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July 18, 2024

HONORABLE CITY COUNCIL

RE: Zoning Ordinance Text Amendments for animal husbandry (animal keeping)
(RECOMMEND APPROVAL)

RECOMMENDATION

Before this Honorable Body is a text amendment that would amend Chapter 50 of the 2019 Detroit City Code, *Zoning*, to permit animal husbandry in the City of Detroit. On May 2, 2024, the City Planning Commission (CPC) voted to recommend approval of this text amendment ordinance after lengthy discussions and changes to the ordinance subsequent to hearing from the public at a February 22, 2024 public hearing.

PROPOSAL

The guiding principles in this initiative have been to:

1. Encourage practitioners to conform to a uniform policy of best practices and rein in current activity.
2. Protect the health, welfare and safety of the community.
3. Decriminalize animal and bee keepers.
4. Facilitate a more sustainable and localized food system.

Animal Husbandry and Beekeeping Proposal

Below is a summary of the proposed amendments for the ordinance:

- To define animal husbandry and beekeeping as the keeping of certain urban farm animals and domestic honey bees for personal consumption or utilization of agricultural products such as eggs, meat or honey.
- To exclude standards from being appealable to the Board of Zoning Appeals.
- To allow for animal husbandry and beekeeping exceptions as a principal use by requiring a conditional land use hearing where operated by a municipal agency, 4-H program or by an educational non-profit in the R1, R2, R3, R4, R5, R6, B1, B2, B3, B4, B5, B6, M1, M2, M3, M4, M5, PC, PCA, TM, PR, SD1, SD2, MKT, and SD4 zoning districts.



One lot at 12K sqft

- 5 ft setbacks from lot line
- 30 ft setbacks from neighbors house
- Animals cannot roam free, must be enclosed
- Must be in the rear of property
- Setback from rear property line if no alley present

- To allow animal husbandry and beekeeping as an accessory use in R1, R2, R3, R4, R5, R6, B1, B2, B3, B4, B5, B6, M1, M2, M3, M4, M5, PC, PCA, TM, PR, SD1, SD2, MKT and SD4 zoning districts.
- To specify that animal husbandry and beekeeping are permissible only as an accessory use for individuals and entities with the following principal uses:
 - (1) All residential uses
 - (2) All agricultural uses
 - (3) Schools
 - (4) Educational institutions
 - (5) Standard Restaurants (where in compliance with state law)
 - (6) Civic or cultural buildings on land zoned PC or PCA
- To specify maximum numbers for animal husbandry and beekeeping as follows:
 - Ducks/Chickens as an accessory use to residential:**
8 (eight) maximum combined
 - Honey bee Hives as an accessory use to residential:**
4 (four) hives maximum
 - Ducks/Chickens, Gardens and Farms accessory use only:**
12 (twelve) maximum combined; roosters are prohibited
 - Honey bee Hives, Gardens and Farms accessory use only:**
Urban Garden of ½ acre minimum: 6 (six) honey bee hives permitted
Urban Farm of 1 (one) acre minimum: 8 (eight) honey bee hives permitted
An urban garden or farm may have 1 (one) honey bee hive in addition to the limits set forth, for each additional acre that exceeds one acre.

Dimensional Standards/Setbacks

Chickens/Ducks

- (1) 30-foot setbacks from neighboring dwelling.
- (2) 5-foot setbacks from side/perimeter property line.
- (3) If alley is present no rear setback is required. If no alley, 5 foot setback is required.

Honey bees

- (1) 25-foot from property line (if no flyway barrier)
- (2) 5-foot from any perimeter property line (with flyway barrier)
- (3) If alley is present; no rear setback is required. If no alley, 5 foot setback is required.

Additional Chapter 50 Provisions

- To specify shelter and enclosure spaces for animal husbandry to have a maximum of 200 square feet.
- To require notice to be sent to abutting property owners and occupants.
- To require fencing plus screening by an opaque fence, shade cloth, or vegetative material or shrubbery if adjacent to a residential dwelling

Summary of Proposed Chapter 6, Animal Care, Control, and Regulation provisions

The following is summarized language that is proposed in the **Chapter 6 proposed amendments:**
Care of animals

- Shelters- shall be roofed (e.g. as a coop, garage etc.), ventilated, prohibit intrusion, be kept clean, prevent waste build-up.
- Enclosures- shall be confined in the rear of lot, kept clean, offer shade, provide water, be designed to prohibit intrusion by predators.
- Food Storage- shall be secure from pests, stored on raised platforms, prevent intrusion, and spilled or spoiled feed must be cleaned immediately.
- Waste Management- Shelters and enclosures shall be kept clean and dry. All manure shall be removed every 1-3 days. Bedding or grass/vegetation shall be provided.
- Compost- shall be kept in secure covered containers and stored at the furthest point from neighboring lots.
- Pest and Vermin- Pests shall be proactively mitigated through the elimination of trash and debris and other measures.
- Tagging- Animals shall be banded and hives shall have a fixed tag on the exterior of the structure.
- Health Documentation- It is unlawful to keep any animal or honey bee infected with a disease which is a health hazard to the community; health documentation is required upon request to assess health risk.
- Deceased Animals- must be disposed of promptly.
- Inspection Authority- The City shall have inspection authority to ensure compliance.
- Slaughtering- Slaughtering of animals shall only occur at licensed slaughter houses. Prohibited on residential properties and other properties not authorized to slaughter.

Steps to obtain a License

- Application- Must submit application for license, have legal control of property, pay license fee, provide basic info.
- Annual Fee- There will be an annual renewal fee. The fee schedule will be submitted by Animal Care and Control and approved by City Council.
- May Have No Current Violations- No person with outstanding animal keeping (animal husbandry) violations with City or 36th District Court.
- License Procedures- Licenses are non-transferable; application and fee must be submitted for renewal.

Corrective actions

- Procedures for Denial- If application is denied, the applicant is entitled to a hearing before the Administrator or officer.
- Show Cause Hearing for Suspension- If a license is to be suspended, the licensee shall be notified, and a hearing held.
- Immediate Threat- If there is an immediate threat to the health, safety and welfare of the public, the Administrator can immediately suspend a license and must notify the licensee.

Penalties

The current penalties for anyone found to be out of compliance with Chapter 6 of City Code are as follows:

Any person who is found guilty of violating this chapter shall be convicted of a misdemeanor for each ordinance violation that is issued, and, in the discretion of the court, may be fined up to \$500.00 and sentenced to up to 90 days in jail, or both, for each ordinance violation that is issued:

- (1) A fine of not more than \$100.00 for the first offense. For a first offense, the Animal Care and Control Division may require that an owner attend an Animal Awareness Program provided by the Animal Care and Control Division or the Michigan Humane Society. Proof of Completion of such training within 30 days of the citation shall negate the applicable fine;
- (2) A fine of not more than \$200.00 for a second offense occurring within six months of the first offense;
- (3) A fine of up to \$500.00 and relinquishment of any rights of ownership of the dog/animal for a third offense or later offense occurring within 18 months of the first offense.

CURRENT CITY CODE

Animal husbandry and beekeeping are currently prohibited in multiple sections of City Code:

Currently, Sec. 6-1-5 (a) of the City Code states, in part:

“Except as provided in Article VIII of this chapter, no person shall own, harbor, keep, or maintain, sell, or transfer any farm animal, or any wild animal, on their premises or at a public place within the City, provided, that such farm animal or wild animal may be kept in circuses, zoos, or laboratories, or non-profit organizations for educational purposes, subject to the approval of the City, where, at all times, the care or custody is under the care of a trained and qualified animal attendant whose responsibility shall be to see that such animals are securely under restraint.”

Additionally, Sec. 50-12-397 (1) of the Zoning Ordinance states in part:

The following farm products shall be prohibited from being produced on an urban garden or urban farm.”

To facilitate the keeping of certain farm animals, amendments to both Chapter 6 (Animal Care, Control, and Regulation) and Chapter 50 (Zoning) are required.

Right to Farm Act

The following are excerpts from a recent City of Detroit Law Department opinion on the Right to Farm Act as it relates to the proposed Animal Keeping ordinance before you for consideration. “The 1999 amendments to the Michigan Right to Farm Act broadly restricted local regulation of commercial farming operations. The amendments were clearly intended to preempt local governmental authority in this matter and have a unique preclearance mechanism to be invoked in the event a local government seeks to enact regulation conflicting with the statute. The [Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development \(MDARD\)](#) has countered this preemption measure through its control of the Generally Accepted Agricultural and Management Practices (GAAMPs). This broad use of administrative authority has not been tested in court. However, so long as the current Site Selection GAAMPs are in place, the City is free to enact the urban farm ordinance as proposed” (see attachment).

Animal Husbandry and Beekeeping; Why?

As alluded to previously, urban agriculture is a major activity in the City of Detroit. Many long time Detroiters play a role in this community. The urban ag operations in the city range from large multi-acre farms cultivating produce, to urban gardens up to an acre that are integrated within communities, all the way down to the home backyard gardens for a typical small grower. All of these examples are an effort for citizens to grow, control and consume their own food and to have some level of autonomy in what they eat.

Similarly, there is a community of Detroiters that seek to incorporate certain farm animals into that food ecosystem. As people desire to grow food in gardens and farms, they also seek to take on animal husbandry and beekeeping to cultivate their own food and know where the food comes from, to have some level of food sovereignty within this ecosystem and to strengthen their food systems. The current inflationary market further exacerbates the need to cultivate localized food.

For clarity, the case for animal and honey bee keeping is not for the purpose of pet keeping, but for the food products that they produce. The species being considered in the ordinance are chickens (no roosters due to noise), ducks and also honey bees. These animals and honey bees produce eggs, meat products, and honey. Honey bees also pollinate plants which keeps food-producing plants growing, adding to the farm and garden ecosystem.



Eggs

Laying chickens and ducks produce 200-300+ eggs per year. They can sometimes produce 1 egg per day.



Meat

Meat chickens and ducks reach maturity for processing and consumption in 7 to 8 weeks.



