

**From:** Scott McLaughlin  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 6, 2020 8:53 AM  
**To:** [clerk@hamilton.ca](mailto:clerk@hamilton.ca)  
**Subject:** Backyard hen project

Hello

I'm writing as an advocate for the benefits of backyard hens. In today's day and age Hamilton home owners and or occupants of a home should be able to own few birds for goodness sake.

I'm a 43 year old firefighter with many responsibilities and find it disheartening if the Hamilton council can't have enough faith in me and my fellow citizens to responsibly create our own food. Other municipalities have laid (no pun intended) out the framework. It would be an easy implementation for the city and could also generate revenue in time where the city needs it.

As I'm sure other supports have said -some reasons include :

Food security - chickens provide an egg daily at a cost of pennies.... four chickens can provide a family with most of the protein they require in a day.

Fairness - if my neighbors can own barking dogs and outdoor cats I don't see why I can't have a couple chickens.

Companionship - it is well know that birds make great pets, they can teach children responsibilities and offer an egg in reward !

Multiple townships and cities surrounding Hamilton (and across North America) have ammended their bylaws and allowed their citizens to raise backyard hens with great success. There is no reason why Hamilton can't extend the same privilege to its own citizens. It would be a positive in a world full of negatives lately.

A small amount of research will show that many of the misinformation regarding having backyard birds is unfounded, represents only a small amount of bird owners or are myths completely.

Garbage and bird feeders and restaurant dumpsters attract raccoons and mice and skunks. Not chickens. Chickens raised in a coop in a yard do not manifest disease. Five thousand chickens in commercial setting do.

With no roosters present. Chickens do not multiply.

I've read some of the condescending and down right rude and unbecoming responses councillors have replied to others in support of a hen project recently. My advice to them - is get over yourselves... remember who you are or aren't representing (rural councillors should have little opinion on this) try embrace change and more importantly do your homework to ensure your 'opinion' is just not that.

Thank you for your representation.

Scott McLaughlin  
Ward 3 - Stiplely