



May 12, 2011

Council President Chris Nevitt
Councilwoman Jeanne Robb
1437 Bannock Street
Denver CO 80202

Support

CC. Members of the Denver City Council; Sustainable Food Denver

Re: Denver Zoning Code and the Animal Code (D.M.C., Chapter 8) to change the current allowances for Food Producing Animals (FPAs)

Dear Council President Nevitt and members of City Council:

Capitol Hill United Neighborhoods (CHUN) is a Registered Neighborhood Organization with a membership of over 1000 households serving the Greater Capitol Hill neighborhood. CHUN's boundaries are from Broadway to Colorado Blvd. and from 1st Avenue to 22nd Avenue.

In our April 2011 CHUN Board of Delegates meeting the following motion was presented for vote:

Motion Regarding Food-Producing Animals Ordinance

CHUN should support the proposed food-producing animals (FPA) ordinance (which will be considered by City Council at a public hearing on May 16). The ordinance sets forth procedures and regulations to allow up to 8 female chickens or ducks and up to 2 dwarf goats as uses-by-right in all residential zone districts, and remove the current notice to registered neighborhood organizations and abutting neighbors. (8 committee members in favor of the motion and 1 opposed.)

The motion passed with **17 in favor of the motion, 7 opposed and 1 abstention**

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or need additional information.

Respectfully,

Roger Armstrong
Executive Director

College View

Support

Williams, Gretchen - City Council

From: Sustainable Food Denver [sustainablefooddenver@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, June 10, 2011 10:10 AM
To: Axelrad, Tina R. - Community Planning and Development; Williams, Gretchen - City Council
Subject: Fwd: FPA Ordinance

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Clare Harris** <bighouseco@msn.com>

Date: Wed, Apr 20, 2011 at 7:16 PM

Subject: FPA Ordinance

To: paula.sandoval@denvergov.org, jeanne.faatz@denvergov.org, paul.lopez@denvergov.org, peggy.lehmann@denvergov.org, marcia.johnson@denvergov.org, charlie.brown@denvergov.org, CVNA_chris neville <chris.nevitt@denvergov.org>, judy.montero@denvergov.org, jeanne.robb@denvergov.org, michael.hancock@denvergov.org, boigon.atlarge@denvergov.org, carol.boigon@denvergov.org, doug@doughlinkhart.org, linkhartatlarge@denvergov.org, sustainablefooddenver@gmail.com

Cc: cvna_margaret Rice <maggie_rice@comcast.net>, cvna_sandra foushee <infinitepaws@aol.com>, cvna_toby leroux <toby.leroux@dhha.org>, cvna_dan ridgeway <danieljosridgeway@gmail.com>, cvna_david paillet <depaillet@gmail.com>, cvna_rhonda porter <theronport@yahoo.com>

To Denver City Council members:

On April 19th, the College View Neighborhood Association voted UNANIMOUSLY to support the proposed FPA ordinance, to allow Denver residents to have a limited number of food producing animals.

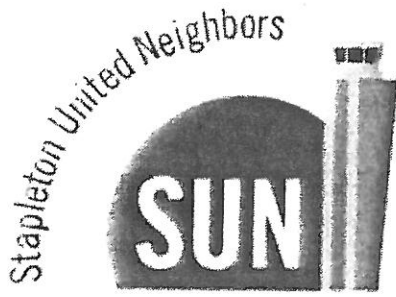
We in College View, especially desire this ordinance, with reasonable costs (vs. the exorbitant fees now in place), so that we, with our large yards, and "country-style" culture and lifestyle, might return to our recent roots when many neighbors had farm animals and grew large gardens with the resulting healthy products for ourselves and our families. Especially in these economic times, this allows healthier and cheaper food for many of us, as well as providing great lessons for youth and children.

Clare Harris,
 sec'y, College View Neighborhood Association

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Sundari Kraft
 Sustainable Food Denver
www.sustainablefooddenver.org
 Join us on Facebook: <http://bit.ly/dmerNi>
 Follow us on Twitter: <http://twitter.com/EatWhereULive>

6/10/2011



Stapleton United Neighbors

The registered neighborhood association
for the Stapleton area

www.StapletonUnitedNeighbors.com

2760 Wabash Street • Denver, Colorado 80238

March 18, 2011

Support

Dear City Council and Planning Board,

The Stapleton United Neighbors (SUN) board would like to express its support for the Food-Producing Animals ordinance that is being proposed by Councilman Nevitt. We appreciate the thought that has been put into the proposed ordinance by CPD, DEH, and the City Attorney's office, and we believe that the guidelines for the keeping of animals are adequate to support the health, safety, and welfare of our neighborhoods. We understand that cities across the country have adopted Food-Producing Animals ordinances similar to the one that Denver is considering.

