
Subject:

FW: [External] Press Enterprise 3/18/2017 article "City looks to rewrite rules on animals"

From: Gloria Barnes <lady_1990@hotmail.com>

Date: March 19, 2017 at 12:34:38 PM PDT

To: "mgardner@riversideca.gov" <mgardner@riversideca.gov>, "asmelendrez@riversideca.gov" <asmelendrez@riversideca.gov>, "msoubirous@riversideca.gov" <msoubirous@riversideca.gov>, "jperry@riversideca.gov" <jperry@riversideca.gov>, "pdavis@riversideca.gov" <pdavis@riversideca.gov>, "cmacarthur@riversideca.gov" <cmacarthur@riversideca.gov>, "jburnard@riversideca.gov" <jburnard@riversideca.gov>

Subject: [External] Press Enterprise 3/18/2017 article "City looks to rewrite rules on animals"

Dear City Councilmen,

I just read the Press Enterprise article this morning Sunday 3/17/2017 on possibly relaxing the rules allowing residential areas of the city of Riverside to have chickens.

I wanted to share an experience I had approximately three years ago. One of my neighbors brought home 6 adorable little chicks and a new chicken coop. I was surprised that chickens would be allowed so I called the Code of Compliance to check. I was told my neighborhood was not allowed to have chickens. I told my neighbors, but they said they had also called Code of Compliance and were told they could have chickens.

Everything was fine for the first month. Four weeks after they had brought home the chicks we started having a problem with biting no-see-ums in our yard. I was being bit many times whenever I spent time outside. I was allergic to the bites and each bite was a large welt that itched terribly and took over two weeks to heal. My husband and I did not want to assume the no-see-ums were coming from the chickens so for the next month we made efforts in our own yard to make sure there was no standing water, cleaned foliage, cut hedges, and even put up a bug zapper on the back property line trying to alleviate the problem. When the problem became worse, we talked with our neighbors. They were offended that we thought they weren't taking proper care of their chickens. Upon doing research on the breeding and cycle of the no-see-ums, I realized that even a small amount of chicken droppings left behind in a moist area is a source of breeding. Our neighbors were also leaving their trash can lid open so possibly the breeding was taking place when the droppings were being placed in the trash.

I called Code of Compliance again and asked to talk to a planner to question the conflicting information both us and our neighbor had been told in regards for the zoning rules for owning chickens in our neighborhood. Our neighbors did not have enough property to have them and had not been told the correct information when they had called prior to purchasing the chickens.

Our neighbors did remove the chickens. It took another month for the no-see-ums to go away and we have not had any problem with them in the three years since.

I was unable to enjoy my yard because of the no-see-ums that bred because of the chickens next door. I had no control over the sanitation procedures used by our neighbors to clean up after their chickens. My health was affected because of the chickens and the no-see-ums. I would never live in a rural or agriculture area because I cannot be exposed to the biting flies that come with non-domestic animals on the property.

Changing the rules for residential homes in the city of Riverside would be a health hardship for me and probably many others.

I do recommend that all employees in the Code of Compliance office, be in-serviced on the zoning rules to make sure correct information is relayed to people that call for clarification of the zoning rules. It is very difficult to find the residential zoning restrictions online. First one has to make sure they are reviewing Riverside City vs. Riverside County rules. The section on zoning has details on the RA and the RC zone but not on the R-1 zones. I had to do much reading and research to finally find the Article V- Incidental Uses Table 19.150.020(B)) that lists the non-domestic animal keeping Residential Zones restrictions on a chart. This information should be easier for people to access and the Code of Compliance employees should understand the table and the minimum acreage required in the zones that do allow chickens.

Please do not relax the rules for non-domestic animal keeping in R-1 zones in Riverside.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Gloria Barnes
6319 Glen Aire Ave.
Riverside, CA 92506
Ward 2

RECEIVED

AUG 31 2016

City of Riverside
City Clerk's Office

On July 31, 2016, there was an article in the Press Enterprise regarding Mike Gardner and his wish to discuss making rules for allowing chickens in residential zones. I would like to weigh in on this issue.

My neighbors had chickens for many years. The chicken coop was backed up to my wooden fence. I tolerated the following inconveniences:

1. I had to rake up the chicken droppings that rolled under the fence.
2. I had to pick up the big, white chicken feathers that constantly blew into my back yard.
3. I had to deal with the foul smell and noise from the chickens every day.
4. I had to see chickens hanging from the trees when they would kill them.
5. After a few years, rats became a problem in both yards. (I believe they were drawn to the chicken droppings). I believe the landlord has finally asked the tenants to get rid of the chickens, as I don't see, hear, or smell them anymore.

Those years caused me constant frustration and the feeling that my rights were being violated.

ALSO:

These days, when I take my daily walk down Challen avenue, I pass a house that has chickens and noisy roosters.

The front yard looks like a barnyard might look with dirt spilling out onto the sidewalk.

I have all but given up on my dream to live in a neat, peaceful residential area that I can take pride in.

I respectfully ask you to consider supporting the City of Riverside's current zoning code regarding chickens.

Thank you very much.

Donna Story

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Donna Story". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large, sweeping loop at the end of the last name.

cc: Mayor
City Council
City Manager
City Attorney
ACMs
C&ED Director