Honey

Honeybees are used specifically for the honey that they produce. Honeybees also help to pollinate or reproduce our food plants (fruits, berries, etc.)



Education

Animal keeping (animal husbandry) in an urban context allows for citizens to be educated on cultivation of food and know where it comes from. It can also inform about other animal sciences.

History Of Animals In Detroit

The history of animal husbandry is closely associated with the history of urban agriculture in the City of Detroit. The urban agriculture ordinance effort was led by CPC staff member Kathryn Underwood for the Commission and adopted in 2013, being strongly supported and sponsored by City Council President Pro Tem James Tate. The urban agriculture ordinance originally included animal husbandry provisions, however, the animal keeping portion of that ordinance was removed so that more discussion could take place in the community. This was over ten years ago and since then numerous conversations and public discourse have taken place on the topic.

As it relates to urban gardens and farms, these activities have a long history in the City of Detroit. [Urban Land](#) documents some of the history of the City supporting urban gardens and farms going back to 1893 when Mayor Hazen Pingree established an initiative for residents to start back yard gardens. Later there was a movement during World War II for urban gardens across the nation which Detroit took part in. The United States Department of Agriculture also campaigned for residents to keep backyard chickens in that era. It's estimated that during the war, 40 percent of all food produced in the U.S. came from local gardens and homes.

Mayor Coleman A. Young also spearheaded a Farm a Lot program in the 1970's to turn underutilized lots into urban gardens and farms. These gardens and farms were spurred for the purpose of producing fruits and vegetables and for beautifying communities by greening the city. Naturally as a part of the movement for more food independence, urban livestock has been included in these efforts to create more sustainable food systems.

Uncle Sam Expects You To Keep Hens and Raise Chickens



Two Hens in the Back Yard for Each Person in the House Will Keep a Family In Fresh Eggs

EVEN the smallest back yard has room for a flock large enough to supply the house with eggs. The cost of maintaining such a flock is small. Table and kitchen waste provide much of the feed for the hens. They require little attention—only a few minutes a day.

An interested child, old enough to take a little responsibility, can care for a few fowls as well as a grown person.

Every back yard in the United States should contribute its share to a bumper crop of poultry and eggs in 1918.

**In Time of Peace a Profitable Recreation
In Time of War a Patriotic Duty**

For information about methods of Back-Yard Poultry Keeping suited to your location and conditions, write

**Your State Agricultural College
or
The United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, D. C.**

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MAR 25 1975

An Idea We Dig

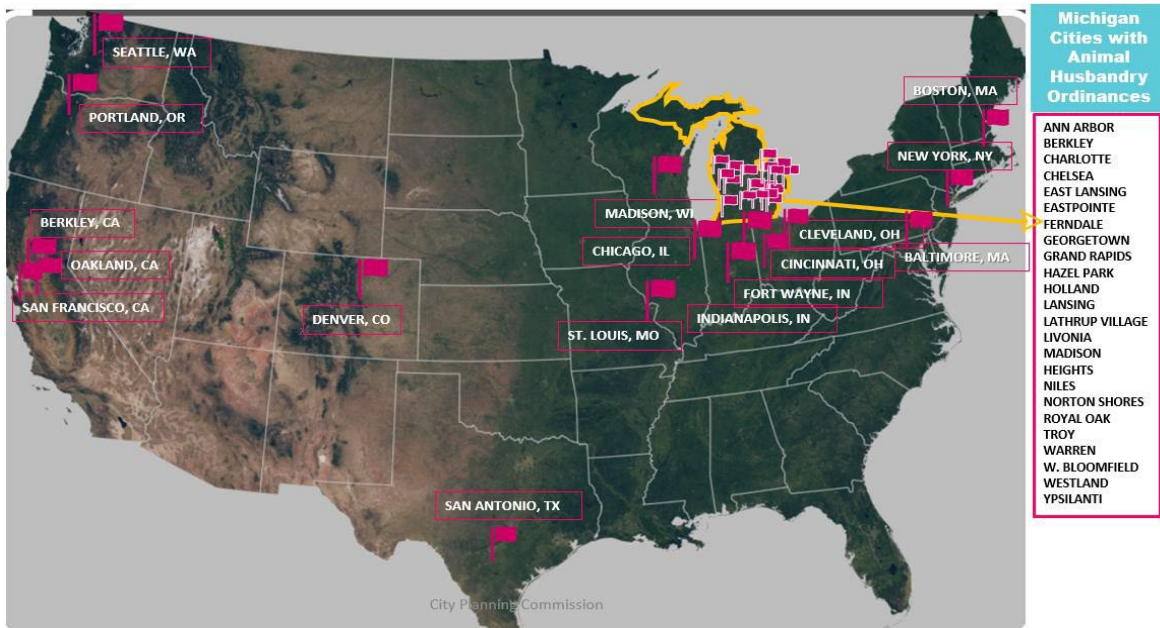
Like many another American city, Detroit has acre upon acre of eyesore vacant lots, noisome, rubble-strewn monuments to despair and decay. But unlike many places, Detroit has a mayor with the imagination and gumption to do something about it.

Mayor Coleman A. Young has launched a program called "Farm-a-Lot" that he hopes will result in the greening of a large number of Detroit's 3,000 city-owned vacant lots. All a Detroitier needs to do is ask, and he'll get permission to garden one of the lots. The average tract is big enough to grow all the vegetables that two or three families need, so one project makes economic as well as esthetic sense.

We dig Mayor Young's idea, and trust other towns will quickly copy.

As an outgrowth of these efforts, organizations such as Keep Growing Detroit (KGD) are continuing the same work for sustainable communities. In their recent support letter to the CPC (see attached), KGD provides more insight into the current garden and farm community along with the number of people they estimate as interested in keeping chickens, ducks or honey bees. As one of the leaders in the farming community, KGD estimates that there is currently a network of [2,300](#) urban gardens and farms in the City of Detroit. Through KGD'S programming that they facilitated last year, they found that 1,477 Detroit residents have expressed interest in keeping bees, chickens and ducks. KGD has a 'Chicken Keeping 101' class which they state has trained 119 Detroit residents in the keeping of urban livestock. Reasons that people desire to keep chickens, ducks and honey bees are for cultivation or food, religious significance, and pollination of plant life in urban gardens and farms. KGD estimates that there are currently up to 200 residents keeping bees in the city and notes that this bee keeping community has had few to no infractions with the city.

Animal husbandry and bee keeping are not new practices in urban, densely populated areas. There are many major urban cities that have adopted these ordinances. Cities from Oakland, California, to New York, New York, have adopted animal husbandry and bee keeping ordinances. The map below simply gives some examples of densely populated urban centers that have ordinances for the practice, but this map is not meant to be exhaustive, as there are hundreds of cities that allow animal and bee keeping. In Michigan alone, staff has counted at least two dozen cities that currently permit animal and/or bee keeping in residential backyards (see below).



Examples of cities that allow animal husbandry and/or bee keeping, but is not meant to be exhaustive

Equity in Detroit Food Systems

Research has found that inequities stemming from redlining continue to manifest throughout Detroit neighborhoods, including access to fresh and nutritious food, exacerbating food insecurity rates across the city.

Disparities in resource allocation have directly contributed to heightened food insecurity in Detroit. Census data indicate that [33.8%](#) of Detroiters live below the federal poverty line. Additionally, data from the Detroit Food Policy Council indicate [69%](#) of Detroiters are food insecure, a 7% increase since 2019. The development of community and backyard gardens have been key in supporting direct access to healthy, fresh, affordable, and local food. With less than [66](#) full line grocery stores located within the city, the need for supplemental access to fresh and local food has resulted in the increase in urban agriculture.

POLICY APPROACH

The approach to animal and bee keeping policy has been very intentional. The guiding principles have always been to protect neighbors and communities from deleterious impacts, consideration for the welfare of the animals and bees that are being kept and to allow for the animal and beekeeping practice to be permitted so that practitioners can reasonably cultivate food on some level and not be criminalized for it.

The majority of the regulations pertaining to the housing and care of animals are proposed in Chapter 6 of the City Code amendments. While those things pertaining to zoning, such as setbacks (spacing) and the zoning districts that would permit the practice, etc. will be found in the Chapter 50 City Code amendments.

The approach to this policy has also incorporated the feedback of many stakeholders from over a decade. There has been an internal working group comprised of all relative City offices and Departments which include the Office of City Council President Pro Tem James Tate, Animal Care

and Control, Law Department, Planning and Development Department, the Buildings, Safety Engineering, and Environmental Department and the City Planning Commission.

CPC staff has also worked with external partners during this effort such as Food Plus Detroit, the Detroit Food Policy Council, the Detroit Collaborative Design Center, the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, and Michigan State University Extension.

The effort has also included a great amount of feedback from community stakeholders such as the animal keepers in support as well as the voices of those who oppose or have concerns. This feedback has been a crucial part of the work. Examples of how engagement from those with concerns has affected current policy, is that the original proposal included goats and rabbits, which have since been removed from the proposal in response to community feedback. These were major concessions to respond to community voices. Proposed setbacks and other provisions have stemmed directly from engagement work. Staff has researched a plethora of ordinances from other municipalities as well.

Animal Husbandry and Beekeeping Guild

To provide hands-on training, support and peer accountability, CPC staff proposed an Animal Husbandry Guild. The purpose of the Guild would be to serve as peer support for animal keepers; be a liaison to the City; and provide education and outreach to the broader community. The Office of President Pro Tem James Tate and Animal Control endorse the concept and have and would continue to play a role in the relationship between the Guild and the City. Detroit Food Plus, the Food Policy Council and other entities have been working to advance this alongside the City. The Guild's role will be to encourage training and compliance to City policy, create better community relationships and cohesion as the effort evolves, provide a network for resources and be a bridge between the animal and beekeeping community and City to foster a continued relationship.