The community that resides in Stapleton values sustainable living, and we recognize that urban-appropriate backyard food production can be a part of sustainable city living. In addition, we support our residents who choose to grow or raise some of their own food because of health, economic, and food safety considerations. There are currently residents in Stapleton who have backyard Food-Producing Animals, and it has not created a problem for our community.

We encourage the Planning Board and City Council to adopt the proposed Food-Producing Animals ordinance. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Steven C. Lawrence".

Steven C. Lawrence
President, Board of Directors
SteveLawrence@2111USA.com
303.733.2111 phone direct

March 15, 2011

Councilwoman Judy Montero
Councilwoman Carol Boigon
Councilman Doug Linkhart
Denver Planning Board
City and County of Denver
Denver, Colorado

La Alma/Lincoln Park
Support

Re: Food Producing Animals Ordinance

Dear City Council members and Planning Board:

The La Alma/Lincoln Park Neighborhood Association appreciates the opportunity to share with you our thoughts on the proposed Food Producing Animals (FPA) ordinance currently under consideration. At our monthly meeting in February representatives from Sustainable Food Denver provided an overview of the FPA ordinance and the issues surrounding urban agriculture in Denver. *After a robust discussion around the details of raising animals in the city and the proposed ordinance, our association unanimously voted to support the FPA ordinance.*

As a neighborhood ranging from single-family residential areas to high-density residential and office towers to industrial campuses, La Alma/Lincoln Park has a diverse population with varying opinions and preferences that are just as diverse. Noting the diversity of our members, we appreciate that the proposed FPA ordinance seeks to tackle the issues facing urban agriculture and animals – noise, sanitation, property rights, permits, etc – in a straight forward manner and in cooperation with City staff and departments.

Urban agriculture is a common topic at our monthly meetings, as many of our members actively garden through plots at their homes or through community gardens. Denver Housing Authority staff has indicated that as part of the South Lincoln redevelopment they are looking to incorporate space for community gardens on that site. Underlying these discussions are desires for sustainability in our neighborhood and access to healthy, inexpensive food. While our neighborhood does have a large-format grocery store, many residents choose to garden as an alternative. Given a straight forward and simple manner in which to raise chickens and goats for eggs and milk, our neighborhood would benefit from a comprehensive FPA law that allow for these activities without excessive red tape and bureaucracy.

In closing, the La Alma/Lincoln Park Neighborhood Association supports the proposed FPA ordinance, and as our representatives we ask for your support of this measure.

Sincerely,
La Alma/Lincoln Park Neighborhood Association

Williams, Gretchen - City Council

FPA Support

From: Trina Brockwell [tartttrtt@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, June 08, 2011 11:29 AM
To: Williams, Gretchen - City Council
Subject: Re: chickens/ducks/goats in yards

Thank you so much Gretchen. The summary is exactly what I was needing. With that in mind...I'd like to give you my 2¢ to pass along to city council please.

Bravo! Let Denver citizens be allowed to make more sustainable use of their land - without costly fees, cumbersome red tape or the assumption that there will be unpleasant problems. Just as MOST pet owners are responsible - most FPA owners are or would be responsible as well. Address those who aren't - as it becomes necessary.

The square feet requirements seem reasonable - for the sake of the animals.

The set back & shelter requirements, etc. seem reasonable - for the sake of the animals and neighbors.

Wow! NEVER barking, growling, biting & middle of the night cat fights! Just gentle, productive clucking, quacking or goat noise!

Thanks for your time and consideration - beekeeper - dog owner - horse lover - former cat, rabbit, bird, fish & reptile owner - organic gardener - provider of wildlife habitat, TRINA.

