

From: Ryan McGreal, Raise the Hammer [<mailto:editor@raisethehammer.org>]
Sent: December-06-12 2:24 PM
To: clerk@hamilton.ca
Cc: Taylor, Sheree L.

Subject: Correspondence for Dec. 12 Council Meeting Re: Backyard Hens

Dear Mayor and Members of Council,

On December 4, 2012, the planning committee voted against a pilot project in wards 1 and 2 that would allow residents to keep a small number of backyard hens, even though the evidence does not support the objections that were raised.

- * Other municipalities that have legalized backyard hens have not experienced significant numbers of complaints.
- * Allowing backyard hens is not a 'slippery slope' to allowing cows, goats or other large farm animals.
- * Hens are no more harmful than cats or dogs from a public health perspective.
- * Hens are quieter than dogs, especially large dogs.

Quite simply, a bylaw that allows the responsible ownership of a small number of backyard hens poses no significant risk of harm. There is no good reason not to support this proposal - especially given that it is only a pilot for wards 1 and 2, and the councillors for those wards support it.

I ask council to reverse the decision of the planning committee and approve this pilot project. Then, if the negative outcomes that some councillors fear materialize, council will have a chance to evaluate the results of the pilot and decide accordingly.

Respectfully,

Ryan McGreal
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