Land Based Projects Interdepartmental Team

In addition to the Animal Husbandry Guild, the City currently has a [Land Based Projects](#) (LBP) interdepartmental team that includes CPC, BSEED, Planning and Development Department, Land Bank and other departments. The purpose of the LBP is to help facilitate urban agriculture, gardening, beautification and productive uses. The team plans to add animal husbandry to its mission upon adoption, to help facilitate these projects, coordinate with Animal Care and Control, help with any complaints, etc. The LBP currently has office hours that constituents are encouraged to attend for issues regarding ag related issues.

ANALYSIS

Animal Keeping's Impact on Property Values

Urban agriculture and animal keeping practices have gained attention due to their potential socio-economic benefits and contributions to community wellbeing. Several studies have examined the relationship between urban agriculture and property values. Contrary to common concerns that animal keeping and agricultural practices within cities might depreciate property values, research indicates the opposite effect. For instance, community gardens have been shown to significantly enhance neighboring property values by up to [9.4%](#) upon their initial implementation.

Additionally, as these gardens become more integrated into the fabric of the neighborhood, [property](#) values continue to rise, with the most substantial increases observed in economically disadvantaged areas. Additionally, studies have revealed that the inclusion of urban agriculture correlates with increased rental rates and higher rates of homeownership in surrounding areas.

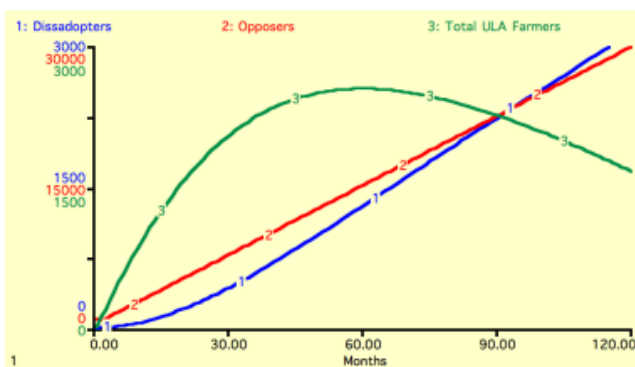
Furthermore, empirical evidence from a [report](#) on 54 community gardens in St. Louis, Missouri, highlighted the positive correlation between the presence of community gardens and enhanced home values, rents, owner-occupancy rates, and socioeconomic diversity amongst renters within a 0.3-mile radius. Many of these community gardens are tightly knit with animal husbandry as these practices are complementary for many urban growers. These improvements were relative to larger Census Tracts and the city as a whole over a ten-year period.

While specific studies on the impact of backyard fowl on property values are lacking, existing research suggests that the inclusion of backyard poultry and bee keeping generally does not have a detrimental effect on property values.

Anticipated Numbers and Impact on Neighborhoods

One question that was raised by City Planning Commissioners was regarding the ultimate impact on the city and how many people would be anticipated to partake in animal keeping. A [study](#) was conducted and grant funded by Michigan Applied Public Policy Research Program and Michigan State University and authored by Renee V. Wallace, Laura Schmitt Olabisi, and Kyle R. Metta. According to their modeling analysis and assumptions, the study projected that, “a small, but significant, minority of Detroit households could adopt chicken-keeping over a ten year period (between 1000 and 3000 households, out of 256,000 total households—approximately 1%)”.

In the simulation, if urban livestock adopters receive adequate support and training, social opposition dwindles to minimal levels after an initial adjustment period, and the number of households adopting urban livestock climbs continuously over the ten-year simulation. Based on this model and current numbers of possible animal and beekeepers estimated by organizations in the urban farming and animal keeping community, staff believe this figure to be a fair estimate or even possibly more than what we may see. Once a policy is adopted, we will have a better understanding after the first 1-2 years, to be able to project future numbers of animal and beekeepers.



CPC PUBLIC HEARING RESULTS & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

On February 22, 2024, a lengthy public hearing was held at the City Planning Commission regarding this matter. A number of people in support and opposition of the ordinance spoke during the meeting. Based on staff’s recording there were approximately 26 people at the public hearing that spoke in support of the proposed ordinance. Conversely there were approximately 21 people that spoke in opposition to the ordinance.

Some of the reasons stated as to why people supported included the goals of adding to a sustainable community, the animal products that will be used as a food source, the animals’ importance on urban farms and gardens for composting, having the ability to keep animals for 4-H and non-profit

educational purposes. Some of the reasons that people opposed were due to concerns about property values, smells from the animals, noises, animals getting loose, spacing constraints, a city environment not being conducive for farm animals, etc. The vast majority of residents that spoke in opposition were from the 48217-zip code, although not all were. One honey bee keeping organization opposed the ordinance because it was stated that the ordinance is too restrictive.

Commissioners assigned staff numerous items to research during the public hearing. Staff continued engagement after this hearing, and came back to the Commission with answers to their questions which are represented in this report.

Past Engagement

2014-16 City Planning Commission City Wide Engagement

In 2016 the City Planning Commission staff held two city wide Listen and Learn community meetings which held up to 100 participants. Partners that helped in that effort included DCDC, Food Plus Detroit, Keep Growing Detroit, Michigan Community Resources, Greening of Detroit, Detroit Black Community Food Security Network, Georgia Street Collective, Peck Produce, Neighbors Building Brightmoor, Spirit Farm, and a few individuals keeping animals.

Subsequently, CPC staff led focus groups to hear from community members about the proposal in more detail, including supporters and opponents. Staff used a number of feedback and engagement tools over this period to communicate with citizens and help them understand, but to also help staff understand what their concerns were. Below you'll find some of the feedback we heard on why people support or are against the proposal. Generally, the majority of attendees at these meetings were in support. Focus groups were held for those in opposition to field their concerns and incorporate feedback into the draft ordinance



Reasons people support animal and beekeeping

- “We’re able to feed a family of six for free. Plus, our eggs are healthier, fresher and more sustainably raised than any you could find at the grocery store.”
- “We are able to eat multiple meals every week from the eggs our birds lay.”
- “We often have neighbors stop by with their kids and grandkids to see the chickens. They love seeing farm animals up close, not a regular thing for city kids. Kids need to know where their food comes from and how it can be produced humanely and sustainably.”

- “As we saw during the pandemic, the food system in our country, and around the world, is volatile. As our kids grow up in an increasingly unstable environment, where food insecurity is a very real threat (and is already a threat to so many families in our community), it is incredibly important for them to learn the skills needed to feed themselves.”
- “This is a great step in creating a self-sustaining local economy independent of corporate systems. Our neighbors think it’s really cool that we keep animals. It has given us the opportunity to meet new neighbors, bond and get to know each other on a more personal level.”

Reasons people oppose or have concerns about animal and beekeeping

- “If allowed, animal keepers will just keep pushing to be allowed to keep more animals.”
- “No chickens, no bee’s outside my backdoor. Medical reasons.”
- “Not being notified by livestock and bee-keepers.”
- “Poor neighbor relations.”
- “We already have so many other problems such as stray dogs, why would we add something else.”
- “Don’t start anything else until other problems in our neighborhoods are solved.”

In addition to the citywide engagement conducted since 2016, CPC staff also participated in engagement efforts with the Office of President Pro Tem in the Summer of 2023 as listed below prior to the CPC 2024 public hearing:

Meeting #1 (hybrid in District 1) - June 20, 2023

Meeting #2 (hybrid in District 4) - July 6, 2023

Meeting #3 (hybrid in District 6) - August 9, 2023

Meeting #4 (virtual) - February 8, 2024



News articles

There have also been numerous news articles and broadcasted reports over the last 2 years specifically, alerting citizens of the effort and sharing information on who to contact to become involved. The most recent piece on the effort was a segment on [WDIV Channel 4 News](#) alerting Detroiters about the proposal and CPC public hearing.

Notice of Public Hearing

Additionally, CPC staff emailed the February public hearing notice and ordinance out to 6,000 subscribers of our office. We additionally sent a mailing out to approximately 1,337 community organizations and block clubs, alerting them of the public hearing for this matter. Lastly, the ordinance is posted on the CPC website for review.

Recent Engagement Post CPC Public Hearing

- Eastside Community Network - March 13, 2024
- District 3 Department of Neighborhoods meeting - March 26, 2024
- D6 & D7 Dept of Neighborhoods Community Meetings - March 27, 2024
- Kemeny Recreation Center Focus Group Meeting w/48217 zip code residents - April 29, 2024
- Community Development Advocates of Detroit - April 30, 2024
- D6 Office of Santiago Romero Community Meeting - May 1, 2024

To summarize these meetings, the overall gist of the response has been either neutral or supportive. Some people from each of these districts have expressed support during the meetings and sentiment to want to see it passed.

On the D6 DON meeting, there was however one resident from the 48217 zip code that expressed opposition. This resident is also the individual who spoke at the CPC public hearing and submitted a letter of opposition. These concerns have been documented by staff and discussed with the resident on various occasions.

Largely, in our engagement, 48217 residents have been the most vocally opposed, while much of the rest of the city is more neutral with questions or scattered individuals or groups showing support. Based on conversations with 48217 residents over the past several months, staff derives that there are many other issues currently existing that fuel 48217 residents to object to animal keeping. This has been stated on many occasions in meetings, that air quality and other quality of life issues currently existing, make residents of this neighborhood pessimistic about new proposals that require enforcement as many don't have faith in city enforcement.

The Council could potentially vote on recommendations to voice support for 48217 issues that are identified as amenable items which the City should review or pursue. This will likely not change the sentiment of opposition towards the Animal Keeping ordinance, however it would still be a way to advocate for the many issues that staff heard resonate during our engagement with those residents that did not relate to this ordinance but are relevant issues needing resolution. This is also not to dilute the consideration of the concerns raised that do relate to the Animal Keeping ordinance.

LETTERS RECEIVED

Staff has also received a number of letters prior to the CPC public hearing:

- 72 letters of support (from all seven Council Districts)
- Support petition with 555 signatures of residents city wide (from all seven Council Districts)
- A support petition with 60 signatures from urban agriculture growers
- 1 letter of opposition (48217 resident)

Conclusion

According to the Animal Care and Control data for citations of farm animals which include chickens, ducks, honey bees and all other type of farm animals currently being kept in the city, the

data shows that there has been little complaint about animals that fall in the category of what is proposed to be permitted through this ordinance.

