

**From:** Aly Livingston  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 6, 2020 7:29 AM  
**To:** [clerk@hamilton.ca](mailto:clerk@hamilton.ca)  
**Subject:** A letter in support of a backyard hens pilot project

Good day.

I understand that councillor Nairn will be bringing forward a motion in support of a backyard hens trial. I have written councillors before in support of this idea. I'd like to take the opportunity to reiterate my reasons, in hopes of currying favour among council for this idea as well. Let's get started, shall we.?

- Chickens make eggs. Much like a tree bearing fruit. They can be an extension of the garden and allow food production and security to be self managed.
- We are still In A global Pandemic. Self reliance ensures safety. Why would anyone argue that point.? The quality of eggs provided by a happy backyard hen surpasses that of a factory farmed egg.
- 4 Chickens in a yard is not a nuisance to anyone provided they are cared for and securely housed
- chicken poop and coop shavings are compostable and good for the garden. We don't do this with dog or cat feces .
- Hens do not make a lot of noise - compared to my *neighbour's Harley Davidson*  
*And certainly, less than a barking dog*
- We allow all sorts of pets that make smells, noises, and are at risk of becoming prey. Rabbits, lizards, pigeons snakes. - none of which provide eggs and all of which would make tasty fodder for a hawk, coon or cat
- 4 hens is a nice number. They create a community for themselves and are fun to watch and interact with
- It is human nature to want to care for something. That's why there are pet stores. Chickens make excellent pets
- To learn about egg production and chicken biology is fascinating for a person of any age. Especially now, when a lot of learning has gone on line- to be able to create another facet of learning within the home is a very real and valuable asset.
- I have had some negative responses from my letters of advocacy from a few councillors, who will probably never change their minds until voters change theirs  
But I think it is fair to say that the pros outweigh the cons.

Please vote in support of the pilot project people!

Best.

Aly