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Sent: Monday, October 9, 2017 8:57 PM
To: Bistodeau, Travis (CI-StPaul) <Travis.Bistodeau@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Cc: OBrien, Kim (CI-StPaul) <kim.obrien@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: RE: Amendment to Saint Paul Legislative Code Pertaining to Backyard Chickens

Hi Travis, thanks so much for contacting us about these proposed changes.

As backyard chicken keepers in St. Paul for over 10 years, and as owners of Egg|Plant Urban Farm Supply, where we provide chickens and chicken-keeping supplies and teach classes in backyard chicken-keeping, we are pleased to see the City of St Paul considering changes that will make the permit process more streamlined and affordable for people who want to keep chickens in their yards.

We see chicken-keeping as an over-all good for the city and its residents. Chickens are pets with benefits: they provide local organic food in the form of fresh eggs, their manure is a great addition to the home compost pile, resulting in excellent fertilizer for gardens, and they eat kitchen scraps that would otherwise enter the waste stream.

Requiring neighbor notification, but removing the requirement of neighbor permission for 6 or fewer chickens seems to be a reasonable modification of the current laws. There are currently no requirements for neighbor permission for keeping other pets, and with proper care and cleaning, chickens are no smellier or noisier than other popular and allowed pets such as dogs. We do think that it is reasonable to require neighbor permission for over 6 chickens, and also support the change to a maximum limit of 15. We personally have never had more than 5 chickens in our home flock, and most of our store customers keep 3-4 chickens, which provide plenty of eggs for a typical family.

We also support the specific allowance for composting chicken waste on-site. We have found our chicken manure and bedding to be a beneficial addition to the backyard compost that we produce for our gardens. This is another change which will result in less waste in our garbage collection system as a whole.

Please keep us updated on this topic as it goes forward. We would be happy to speak in support of these changes and help gather other community input as needed.

Audrey Matson and Bob Lies

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