From 2020-2023 (1/1/20 to 5/1/2023), the total citations for all domesticated animals (dogs, etc.) were 5,137 citations. Conversely, when you extract the data for all farm animals which would include chickens, ducks and honey bees, there were **only 34 total citations**. That constitutes **less than 1% of cases involving farm animals over three years**. This shows that this practice is not the major nuisance in the city. As animal enforcement is generally a complaint driven process, this indicates that not many citizens have been negatively impacted to the point that it initiates enforcement measures. However, this is not to dilute the experience of some citizens that have been negatively impacted by animal keepers that may not be as responsible as others in the community. That's why CPC staff and guild supporters strongly encourage increased neighbor relations.

CPC staff recognizes that if passed, this will be an ongoing effort to work to continuously hone the practice and make it better. With all of the partners involved, including the Land Based Projects team and other offices, this is planned for. The draft ordinance also entails a delayed implementation period to allow for more education and for departmental preparation which has already been in the works. If and when the ordinance is passed, the ordinance as written currently, would not become effective immediately but after a certain period of time.

Text Amendment Criteria and Analysis

The Zoning Ordinance Sec. 50-3-49 cites that recommendations on all proposed Zoning Ordinance text amendments be based on the following criteria (CPC staff's analysis is in italics):

- (1) Whether the proposed amendment is consistent with the stated purposes of this chapter;

This proposal seeks to regulate the keeping of certain farm animals and provide protections for abutting neighbors by establishing setbacks from neighboring dwellings, from property lines and other dimensional standards. It seeks to limit certain animal husbandry and beekeeping to be an accessory use. It seeks to create a conditional land use path that requires a public hearing for projects that do not fit the scope of the general provisions of the ordinance. All of this is in an effort to permit animal husbandry and beekeeping but to set forth certain boundaries to protect neighborhoods.

- (2) Whether the proposed amendment will protect the health, safety, or general welfare of the public;

The proposed amendment applies more protections than many of our neighboring cities while also allowing a level of sustainable practices for the food ecosystem in Detroit. Staff would offer that the entire approach has always stemmed from the spirit of protecting the health, safety and welfare of the community. Numerous ordinances of comparable places as well as denser cities have been studied, and our research shows that this practice can be done safely and effectively. The fact that this practice is currently happening without regulation, gives credence to the goal of this ordinance giving a pathway for animal keeping practitioners to come into compliance with local law to decriminalize them and provide some parameters for the practice. This proposed ordinance would in fact protect the general welfare of the community. We also have created a great relationship with the Animal Care and Control Department and seek to broaden this relationship amongst other departments and the future Guild. This will help to create a buffer of peer accountability, prior to enforcement so that

communities will have multiple ways to bring resolution to a problem situation thereby protecting the public.

- (3) Whether the proposed amendment corrects an error or meets the challenge of some changing condition, trend or fact.

The proposed amendment does meet the challenge of a changing condition and/or trend in that, whether there is regulation or not, this practice is happening now. Citizens that are currently keeping animals are seeking a legal pathway and guidance on what may be appropriate in the keeping of these animals. This legislation will serve to give a pathway to being legal, but is also not expected to cause an immediate dramatic increase in people that are practicing.

Respectfully submitted,

DONOVAN SMITH, CHAIRPERSON



Marcell R. Todd, Jr., Director
Kimani Jeffrey, City Planner
Dolores Perales, City Planner

Attachments: Draft Ordinance – Chapters 6 and 50
Law Department opinion on Right to Farm
Letters

cc: Antoine Bryant, Director, PDD
Karen Gage, PDD
Greg Moots, PDD
David Bell, Director, BSEED
James Foster, BSEED
Jayda Sanford Philson, BSEED
Eric Johnson, BSEED
Conrad Mallett, Corporation Counsel
Daniel Arking, Law
Tonja Long, Law

SUMMARY

This ordinance amends Chapter 50 of the 2019 Detroit City Code, *Zoning*, to establish “animal husbandry and beekeeping” as a new agricultural land use category for certain establishments licensed under Chapter 6, Article VIII of this Code, *Animal Husbandry*, by:

Adding Article XII, *Use Regulations*, Division 3, *Specific Use Standards*, Subdivision H, *Other Uses—Urban Agriculture*, Section 50-12-402, *Animal husbandry and beekeeping*, and Division 5, *Accessory Uses and Structures*, Subdivision C, *Specific Accessory Use Standards*, Section 50-12-524, *Animal husbandry and beekeeping*; and

Amending Article IV, *Review and Approval Procedures (Part 2)*, Division 6, *Variances and Administrative Adjustments*, Section 5-4-122, *Administrative adjustments; applicability*; Article VIII, *Residential Zoning Districts*, Division 2, *R1 Single-Family Residential District*, Section 50-8-24, *Conditional other uses*, Division 3, *R2 Two-Family Residential District*, Section 50-8-54, *Conditional other uses*, Division 4, *R3 Low Density Residential District*, Section 50-8-84, *Conditional other uses*, Division 5, *R4 Thoroughfare Residential District*, Section 50-8-114, *Conditional other uses*, Division 6, *R5 Medium Density Residential District*, Section 50-8-144, *Conditional other uses*, and Division 7, *R6 High Density Residential District*, Section 50-8-174, *Conditional other uses*; Article IX, *Business Zoning Districts*, Division 2, *B1 Restricted Business District*, Section 50-9-24, *Conditional other uses*, Division 3, *B2 Local Business and Residential District*, Section 50-9-54, *Conditional other uses*, Division 4, *B3 Shopping District*, Section 50-9-84, *Conditional other uses*, Division 5, *B4 General Business District*, Section 50-9-114, *Conditional other uses*, Division 6, *B5 Major Business District*, Section 50-9-144, *Conditional other uses*, and Division 7, *B6 General Services District*, Section 50-9-174, *Conditional other uses*; Article X, *Industrial Zoning Districts*, Division 2, *M1 Limited Industrial District*, Section 50-10-24, *Conditional other uses*, Division 3, *M2 Restricted Industrial District*, Section 50-10-54, *Conditional other uses*, Division 4, *M3 General Industrial District*, Section 50-10-84, *Conditional other uses*, Division 5, *M4 Intensive Industrial District*, Section 50-10-114, *Conditional other uses*, and Division 6, *M5 Special Industrial District*, Section 50-10-144, *Conditional other uses*; Article XI, *Special Purpose Zoning Districts and Overlay Areas*, Division 4, *PC Public Center District*, Section 50-11-64, *Conditional other uses*, Division 5, *PCA Public Center Adjacent District (Restricted Central Business District)*, Section 50-11-94, *Conditional other uses*, Division 6, *TM Transitional-Industrial District*, Section 50-11-124, *Conditional other uses*, Division 7, *PR Parks and Recreation*, Section 50-11-154, *Conditional other uses*, Division 9, *MKT Market and Distribution District*, Section 50-11-214, *Conditional other uses*, Division 10, *SD1—Special Development District, Small-Scale, Mixed-Use*, Section 50-11-244, *Conditional other uses*, Division 11, *SD2—Special Development District, Mixed-Use*, Section 50-11-274, *Conditional other uses*, and Division 12, *SD4—Special Development District, Riverfront Mixed Use*, Section 50-11-300, *Conditional other uses*; Article XII, *Use Regulations*, Division 1, *Use Tables*, Subdivision F, *Other Uses*, Section 50-12-109, *Agricultural uses*, Division 3, *Specific Use Standards*, Subdivision H, *Other Uses—Urban Agriculture*, Section 50-12-397, *Farm products and uses; prohibited*, Division 4, *Principal Uses and Structures*, Section 50-12-433, *Second principal use of the land*, and Division 5, *Accessory Uses and Structures*, Subdivision A, *In General*, Section 50-12-451, *Allowed uses*, and Subdivision C, *Specific Accessory Use Standards*, Section 50-12-521, *Farmers markets*, Section 50-12-522, *Urban garden*, and Section 50-12-523, *Urban farm*; Article XIII, *Intensity and Dimensional Standards*, Division 2, *Measurements, Requirements, and Exceptions*, Section 50-13-233, *Exceptions to height regulations*; and Article

XVI, *Rules of Construction and Definitions*, Division 2, *Words and Terms Defined*, Subdivision B, *Letter "A"*, Section 50-16-113, *Words and terms (An—As)*.

.

