / sound like a dog kennel?

While there are definitely some legitimate concerns that need to be addressed when considering allowing chickens in an urban or suburban environment, they can all be addressed with proper pet maintenance guidelines... just as is the case with any other backyard pet.

Some complain of smell, predators, noise, etc. It is true that these issues may arise in situations where too many chickens are kept, or they are kept improperly. With that said, there are tens of thousands of urban and suburban chicken owners throughout the country that have small flocks that are maintained properly and have none of these problems.

It is the experience of thousands that a properly cared for flock of 3 to 6 hens (no roosters) cause less problems with smell, disease, predators, noise, etc. than the same yard with a similar number of dogs and cats. Improperly cared for chickens should be addressed, but

so should the same with dogs and cats that also cause problems when not cared for properly.

I encourage anyone with concerns about a neighbor raising backyard chickens to visit the residence of someone who is properly caring for a small flock of hens. Talk to their neighbors and see (smell) for themselves if there really are issues. Just make sure they come with an empty egg carton!

If you have any further questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me!

Rob Ludlow  
www.BackYardChickens.com

**Comments submitted by Flo Samuels on 8/18/2015**

Pluses: comforting clucking as they eat and lay eggs.

Minuses: uncomfoting squaking when they fight or other noises in the night or are stalked by cats and coyotes.

Rooster crowing (not welcome when you do not have a job that starts at 8 am)

Smell from coops.

Possible road deaths if allowed near busy streets and interchanges.

How will they interact with our resident wild turkies? (Hayward Hills area off Highland)

Net probability, lots of complaints, misuse of police and enforcement officials time.

Flo Samuels

24556 Margaret Drive

Hayward, CA 94542

"Obstacles are those frightful things you see when you take your eyes off your goal."

- Henry Ford (1863-1947)

**Comments submitted by Anna Smith on 8/18/2015**

Hi Michael: I'm opposed to chickens in backyards. If the Council would allow X number of chickens in yards who will monitor the adherence to the law?

I had a neighbor who had chickens when the area was still county, and kept them even after the area became city owned. At one point he had a rooster--it crowed all hours day and night. His excuse was when he bought the chick he didn't know it was a rooster. I didn't 'buy' that and before long chickens were invading my yard--so much for responsibility. The rooster disappeared shortly after I asked if he was raising a 'fighter'.

Unfortunately, if you give some people an inch they will take a mile.

If chickens are allowed in our City what will be next? A goat to keep weeds down? Ducks for Thanksgiving dinners?

I cry foul if fowl are allowed in the City.

Unfortunately, I'm unable to attend the meeting, but I hope my opinions and thoughts on the matter of chickens is taken into consideration.

Thank you, Michael, for your time.  
Anna Smith