

**Pilon, Janet**

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**Subject:** FW: Letter for Council - Support for Urban Hens

**From:** Daegan McNeaney

**Sent:** Thursday, July 16, 2020 2:02 PM

**To:** [clerk@hamilton.ca](mailto:clerk@hamilton.ca)

**Subject:** Letter for Council - Support for Urban Hens

Hi there,

If it's not too late, I would like this letter to be included in the July 17 council meeting in support of the Urban Hens pilot proposal.

Dear Council,

First, thank you for the work you have done for our community. I write to you today urging your support for the Urban Hens Pilot Proposal vote tomorrow. To us residents, especially in these uncertain times, it is extremely important to have the freedom of choice within our own backyard.

On this matter, I am disappointed that we are behind Brampton, Toronto and Niagara Falls, to name a few.

**There are many benefits to adopting this pilot program in the City of Hamilton:**

- first, based on the Toronto pilot proposal, NONE of the predicted concerns have materialized:  
<https://www.thestar.com/news/gta/2020/02/18/backyard-hens-not-the-scourge-some-predicted.html>

- comprehensive requirements to ensure safety and cleanliness of both residents and hens

- reasonable restrictions such as limit of 4 hens

- mandatory regular cleaning of coops

- enables residents to have the liberty of self-sufficiency

- helps tackle food insecurity within our City by providing a low-cost source of eggs

- chickens divert waste from landfills as they consume much of household compost

- hens are quieter than dogs

- a dog's bark is 90 decibels, whereas a hen's song is only 60 decibels

I hope that you do not choose to perpetuate the status quo in these unprecedented times. I urge you to support this pilot proposal as there are overwhelming positives to owning hens. This is not just a matter of food insecurity, it is a matter of freedom of choice in our own backyards.

Thank you very much,

Daegan McNeaney

Ward 7