1 **BY COUNCIL MEMBER _____ :**

2 **AN ORDINANCE** to amend Chapter 50 of the Detroit City Code, *Zoning*, to establish
3 “animal husbandry and beekeeping” as a new agricultural use for establishments licensed under
4 Chapter 6, Article VIII of this Code by specifically:

5 Adding Article XII, *Use Regulations*, Division 3, *Specific Use Standards*, Subdivision H,
6 *Other Uses—Urban Agriculture*, Section 50-12-402, *Animal husbandry and beekeeping*, and
7 Division 5, *Accessory Uses and Structures*, Subdivision C, *Specific Accessory Use Standards*,
8 Section 50-12-524, *Animal husbandry and beekeeping*; and

9 Amending Article IV, *Review and Approval Procedures (Part 2)*, Division 6, *Variances*
10 *and Administrative Adjustments*, Section 5-4-122, *Administrative adjustments; applicability*;
11 Article VIII, *Residential Zoning Districts*, Division 2, *R1 Single-Family Residential District*,
12 Section 50-8-24, *Conditional other uses*, Division 3, *R2 Two-Family Residential District*, Section
13 50-8-54, *Conditional other uses*, Division 4, *R3 Low Density Residential District*, Section 50-8-
14 84, *Conditional other uses*, Division 5, *R4 Thoroughfare Residential District*, Section 50-8-114,
15 *Conditional other uses*, Division 6, *R5 Medium Density Residential District*, Section 50-8-144,
16 *Conditional other uses*, and Division 7, *R6 High Density Residential District*, Section 50-8-174,
17 *Conditional other uses*; Article IX, *Business Zoning Districts*, Division 2, *B1 Restricted Business*
18 *District*, Section 50-9-24, *Conditional other uses*, Division 3, *B2 Local Business and Residential*
19 *District*, Section 50-9-54, *Conditional other uses*, Division 4, *B3 Shopping District*, Section 50-9-
20 84, *Conditional other uses*, Division 5, *B4 General Business District*, Section 50-9-114,
21 *Conditional other uses*, Division 6, *B5 Major Business District*, Section 50-9-144, *Conditional*
22 *other uses*, and Division 7, *B6 General Services District*, Section 50-9-174, *Conditional other*
23 *uses*; Article X, *Industrial Zoning Districts*, Division 2, *M1 Limited Industrial District*, Section

1 50-10-24, *Conditional other uses*, Division 3, *M2 Restricted Industrial District*, Section 50-10-54,
2 *Conditional other uses*, Division 4, *M3 General Industrial District*, Section 50-10-84, *Conditional*
3 *other uses*, Division 5, *M4 Intensive Industrial District*, Section 50-10-114, *Conditional other uses*,
4 and Division 6, *M5 Special Industrial District*, Section 50-10-144, *Conditional other uses*; Article
5 XI, *Special Purpose Zoning Districts and Overlay Areas*, Division 4, *PC Public Center District*,
6 Section 50-11-64, *Conditional other uses*, Division 5, *PCA Public Center Adjacent District*
7 (*Restricted Central Business District*), Section 50-11-94, *Conditional other uses*, Division 6, *TM*
8 *Transitional-Industrial District*, Section 50-11-124, *Conditional other uses*, Division 7, *PR Parks*
9 *and Recreation*, Section 50-11-154, *Conditional other uses*, Division 9, *MKT Market and*
10 *Distribution District*, Section 50-11-214, *Conditional other uses*, Division 10, *SD1—Special*
11 *Development District, Small-Scale, Mixed-Use*, Section 50-11-244, *Conditional other uses*,
12 Division 11, *SD2—Special Development District, Mixed-Use*, Section 50-11-274, *Conditional*
13 *other uses*, and Division 12, *SD4—Special Development District, Riverfront Mixed Use*, Section
14 50-11-300, *Conditional other uses*; Article XII, *Use Regulations*, Division 1, *Use Tables*,
15 Subdivision F, *Other Uses*, Section 50-12-109, *Agricultural uses*, Division 3, *Specific Use*
16 *Standards*, Subdivision H, *Other Uses—Urban Agriculture*, Section 50-12-397, *Farm products*
17 *and uses; prohibited*, Division 4, *Principal Uses and Structures*, Section 50-12-433, *Second*
18 *principal use of the land*, and Division 5, *Accessory Uses and Structures*, Subdivision A, *In*
19 *General*, Section 50-12-451, *Allowed uses*, and Subdivision C, *Specific Accessory Use Standards*,
20 Section 50-12-521, *Farmers markets*, Section 50-12 522, *Urban garden*, and Section 50-12-523,
21 *Urban farm*; Article XIII, *Intensity and Dimensional Standards*, Division 2, *Measurements,*
22 *Requirements, and Exceptions*, Section 50-13-233, *Exceptions to height regulations*; and Article

1 XVI, *Rules of Construction and Definitions*, Division 2, *Words and Terms Defined*, Subdivision
2 B, *Letter "A"*, Section 50-16-113, *Words and terms (An—As)*.

3 **IT IS HEREBY ORDAINED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE CITY OF DETROIT**
4 **THAT:**

5 **Section 1.** Chapter 50 of the Detroit City Code, *Zoning*, is amended by adding Article XII,
6 Division 3, Subdivision H, Section 50-12-402, and Division 5, Subdivision C, Section 50-12-524;
7 and amending Article IV, Division 6, Section 5-4-122; Article VIII, Division 2, Section 50-8-24,
8 Division 3, Section 50-8-54, Division 4, Section 50-8-84, Division 5, Section 50-8-114, Division
9 6, Section 50-8-144, and Division 7, Section 50-8-174; Article IX, Division 2, Section 50-9-24,
10 Division 3, Section 50-9-54, Division 4, Section 50-9-84, Division 5, Section 50-9-114, Division
11 6, Section 50-9-144, and Division 7, Section 50-9-174; Article X, Division 2, Section 50-10-24,
12 Division 3, Section 50-10-54, Division 4, Section 50-10-84, Division 5, Section 50-10-114, and
13 Division 6, Section 50-10-144; Article XI, Division 4, Section 50-11-64, Division 5, Section 50-
14 11-94, Division 6, Section 50-11-124, Division 7, Section 50-11-154, Division 9, Section 50-11-
15 214, Division 10, Section 50-11-244, Division 11, Section 50-11-274, and Division 12, Section
16 50-11-300; Article XII, Division 1, Subdivision F, Section 50-12-109, Division 3, Subdivision H,
17 Section 50-12-397, Division 4, Section 50-12-433, and Division 5, Subdivision A, Section 50-12-
18 451, and Subdivision C, Section 50-12-521, Section 50-12 522, and Section 50-12-523; Article
19 XIII, Division 2, Section 50-13-233; and Article XVI, Division 2, Subdivision B, Section 50-16-
20 113, as follows:

21 **CHAPTER 50. ZONING**

22 **ARTICLE IV. REVIEW AND APPROVAL PROCEDURES (PART 2)**

23 **DIVISION 6. VARIANCES AND ADMINISTRATIVE ADJUSTMENTS**

1 **Sec. 50-4-122. Administrative adjustments; applicability.**

2 Administrative adjustments are:

- 3 (1) Modifications of ten percent or less of any numeric standard that is set forth in
4 Article XIII of this chapter or any numeric development standard that is set forth in
5 Article XIV of this chapter;
- 6 (2) Reductions of off-street parking requirements for any use by up to ten spaces, as
7 provided for in Section 50-14-153 of this Code;~~or~~
- 8 (3) Reductions of not more than two percent of any spacing and locational requirement
9 for medical marijuana facilities or for adult-use marijuana establishments, as
10 specified in Section 50-12-132 of this Code;or
- 11 (4) Waivers of screening requirements for animal husbandry and beekeeping
12 establishments, as specified in Section 50-12-524 of this Code.

13 **ARTICLE VIII. RESIDENTIAL ZONING DISTRICTS**

14 **DIVISION 2. R1 SINGLE-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT**

15 **Sec. 50-8-24. Conditional other uses.**

16 Other conditional uses within the R1 Single-Family Residential District are as follows:

- 17 (1) Animal husbandry and beekeeping.
- 18 (2) Antennas as provided for in Article XII, Division 3, Subdivision G, of this chapter.
- 19 (3) Greenhouses as provided for in Article XII, Division 3, Subdivision H, of this
20 chapter.
- 21 (4) Hoophouses as provided for in Article XII, Division 3, Subdivision H, of this
22 chapter.
- 23 (5) Railroad rights-of-way, not including storage tracks, yards, or buildings.

1 (6) Urban farms as provided for in Article XII, Division 3, Subdivision H, of this
2 chapter.

3 **DIVISION 3. R2 TWO-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT**

4 **Sec. 50-8-54. Conditional other uses.**

5 Other Conditional uses within the R2 Two-Family Residential District are as follows:

- 6 (1) Animal husbandry and beekeeping.
- 7 (2) Antennas as provided for in Article XII, Division 3, Subdivision G, of this chapter.
- 8 (3) Greenhouses as provided for in Article XII, Division 3, Subdivision H, of this
9 chapter.
- 10 (4) Hoophouses as provided for in Article XII, Division 3, Subdivision H, of this
11 chapter.
- 12 (5) Railroad rights-of-way, not including storage tracks, yards, or buildings.
- 13 (6) Urban farms as provided for in Article XII, Division 3, Subdivision H, of this
14 chapter.

15 **DIVISION 4. R3 LOW DENSITY RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT**

16 **Sec. 50-8-84. Conditional other uses.**

17 Other conditional uses within the R3 Low Density Residential District are as follows:

- 18 (1) Animal husbandry and beekeeping.
- 19 (2) Antennas as provided for in Article XII, Division 3, Subdivision G, of this chapter.
- 20 (3) Greenhouses as provided for in Article XII, Division 3, Subdivision H, of this
21 chapter.
- 22 (4) Hoophouses as provided for in Article XII, Division 3, Subdivision H, of this
23 chapter.

1 (5) Urban farms as provided for in Article XII, Division 3, Subdivision H, of this
2 chapter.

3 **DIVISION 5. R4 THOROUGHFARE RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT**

4 **Sec. 50-8-114. Conditional other uses.**

5 Other conditional uses within the R4 Thoroughfare Residential District are as follows:

6 (1) Animal husbandry and beekeeping.

7 (2) Antennas as provided for in Article XII, Division 3, Subdivision G, of this chapter.

8 **DIVISION 6. R5 MEDIUM DENSITY RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT**

9 **Sec. 50-8-144. Conditional other uses.**

10 Other conditional uses in the R5 Medium Density Residential District are as follows:

11 (1) Animal husbandry and beekeeping.

12 (2) Antennas as provided for in Article XII, Division 3, Subdivision G, of this chapter.

13 (3) Marinas.

14 **DIVISION 7. R6 HIGH DENSITY RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT**

15 **Sec. 50-8-174. Conditional other uses.**

16 Other conditional uses within the R6 High Density Residential District are as follows:

17 (1) Animal husbandry and beekeeping.

18 (2) Antennas as provided for in Article XII, Division 3, Subdivision G, of this chapter.

19 (3) Marinas.

20 **ARTICLE IX. BUSINESS ZONING DISTRICTS**

21 **DIVISION 2. B1 RESTRICTED BUSINESS DISTRICT**

22 **Sec. 50-9-24. Conditional other uses.**

23 Other conditional uses in the B1 Restricted Business District are as follows:

1 (1) Animal husbandry and beekeeping.

