

CITY OF HAMILTON

MOTION

Planning Committee

Date: October 20, 2020

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR M. WILSON.....

SECONDED BY.....

HAMILTON PILOT URBAN HENS PROGRAM

WHEREAS, through the COVID-19 pandemic, it will continue to be crucial for cities to enable food resilience and improve access to inexpensive and nutritious foods close to home;

WHEREAS, to reduce negative impacts on the climate, Canadians and Hamiltonians are encouraged to reduce consumption of high carbon & processed foods;

WHEREAS, since 2018, at least 8 other Canadian Cities, many neighbouring Hamilton, have released restrictions on Urban Hens in favour of Urban Hen programs, reporting successes;

WHEREAS, pilots across the country have resulted in best practices which can be adapted to meet the needs of Hamiltonians interested in raising hens and to address public health and safety concerns, including registration of 4 hens maximum, non-commercial use only, to not be housed in front yards, age of hens, odour and noise assumptions, etc.;

WHEREAS, the most effective way to mitigate negative effects of urban hen-keeping is to regulate it according to best practices in other municipalities;

WHEREAS, ticks and associated illnesses continue to be a major health concern and can be mitigated by keeping hens in urban areas;

WHEREAS, it is suggested that chickens create rich fertilizer which may be composted with yard waste or used to enrich soil;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

- (a) That the appropriate staff be directed to provide the Planning Committee with a Pilot Urban Hens Program report that integrates:
 - (i) A food resilience framework;

- (ii) A review and analysis of best practices and by-laws from the additional municipalities which have permitted urban hens since the initial report Keeping of Chickens in Urban Areas (PED12247/BOH12039) was considered by Council in 2012;
 - (iii) Regulatory considerations which could permit up to a maximum of 10 hen keepers in each Wards 1, 2 & 3 as urban Wards with a plan for licensing and evaluation that address previously identified issues including, but are not limited to, health, odour, nuisance, etc.; and,
- (b) That fines associated with the current bylaw prohibiting the keeping of urban hens be suspended until this report is received.