Trina Brockwell - 2772 S Hazel Ct - Denver, CO 80236 - (303) 319-2801

On Wed, Jun 8, 2011 at 9:30 AM, Williams, Gretchen - City Council
<Gretchen.Williams@denvergov.org> wrote:

Trina – The proposed Food Producing Animals amendments involve some rather large documents and I'd hate to crash your email. I'm attaching a summary, which is probably more useful than the actual documents. And later today, we will have links for all the relevant documents posted on the City Council webpage on DenverGov.org. Please let me know if you have any problems using those links (which should be active by noonish), or if you have any other questions. Thanks!

From: Trina Brockwell [mailto:tartttrtt@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, June 08, 2011 9:00 AM
To: Williams, Gretchen - City Council
Subject: chickens/ducks/goats in yards

Support

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

From: Christopher Kennel <ckennel@gmail.com>

Sent: Wed, March 30, 2011 8:35:28 AM

Subject: Food Producing Animals ordinance

Dear City Council Representative,

I live in the Bible Park neighborhood, and I would like to voice my support for the food producing animals (FPA) ordinance as it is currently written. I understand that the land use, infrastructure, and transportation committee--on which you serve--is currently evaluating the FPA ordinance.

Last year I spoke at one of the zoning meetings in support of changing the rules for people interested in raising chickens, and I am happy to see that a reasonable ordinance to address this is in the works. From a city government standpoint, I would like it to be as easy to raise chickens as it is to have dogs or bees (both of which our family raises). This means that I support an ordinance that specifies standards for raising animals without requiring permitting or neighborhood/neighbor notification.

For space-related requirements, I would probably defer to guidelines established by animal husbandry organizations (Colorado State University Extension, 4-H, Colorado Dept. of Agriculture, etc.) that scientifically take into account the animals' needs. Following the guidelines of animal husbandry organizations seems like the most impartial, fact-based, and reasonable approach, but this should be expressed as a minimum standard so that FPA owners will have the flexibility to design shelters and living areas that reflect individual interests. It may be necessary in some cases to set maximum limits to prevent someone from building a structure that is too big, but I assume this would be rare due to the expenses involved.

Lastly, on the issue of proposed setbacks, I am somewhat ambivalent. I think conflicts could be minimized by establishing a setback based on property lines rather than neighboring dwelling units (houses or accessory dwelling units) since the property-line-based setback would remain constant even if a neighbor remodels and expands their house or sets up an accessory dwelling unit. A similar setback as is the case with bees would be preferable to me. Alternatively, I would support reasonable setbacks to neighboring dwelling units (instead of property lines) and think that both the proposed 10 and 25 foot distances are reasonable--at least in my neighborhood. What would not be reasonable is a 25 foot setback to a property line as this would severely limit the locations where FPA's could be housed and roam.

Thank you for considering my opinion and for your work on the City Council.

Sincerely,
Chris Kennel
3063 S Oneida St.
Denver, CO 80224

Williams, Gretchen - City Council

From: Robb, Jeanne - City Council Dist. #10
Sent: Monday, June 13, 2011 10:57 AM
To: Williams, Gretchen - City Council
Subject: FW: Food producing animal ordinance

Support
+ supports slaughter
at home

Attachments: CB11-0151_Summary_FPA Ord_5_16_11.pdf



CB11-0151_Summa
ry_FPA Ord_5_16...

Jeanne Robb
Denver City Council District 10
303-377-1807 Phone | 303-377-1902 Fax
Jeanne.Robb@denvergov.org

-----Original Message-----

From: Paul Adams [mailto:padams@earthskyarchitecture.com]
Sent: Monday, June 13, 2011 10:32 AM
To: Robb, Jeanne - City Council Dist. #10
Cc: Adams, Jennifer
Subject: Food producing animal ordinance

Dear Councilwoman Robb,

I am writing to support the ordinance on allowing food producing animals to be kept as of right in Denver.

I have read through the proposed ordinance and agree with it as written with the following exception: I think that homeowners should be allowed to slaughter a non-producing animal (FPA) if they choose.

I have studied the topic with two different classes provided by the Denver Botanic Gardens and have read through several books as well.