2 (2) Antennas as provided for in Article XII, Division 3, Subdivision G, of this chapter.

3 **DIVISION 3. B2 LOCAL BUSINESS AND RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT**

4 **Sec. 50-9-54. Conditional other uses.**

5 Other conditional uses in the B2 Local Business and Residential District are as follows:

6 (1) Animal husbandry and beekeeping.

7 (2) Antennas as provided for in Article XII, Division 3, Subdivision G, of this chapter.

8 (3) Designated marijuana consumption establishment.

9 (4) Marijuana microbusiness.

10 (5) Marijuana retail/provisioning facility.

11 (6) Marijuana safety compliance facility as provided for in Article III, Division 12, of
12 this chapter.

13 **DIVISION 4. B3 SHOPPING DISTRICT**

14 **Sec. 50-9-84. Conditional other uses.**

15 Other conditional uses in the B3 Shopping District are as follows:

16 (1) Animal husbandry and beekeeping.

17 (2) Antennas as provided for in Article XII, Division 3, Subdivision G, of this chapter.

18 (3) Railroad rights-of-way, not including storage tracks, yards, or buildings.

19 **DIVISION 5. B4 GENERAL BUSINESS DISTRICT**

20 **Sec. 50-9-114. Conditional other uses.**

21 Other conditional uses in the B4 General Business District are as follows:

22 (1) Animal husbandry and beekeeping.

23 (2) Antennas as provided for in Article XII, Division 3, Subdivision G, of this chapter.

- 1 (3) Aquaculture as provided for in Article XII, Division 3, Subdivision H, of this
- 2 chapter.
- 3 (4) Aquaponics as provided for in Article XII, Division 3, Subdivision H, of this
- 4 chapter.
- 5 (5) Designated marijuana consumption establishment.
- 6 (6) Hydroponics as provided for in Article XII, Division 3, Subdivision H, of this
- 7 chapter.
- 8 (7) Marijuana microbusiness.
- 9 (8) Marijuana retail/provisioning facility.
- 10 (9) Marijuana safety compliance facility.
- 11 (10) Telecommunications building, private.

DIVISION 6. B5 MAJOR BUSINESS DISTRICT

Sec. 50-9-144. Conditional other uses.

Other conditional uses within the B5 Major Business District are as follows:

- 15 (1) Animal husbandry and beekeeping.
- 16 (2) Aquaculture as provided for in Article XII, Division 3, Subdivision H, of this
- 17 chapter.
- 18 (3) Aquaponics as provided for in Article XII, Division 3, Subdivision H, of this
- 19 chapter.
- 20 (4) Designated marijuana consumption establishment
- 21 (5) Farmers markets as defined in Article XVI, Division 2, Subdivision G, of this
- 22 chapter.

1 **DIVISION 3. M2 RESTRICTED INDUSTRIAL DISTRICT**

2 **Sec. 50-10-54. Conditional other uses.**

3 Other conditional uses within the M2 Restricted Industrial District are as follows:

- 4 (1) Animal husbandry and beekeeping.
- 5 (2) Ferry terminals.
- 6 (3) Heliports.
- 7 (4) Designated marijuana consumption establishment.
- 8 (5) Marijuana grower facility.
- 9 (6) Marijuana microbusiness.
- 10 (7) Marijuana processor facility.
- 11 (8) Marijuana retail/provisioning facility.
- 12 (9) Marijuana safety compliance facility.
- 13 (10) Marijuana secure transporter facility.
- 14 (11) Urban farms as provided for in Article XII, Division 3, Subdivision H, of this
15 chapter.
- 16 (12) Urban gardens as provided for in Article XII, Division 3, Subdivision H, of this
17 chapter.

18 **DIVISION 4. M3 GENERAL INDUSTRIAL DISTRICT**

19 **Sec. 50-10-84. Conditional other uses.**

20 Other conditional uses within the M3 General Industrial District are as follows:

- 21 (1) Animal husbandry and beekeeping.
- 22 (2) Boat or ship yards: construction, repair, maintenance, dry dock.
- 23 (3) Designated marijuana consumption establishment.

- 1 (4) Docks, waterway shipping/freighters.
- 2 (5) Ferry terminals.
- 3 (6) Heliports.
- 4 (7) Marijuana grower facility.
- 5 (8) Marijuana microbusiness.
- 6 (9) Marijuana processor facility.
- 7 (10) Marijuana retail/provisioning facility.
- 8 (11) Marijuana safety compliance facility.
- 9 (12) Marijuana secure transporter facility.
- 10 (13) Urban farms as provided for in Article XII, Division 3, Subdivision H, of this
- 11 chapter.
- 12 (14) Urban gardens as provided for in Article XII, Division 3, Subdivision H, of this
- 13 chapter.

14 **DIVISION 5. M4 INTENSIVE INDUSTRIAL DISTRICT**

15 **Sec. 50-10-114. Conditional other uses.**

16 Other conditional uses within the M4 Intensive Industrial District are as follows:

- 17 (1) Animal husbandry and beekeeping.
- 18 (2) Ferry terminals.
- 19 (3) Designated marijuana consumption establishment.
- 20 (4) Heliports
- 21 (5) Marijuana grower facility.
- 22 (6) Marijuana microbusiness.
- 23 (7) Marijuana processor facility.

- 1 (8) Marijuana retail/provisioning facility.
- 2 (9) Marijuana safety compliance facility.
- 3 (10) Marijuana secure transporter facility.
- 4 (11) Urban farms as provided for in Article XII, Division 3, Subdivision H, of this
- 5 chapter.
- 6 (12) Urban gardens as provided for in Article XII, Division 3, Subdivision H, of this
- 7 chapter.

8 **DIVISION 6. M5 SPECIAL INDUSTRIAL DISTRICT**

9 **Sec. 50-10-144. Conditional other uses.**

10 Other conditional uses within the M5 Special Industrial District are as follows:

- 11 (1) Animal husbandry and beekeeping.
- 12 (2) Ferry Terminals.
- 13 (3) Heliports.
- 14 (4) Marijuana grower facility.
- 15 (5) Marijuana processor facility.
- 16 (6) Marijuana safety compliance facility.
- 17 (7) Marijuana secure transporter facility.
- 18 (8) Urban farms as provided for in Article XII, Division 3, Subdivision H, of this
- 19 chapter.
- 20 (9) Urban gardens as provided for in Article XII, Division 3, Subdivision H, of this
- 21 chapter.

22 **ARTICLE XI. SPECIAL PURPOSE ZONING DISTRICTS AND OVERLAY AREAS**

23 **DIVISION 4. PC PUBLIC CENTER DISTRICT**

1 **Sec. 50-11-64. Conditional other uses.**

2 Other conditional uses within the PC Public Center District are as follows:

3 (1) Animal husbandry and beekeeping.

4 (2) Farmers markets as defined in Article XVI, Division 2, Subdivision G, of this
5 chapter.

6 (3) Heliports.

7 **DIVISION 5. PCA PUBLIC CENTER ADJACENT DISTRICT (RESTRICTED**
8 **CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT)**

9 **Sec. 50-11-94. Conditional other uses.**

10 Other conditional uses within the PCA Public Center Adjacent District (Restricted Central
11 Business District) are as follows:

12 (1) Animal husbandry and beekeeping.

13 (2) Farmers markets as defined in Article XVI, Division 2, Subdivision G, of this
14 chapter.

15 (3) Passenger transportation terminals.

16 **DIVISION 6. TM TRANSITIONAL-INDUSTRIAL DISTRICT**

17 **Sec. 50-11-124. Conditional other uses.**

18 Other conditional uses within the TM Transitional-Industrial District are as follows:

19 (1) All those uses permitted by right in the TM District having one acre or more of lot
20 area.

21 (2) Animal husbandry and beekeeping.

22 (3) Heliports.

1 **Sec. 50-11-274. Conditional other uses.**

2 Other conditional uses in the SD2 Special Development District, Mixed-Use are as follows:

3 (1) Animal husbandry and beekeeping.

4 (2) Designated consumption establishment.

5 (3) Marijuana microbusiness.

6 (4) Marijuana retail/provisioning facility.

7 (5) Marijuana safety compliance facility.

8 (6) Passenger transportation terminal.

9 (7) Urban Gardens not exceeding 0.5 acres in size, subject to Article XII, Division 3,
10 Subdivision H, of this chapter.

11 **DIVISION 12. SD4—SPECIAL DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT,**

12 **RIVERFRONT MIXED USE**

13 **Sec. 50-11-300. Conditional other uses.**

14 Other conditional uses in the SD4 Special Development District are as follows:

15 (1) Animal husbandry and beekeeping.

16 (2) Aquaculture as provided for in Article XII, Division 3, Subdivision H, of this
17 chapter.

18 (3) Aquaponics as provided for in Article XII, Division 3, Subdivision H, of this
19 chapter.

20 (4) Boat terminals, passenger.

21 (5) Docks or wharves, waterway shipping/freighters.

22 (6) Farmers markets as defined in Article XVI, Division 2, Subdivision G, of this
23 chapter.

1 (7) Heliports as regulated by Section 50-12-411 of this Code and Article XIV, Division
2 6, of this chapter.

3 (8) Hydroponics as provided for in Article XII, Division 3, Subdivision H, of this
4 chapter.

ARTICLE XII. USE REGULATIONS

DIVISION 1. USE TABLES

Subdivision F. Other Uses

Sec. 50-12-109. Agricultural Uses.

