

## 4.11 (a)

**Pilon, Janet**

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**Subject:** I am starting to feel like a suffragette. A word on Hens

**From:** Aly Livingston

**Sent:** October 25, 2020 4:28 PM

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**Subject:** I am starting to feel like a suffragette. A word on Hens

Hello Councillors.

I am writing to share some thoughts from the Planning committee's recent discussion regarding backyard hens.

As a voting, tax paying, homeowner - I am scratching my head as to why this is still an issue. I feel like a suffragette - speaking out to what should be a basic right.

Thank you, Councillors Nann and Wilson, Farr and Danko - for listening to the desires of your constituency- for your willingness to serve your community and do the leg work on this matter.

Councillors Partridge and Ferguson - you are using Your Negative experience with large scale poultry farming methods as a rationale against 4 backyard hens.

The scale of the operations is what makes all of the difference here.

Comparing large scale to small scale anything really doesn't work. I will illustrate some examples:

What if we:

Used The conditions of Puppy mills And data of registered dog bites as a rationale against dog ownership?

Or the rates of alcohol abuse, alcohol related deaths and dui's as rationale against the sale of liquor?

Or the presence of violent offenders and gun attacks as rationale against hunting?

Or the history of snake and spider bites As rationale against permits to own these animals?

A developing city benefits from leadership that embraces a growth mindset - and all over the country, legislation is changing to support health and wellness.

Did you know that Calgary amended their bylaws to permit hens as emotional support animals!? Bravo Cow-town. Steel-town - its time to wake up!

I was shocked to receive some downright rude and entitled replies from Councillors, who continue to vote down this proposal in the face of all the evidence from neighbouring cities that cite the successes of this allowance.

"Hell would have to freeze over" was the reply i received from Terry Whitehead , who suggested "If you want chickens, buy a farm!"

Check your privilege, councillor. When you suggested the backyard hens debate felt like groundhog day - i would suggest that your resistance to this idea is perpetuating the cycle. And to be more precise - to vote down a proposal that has been PROVEN to support the mental health and food security needs of your constituents, and thereby potentially alleviating their reliance on medication is cruel - even diabolical.

To the councillors who continue to vote this down - ask yourself - who are you truly serving? Have you maybe become too comfortable in your positions to notice that times are changing - and bylaws need to change with it.

There was a time when women were not seen as persons in the eyes of the law.

When blacks could not share public space with whites

When our first nations were deemed "savages" and their children detained in residential schools for reeducation.

All of these legislations were thought to be rational by well-intended leaders.

How clearly we see now.

Please connect to your hearts in the spirit of community and the spirit of humanity and support the backyard hens pilot.

And In the event that this idea does not pass, Could you consider allowing hens in the wards of the councillors who do agree this could be a good idea - or at the very least- consider decriminalizing this bylaw violation and do away with the fine.

Thank you to those who have read this letter.

Best,  
Aly