Thank you for your support on this matter, Paul

Paul and Jennifer Adams
1255 Josephine Street
Denver, CO 80206

Attached: CB11-0151_Summary_FPA Ord_5_16_11.pdf

Williams, Gretchen - City Council*Support*

From: Robb, Jeanne - City Council Dist. #10
Sent: Monday, June 13, 2011 11:05 AM
To: Williams, Gretchen - City Council
Subject: FW: Proposed Urban Farming Ordinance



Jeanne Robb
 Denver City Council District 10
 303-377-1807 Phone | 303-377-1902 Fax
Jeanne.Robb@denvergov.org

From: marklane1351@comcast.net [mailto:marklane1351@comcast.net]
Sent: Tuesday, April 19, 2011 9:36 PM
To: Robb, Jeanne - City Council Dist. #10
Subject: Proposed Urban Farming Ordinance

Mark Lane
 925 Humboldt #209
 Denver, CO 80218
 (303)885-5688

I am in favor of making it easier for people to practice some level of urban farming on their property. They should not need their neighbor's permission, nor should they have to pay excessive fees. Some people say that chickens will be smelly and noisy. I have seen dogs producing both of these problems in Denver that did not require and sort of fees, permits or permission from neighbors. Why should we have such uneven treatment? It is also good to know where your food is coming from and what chemicals your food producing animals have been dosed with.

Another frequent reason cited for why we should not have urban farming is that Denver is trying to shed its image as a cow town. Essentially that we are ashamed of our town image. This is patently false. Ken, and John Salazar, as well as Governor Ritter will tell you whether or not we should be ashamed of our cow town heritage. Every year for the National Western Stock Show Parade people line the streets to watch cattle herded down 17th St. Let us look at some of the recent art pieces installed in Denver. One of the most prominent outside the new Denver Museum is a cow and her calf. Outside the airport is Mustang! the big blue horse with the glowing red eyes. I heard many complaints that it was unfriendly, unwelcomely, even that it looked like a demon horse. I heard very few cow town complaints about the mustang.

Our art museum has an entire section donated to western art. You should visit if you haven't! Our library downtown library has almost an entire floor designated to Western History. Since the very beginning of our city not just the Mile City we have been the Queen City of the Plains or of the Rockies. A city proud of its frontier heritage.

6/13/2011

Williams, Gretchen - City Council*Support*

From: Robb, Jeanne - City Council Dist. #10
Sent: Monday, June 13, 2011 11:04 AM
To: Williams, Gretchen - City Council
Subject: FW: chickens in district 10



Jeanne Robb
 Denver City Council District 10
 303-377-1807 Phone | 303-377-1902 Fax
Jeanne.Robb@denvergov.org

From: Jessica VanderKwaak [mailto:jesskwaak@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, April 22, 2011 3:45 PM
To: Robb, Jeanne - City Council Dist. #10
Subject: chickens in district 10

Dear Jeanne,

My name is Jessica VanderKwaak and I live in your district 10. My husband and I love living in congress park, however we don't love that we have to go through an elaborate and time consuming process and purchase an expensive permit to have chickens in our backyard.

Even before we lived in Denver we dreamed of having pet chickens. A few years ago when we planted our first garden it was so amazing to watch the seedlings turn into plants and then produce food for us to eat. We would love that same experience with chickens. We could watch them grow, feed and nurture them, give them wholesome food and water, and eat their "produce." The experience of growing your own food is such a rich experience, giving a deeper appreciation for life, and a joy for the process of nature.

My husband and I live on a quiet street in Congress Park. When we first moved here, we talked to our neighbors in passing but didn't really get to know them. I was amazed how that changed when we got our dog. We actually would hang out with our neighbors, they would come to our house, and we would go to theirs, simply just because we had a dog. I can only imagine how having a few chickens could impact the depth of community in congress park. Children would come to our house to see the chickens, we would share our eggs with the neighbors, and the experience would bring people together. This is not idealistic, but a reality that Congress Park could become a closer knit community of neighbors and friends simply because someone has a few chickens.

My husband and I hope that you choose to allow chickens in Denver. This is such a great city and congress park is such a great neighborhood. It would add to experience of life and adventure that so many people seek out by moving to Denver.

Thanks for listening and your consideration for making Denver a great place to live!

6/13/2011

Support

June 13, 2011

Dear Members of Denver City Council,

I am writing on behalf of Denver Urban Gardens (DUG) to offer comment on the proposed Food Producing Animals ordinance before the Council. DUG has established over 100 community gardens in Denver over the last 25 years. We would like to share our experience with our recent pilot program to house chickens in a community garden setting.