Regulations regarding agricultural uses are as follows:

Use Category	Specific Land Use	Residential						Business						Industrial					Special and Overlay										Standards General (Art. XII, Div. 2) Specific (Art. XII, Div. 3)												
		R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	B1	B2	B3	B4	B5	B6	M1	M2	M3	M4	M5	P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	W1	W2	W3	W4	W5	M1	M2	M3	M4	M5	S1	S2	S3	S4	S5			
Agricultural uses	Animal husbandry and beekeeping	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	L		C	C	C	C						C	C	C	C	C						Section 50-12-402 Section 50-12-524	
	Aquaculture													C	C	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	L						R				C								
	Aquaponics													C	C	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	L						R				C								
	Farmers' market	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	R	R	R	C	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	L	*	C	C	R	*						R	R	R	C							*As accessory use only as provided in Section 50-12-521
	Greenhouse	C	C	C	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	L						R															
	Hoop-House	C	C	C	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	L						R															
	Hydroponics													C	C	R	R	R	R	R	R	L						R				C									
	Urban farm (including orchard and tree farm when principal use)	C	C	C	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	L						C															
	Urban garden	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	L						C					R	C	C								

6

1 **DIVISION 3. SPECIFIC USE STANDARDS**

2 **Subdivision H. Other Uses—Urban Agriculture**

3 **Sec. 50-12-397. Farm products and uses; prohibited.**

4 The following farm products shall be prohibited from being produced on an urban garden
5 or urban farm:

6 ~~(1) Farm animals, as described in Chapter 6 of this Code, *Animal Care, Control, and*~~
7 ~~*Regulation;*~~

8 (1) Prohibited tree species under Section 50-14-324 of this Code and any other
9 plants deemed injurious or invasive by the Forestry Division of the General
10 Services Department;

11 (2) Oats, wheat, and rye, in order to prevent rodents, except when used as a winter
12 cover crop and not grown to full maturity.

13 **Sec. 50-12-402. Animal husbandry and beekeeping.**

14 (a) Animal husbandry and beekeeping is permissible as a principal use only if operated
15 by a municipal agency, a 4-H program that is officially sanctioned and recognized by Michigan
16 State University Extension, or by a non-profit entity organized for educational purposes under
17 Section 501(c)(3) of the federal Internal Revenue Code, being 26 USC 501(c)(3). For all other
18 individuals and entities, animal husbandry is permissible only as an accessory use, subject to
19 Section 50-12-524 of this Code.

20 (b) In considering a request to establish animal husbandry and beekeeping as a
21 principal use, the Buildings, Safety Engineering, and Environmental Department must solicit the
22 review and recommendation of the Animal Care and Control Division and the Planning and
23 Development Department.

1 **DIVISION 4. PRINCIPAL USES AND STRUCTURES**

2 **Sec. 50-12-433. Second principal use of the land.**

3 Where an activity on, or use of, the land, in addition to the principal use, fails to meet the
4 definition of an accessory use, as provided in Section 50-16-111 of this Code, except as otherwise
5 expressly provided for in this Chapter, it shall be considered a second principal use, subject to all
6 applicable regulations for that use.

7 **DIVISION 5. ACCESSORY USES AND STRUCTURES**

8 **Subdivision A. In General**

9 **Sec. 50-12-451. Allowed uses.**

10 By-right uses and approved conditional uses shall be deemed to include accessory uses, as
11 defined in Section 50-16-111 of this Code or as otherwise expressly provided for in this Chapter,
12 and activities that are necessarily and customarily associated with, on the same zoning lot as, and
13 are clearly incidental and subordinate to, the principal uses allowed in zoning districts. Unless
14 otherwise expressly stated, accessory uses and activities shall be subject to the specific use
15 standards of Division 3 of this article.

16 **Subdivision C. Specific Accessory Use Standards**

17 **Sec. 50-12-521. Farmers markets.**

18 (a) Farmers markets ~~shall be permitted~~ are permissible as an accessory use ~~where~~
19 ~~located on the same zoning lot as~~ to only the following principal uses:

- 20 (1) religious institutions;
- 21 (2) schools;
- 22 (3) educational institutions;
- 23 (4) outdoor recreation facilities; and

1 (5) non-profit neighborhood centers.

2 (b) Farmers markets are permissible as an accessory use in all zoning districts except
3 the following:

4 (1) W1 Waterfront-Industrial District

5 (2) SD5 Special Development District, Casinos

6 **Sec. 50-12-522. Urban garden.**

7 Only the following ~~accessory~~ uses and structures ~~shall be permitted on~~ are permissible as
8 accessory to an urban garden. All accessory structures shall be subject to the provisions of Article
9 XII, Division 5, of this chapter ~~and also require a building permit where applicable:~~

10 (1) Greenhouses;

11 (2) Farm stands;

12 (3) Hoophouses or high tunnels, and similar structures used to extend the growing
13 season;

14 (4) Benches, bike racks, raised/accessible planting beds, compost bins, picnic tables,
15 garden art, rainwater catchment systems;

16 (5) Tool sheds and shade pavilions;

17 (6) Garages; and

18 (7) Animal husbandry and beekeeping, subject to Section 50-12-524 of this Code.

19 **Sec. 50-12-523. Urban farm.**

20 Only the following uses and structures ~~shall be permitted on~~ are permissible as accessory
21 to an urban farm. All accessory structures shall be subject to the provisions of Article XII, Division
22 5, of this chapter ~~and also require a building permit where applicable:~~

23 (1) All those uses and structures permitted on an urban garden;

- 1 (2) Aquaculture
- 2 (3) Aquaponics;
- 3 (4) Hydroponics;
- 4 (5) Barns and/or other buildings for storage;
- 5 (6) Structures for cold storage and processing.
- 6 (7) Animal husbandry and beekeeping, subject to Section 50-12-524 of this Code.

7 **Sec. 50-12-524. Animal husbandry and beekeeping.**

8 (a) Notwithstanding Sections 50-12-433 and 50-12-451 of this Code, animal
9 husbandry and beekeeping is permissible as an accessory use to only the following principal uses:

- 10 (1) All residential uses listed in Division 1, Subdivision B of this article;
- 11 (2) All agricultural uses listed in Section 50-12-109 of this Code;
- 12 (3) Schools;
- 13 (4) Educational institutions;
- 14 (5) Restaurants, standard; and

15 (b) Animal husbandry and beekeeping is permissible as an accessory use in all zoning
16 districts except the following:

- 17 (1) P1 Open Parking District.
- 18 (2) W1 Waterfront-Industrial District
- 19 (3) SD5 Special Development District, Casinos

20 (c) Shelter and enclosure spaces for chickens and ducks must comply with the
21 following requirements:

- 22 (1) The area of shelters and enclosures must not exceed 200 square feet.

1 (3) Notwithstanding the provisions contained within this subsection, a garage existing
2 at the time of ordinance enactment is a permissible shelter space honeybee hives
3 regardless of whether it meets setbacks.

4 (f) If accessory to any of the following uses, the combined number of ducks and
5 chickens must not exceed eight and the number of honeybee hives must not exceed four:

6 (1) All residential uses listed in Division 1, Subdivision B of this article;

7 (2) Schools;

8 (3) Educational institutions;

9 (4) Restaurants, standard; and

10 (5) Civic or cultural buildings on land zoned PC or PCA.

11 (g) If accessory to any agricultural use listed in Section 50-12-109 of this Code, the
12 combined number of ducks and chickens must not exceed 12 ducks and the number of honeybee
13 hives must not exceed four, except:

14 (1) An urban garden that is a half-acre or more in area may have up to six honeybee
15 hives;

16 (2) An urban farm that is an acre or more in area may have up to eight honeybee hives;

17 (3) An urban farm or urban garden may have one honeybee hive in addition to the
18 limits set forth in Subsection (g)(1) and (g)(2) of this Section, respectively, for each
19 additional acre by which its area exceeds one acre.

20 (h) The setbacks, maximum numbers of animals or honeybee hives, or use standards,
21 or species of animals may not be waived by the Board of Zoning Appeals.

22 (i) Animal husbandry and beekeeping may be accessory to not more than three urban
23 gardens or urban farms within any block face, unless the Buildings Safety, Engineering

1 Environmental Department determines that animal husbandry and beekeeping on additional urban
2 gardens or urban farms on the same block face would not negatively impact the safety, aesthetics,
3 or character of surrounding properties.

4 **ARTICLE XIII. INTENSITY AND DIMENSIONAL STANDARDS**

5 **DIVISION 2. MEASUREMENTS, REQUIREMENTS, AND EXCEPTIONS**

6 **Sec. 50-13-233. Exceptions to height regulations.**

7 The following exceptions to height regulations shall apply:

- 8 (1) Penthouses, elevator penthouses, scenery lofts, towers, cupolas, steeples, domes,
9 flag poles, aircraft beacons, and antennas for which a building permit is not
10 required, and chimneys, stacks, tanks, and roof structures that are used for
11 ornamental or mechanical purposes where located on a roof and collectively not
12 exceeding 30 percent in gross area of the roof area, need not be included in
13 determining the height of a building or structure;
- 14 (2) Antennas for which a building permit is required need not be included in
15 determining the height of a building or structure in the B5 and B6 Districts, or in
16 any industrial zoning district, or in any PCA, TM, or SD2 District;
- 17 (3) Parapet walls may extend not more than five feet above the allowable height of a
18 building; ~~and~~
- 19 (4) Where located in a residential district or in the B1, B2, B3, or B4 business districts,
20 Category B radio antennas and towers may exceed the allowable height regulations
21 on accessory structures, provided, that in no case shall the radio tower exceed
22 applicable FCC height limitations or a height of 75 feet from established grade,
23 whichever is less; and

1 (5) Honeybee hives that are located on the roof of a building or structure for animal
 2 husbandry and beekeeping purposes may be exempted from the height of such
 3 building or structure.