Since 2010, we have operated a pilot educational chicken coop at Park Hill Elementary, in conjunction with the University of Colorado's Urban Hens program. There are now approximately eight hens on the site, which are permitted under the current livestock permit system. The chickens are primarily cared for by parents, students, and local residents. The chickens are healthy, and the program has thus far been a success.

Before starting this project, we developed a thorough chicken policy in attempt to anticipate any possible problems. A vital part of this pilot project is reviewing its operation and improving our best practices, so that we are well prepared to expand to possible future sites. This work will be ongoing, and we expect to learn many lessons.

We have heard from participants that the chickens have elicited interest and engagement from the surrounding community, with neighbors stopping by to see what is happening and ask about the project. Our experience with community gardens is that curiosity and interest from the surrounding neighborhood is vital to their success; we view the active community and school engagement around the chickens as a positive sign.

In regards to the issue of predation, thus far the chickens have had no encounters with predators. The Facilities staff at Park Hill Elementary has indicated that they have seen no increase in the activity of urban predators in the area, which like most of Denver, was already home to foxes, raccoons, and free-roaming cats.

DUG expects that if the new ordinance were to pass, there would be increased demand for chickens to be housed at community garden sites. Based on our current experience with the Park Hill chickens, bolstered by the policies and oversight practices we are continuing to develop, we do not anticipate any major issues with wider scale housing of chickens at community gardens.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Shannon Spurlock'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Shannon Spurlock
Community Initiatives Coordinator

DENVER URBAN GARDENS · 3377 Blake Street Suite 113 · Denver, Colorado 80205
303.292.9900 · dirt@dug.org · www.dug.org

Axelrad, Tina R. - Community Planning and Development

Support

From: Lucy Arnold [lucydarnold@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 16, 2011 2:32 PM
To: Axelrad, Tina R. - Community Planning and Development
Cc: Lucy D. Arnold
Subject: Letter in support of the proposed food producing animals ordinance

Dear Ms. Axelrad,

Please forward this email to the Planning Division for consideration at the meeting today.

I am writing in support of the proposed ordinance to allow Denver city residents to own and maintain up to 8 fowl and 2 pygmy goats on their property without a zoning variance and animal control permit as currently required. I am sorry that I could not get off work today to come in person to show my support.

I am a Denver resident who would like to raise chickens, but find the current process overwhelming, difficult, and prohibitively expensive. My 11 year old daughter is the primary force behind our desire to raise chickens. She would like to raise them with the support of 4-H, but Denver 4-H does not provide chicken support due to the current permitting process. We are interested primarily in raising chickens for eggs. I also look forward to showing both my young children how chickens can increase the fertility of our backyard and to teaching them where our food comes from.

I do not think it is reasonable to make a distinction between keeping dogs and keeping chickens and allow the keeping of up to 4 large-breed dogs with no unusual permitting process but forbidding the keeping of several, much smaller, birds without payment of what is, for us, a very large fee.

I urge you to support the proposed ordinance and to recommend its adoption by the City Council.

Thank you for your time,

Lucy D. Arnold

Axelrad, Tina R. - Community Planning and Development

support

From: Alida Franco [alidafranco@earthlink.net]
Sent: Monday, March 07, 2011 7:54 AM
To: Nevitt, Chris - City Council Dist #7; Axelrad, Tina R. - Community Planning and Development
Subject: Ordinance for Keeping Chickens

Dear City of Denver:

I am particularly distressed as to the turn of events regarding updating the city ordinance for the keeping of livestock, mainly chickens. In these economic times and with the current situation in the US of limited access to natural and healthy foods to all but the most well-healed in our society, it amazes me that the City of Denver, supposedly noted as a progressive and 21st century-thinking city, is so unwilling to allow the raising and possibly slaughtering of six hens on one's own property.

It is clear that things on the food and economic fronts are not going to improve any time soon. And a simple change in the current ordinance to drop the annual fee would allow so many individuals in less fortunate circumstances to raise their own food, namely chicken and eggs. Please, please reconsider your current draft of the rewrite of this ordinance and allow equal opportunity for all to feed themselves.

A deeply concerned citizen.

Alida Franco
3436 East Nielsen Lane
Denver, CO 80210
303 757-3405

Alida Franco
alidafranco@earthlink.net | 303 757-3405