4 **ARTICLE XVI. RULES OF CONSTRUCTION AND DEFINITIONS**

5 **DIVISION 2. WORDS AND TERMS DEFINED**

6 **Subdivision B. Letter "A"**

7 **Sec. 50-16-113. Words and terms (An—As).**

8 For the purposes of this chapter, the following words and phrases beginning with the
 9 letters "An" through "As," shall have the meaning respectively ascribed to them by this section:

Term	Definition
<u>Animal husbandry and beekeeping</u>	<u>The keeping of certain livestock, as defined in Section 6-8-2 of this Code, for purposes of personal consumption or utilization of agricultural products, such as eggs, meat, or honey.</u>
Antenna	Any system of wires, poles, rods, reflecting discs, or similar devices, together with any supporting structure, used for the reception and/or transmission of electromagnetic waves.
Antenna - Category A	Television antennas not 28 square feet in area or six feet in dish diameter, customarily though not exclusively erected for residential use, such as microwave-receiving antennas, and dipole "rod and mast" VHF-UHF antennas, hereinafter referred to as "conventional" television antennas.
Antenna - Category B	Radio antennas and antenna towers, such as amateur radio antennas for ham/shortwave operations, and fixed-station antennas for business-band radio,

	citizens band radio, general mobile radio service and two-way radio.
Antenna - Category C	Dish antennas, such as satellite television antennas, also known as satellite dishes, earth stations, television receive-only (TVRO) antennas, earth terminals, and earth terminal antennas; other parabolic dish antennas and parabolic reflectors exceeding six feet in diameter, including, but not limited to, microwave-receiving antennas and studio-to-transmitter-link (STL) antennas.
Antenna - Category D	Antenna towers and poles exceeding 75 feet in height from established grade, customarily though not necessarily housing multiple antennas, such as radio broadcasting towers, television broadcasting towers, microwave antenna towers, studio-to-transmitter links, and other communications antennas, including antennas for cellular telephone systems.
Approach surfaces	(1) Instrument approach surfaces and non-instrument approach surfaces having a runway at least 5,000 feet in length; and (2) Non-instrument approach surface having a runway with a length of 2,000 feet or more up to, but not including, 5,000 feet in length. Instrument Approach Surface and Non-instrument Approach Surfaces are defined in Section 50-16-262 and Section 50-16-322 of this Code.
Aquaculture	The cultivation of marine or freshwater food fish, shellfish, or plants under controlled conditions.
Aquaponics	The integration of aquaculture with hydroponics, in which the waste products from fish are treated and then used to fertilize hydroponically growing plants.

Arcade	A place, premises or establishment or room set aside in a retail or commercial establishment where three or more coin-operated amusement devices are located, defined herein as a machine or device operated by means of the insertion of a coin, token or similar object, for the purpose of amusement or skill and for the playing of which a fee is charged. The term "arcade" does not include vending machines which are not incorporated gaming or amusement features, nor coin-operated mechanical music devices; nor mechanical motion picture devices. The definition shall not apply to coin-operated amusement devices owned or leased to establishments that are properly licensed for the sale of beer or alcoholic liquor for consumption on the premises.
Arena	An enclosed structure with tiers of seats rising around a sports field, playing court or public exhibition area. Arenas are typically used for sports, entertainment and other public gathering purposes, such as athletic events, concerts, conventions, circuses and conferences.
Articles pyrotechnic	Pyrotechnic devices for professional use that are similar to consumer fireworks in chemical composition and construction but not intended for consumer use, that meet the weight limit for consumer fireworks but are not labeled as such, and that are classified as UN0431 or UN0432 under 49 CFR 172.101.
Ash	The residue from the burning of wood, coal, coke or other combustible materials including incinerator ash and residue.
Assembly (use category)	Activities or structures, generally of a commercial nature that draw members of the general public to specific events or shows. Examples include the following uses:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assembly hall • Banquet hall • Dance hall, public • Private club • Private lodge • Rental hall
Assembly hall	<p>An enclosed place of assembly for the exclusive use of the owners of the facility or by the members of the association or organization controlling the premises. Such facility shall not be available for rental to the general public. Assembly halls are typically accessory to private clubs and private lodges and are located in a non-residential building.</p>
Assessed valuation	<p>The assessed valuation in the records of the Assessor of the City. With respect to exempt properties for which the assessed valuation is zero, an independent valuation from a reputable source, subject to review and acceptance by the Buildings, Safety Engineering, and Environmental Department, may be presented by the owner as the basis for determinations required by this chapter.</p>
Assisted living facility	<p>A residential care facility designed primarily for older people who typically have no serious health problems but who may have chronic or debilitating conditions requiring assistance with daily activities. Permitted services include but are not limited to staff- supervised meals, housekeeping and personal care, medication supervision, and social activities. Both private and shared sleeping rooms may be provided. Facilities providing regular care under supervision of physicians are not considered assisted living facilities.</p>


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Section 2. All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict with this ordinance are repealed.

Section 3. This ordinance is declared necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health, safety, and welfare of the people of the City of Detroit.

Section 4. This ordinance shall become effective on January 31, 2025 in accordance with Section 401(6) of Public Act 110 of 2006, as amended, M.C.L. 125.3401(6) and Section 4-118 of the 2012 Detroit City Charter.

Approved as to Form:



Conrad J. Mallet
Corporation Counsel



LAW DEPARTMENT

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**PRIVILEGED AND CONFIDENTIAL
ATTORNEY-CLIENT COMMUNICATION**

To: Pro Tem James Tate

From: Sharon Blackmon

Date: March 26, 2024

RE: Right to Farm Act and Local Farm Ordinances

You are currently sponsoring an ordinance to authorize a limited number of poultry animals and beehives in Detroit's residential neighborhoods. Such an ordinance could conflict with the Michigan Right To Farm Act, MCL 286.471 *et seq.* You have directed the Law Department to review the issue of whether the proposed ordinance is preempted by the Michigan Right to Farm Act.

SHORT ANSWER

The 1999 amendments to the Michigan Right to Farm Act, broadly restricted local regulation of commercial farming operations. The amendments were clearly intended to preempt local governmental authority in this matter and have a unique preclearance mechanism to be invoked in the event a local government seeks to enact regulation conflicting with the statute.

The Michigan Commission of Agriculture and Rural Development has countered this preemption measure through its control of the General Accepted Agricultural and Management practices. This broad use of administrative authority has not been tested in court. However, so long as the current Site Selection GAAMPS are in place, the City is free to enact the urban farm ordinance as proposed.

LAW

HISTORY OF THE RIGHT TO FARM ACT

The Michigan Right to Farm Act was enacted in 1981 for the purpose of protecting farmers from nuisance litigation as residential developments pushed into previously farmed land



throughout Michigan.¹ The act provides that a commercial farm operation² cannot be deemed a nuisance if the operation conforms to “generally accepted agricultural and management practices” (GAAMP) or if the farm operation existed before “a change in land use or occupancy of land within 1 mile of the boundaries of the farm land . . .” MCL 286.473(1) and (2). The Michigan Commission of Agriculture must annually review the GAAMP and may revise these standards as necessary. MCL 286.473(1).

1999 AMENDMENT

As originally drafted, the Act subordinated the “right to farm” to zoning regulations enacted pursuant to the county rural zoning enabling act, MCL 125.201 *et seq.*, the township rural zoning enabling act, MCL 125.271 *et seq.*, and the city and village zoning act, MCL 125.501 *et seq.* Farming interests complained that these local zoning ordinances were being used to limit agricultural operations.

In 1999, in response to these complaints, the legislature removed the language subordinating the statute to zoning regulations and installed the following language:

(6) Beginning June 1, 2000, except as otherwise provided in this section, it is the express legislative intent that this act preempt any local ordinance, regulation, or resolution that purports to extend or revise in any manner the provisions of this act or generally accepted agricultural and management practices developed under this act. Except as otherwise provided in this section, a local unit of government shall not enact, maintain, or enforce an ordinance,

¹ Michigan Attorney General Bill Schuette, summed up the Act’s history and impetus as follows:

Michigan first adopted the Right to Farm Act in 1981. Michigan's Act was one of many right to farm acts adopted across the country during the late 1970s and early 1980s. 8 ALR6th 465, § 2. During that time-period, the spread of residential development into traditionally rural areas increased pressure on farm land and farmers. *Id.* As noted in a staff legislative analysis of the bill that became the Michigan Right to Farm Act, newcomers to traditionally agricultural areas were not accustomed to the noises, odors, and dust associated with agricultural activities. House Legislative Analysis, HB 4054 (April 7, 1981). Proponents of the legislation were concerned that farmers would face increased nuisance lawsuits seeking to enjoin agricultural activities and that such lawsuits, if successful, could result in economic ruin for those farmers. *Id.* OAG, 2018, No 7302 (March 28 2018) p 1

² The definitions of farms and farm operations in the RTFA both refer to “commercial” farms and operations. MCL 268.472(a),(b). The Act however, does not define establish a threshold for “commercial” activity. The Michigan Court of Appeals concluded that “there is no minimum level of sales that must be reached before the RTFA is applicable.” *Charter Tp of Shelby v Papesch*, 267 Mich App 92, 101; 704 NW2d 92 (2005).



regulation, or resolution that conflicts in any manner with this act or generally accepted agricultural and management practices developed under this act. MCL 286.474(6)

The amendment requires local jurisdictions to seek preclearance of any ordinance “prescribing standards different from those contained in generally accepted agricultural and management practices if adverse effects on the environment or public health will exist within the local unit of government.” MCL 286.474 (7). Such ordinances must be submitted to the director of the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development at least 45 days prior to enactment. *Id.* Such ordinances “must not be enforced by a local unit of government until approved by the commission following a hearing. *Id.*

POST-AMENDMENT

The sweeping language of MCL 286.474(6) appears to bar local government legislation restricting or eliminating the right to farm. In practice, however, this has not been the case because of the opening created by MCL 286.473(1) regarding GAAMPs. GAAMPs are administrative rules promulgated by the Michigan Commission of Agriculture and Rural Development. Commercial farming operations cannot be controlled via nuisance actions or zoning legislation if they conform to the GAAMPs or if the operations predated the encroachment of residential developments. MCL 286.473(1) and (2).³

This power to expand or contract the right to farm based on the contents of the GAAMPs has been employed by the Commission to mitigate the 1999 amendment’s severe restrictions on local control of that right. This mitigation was accomplished in two stages.

In its 2012 revision of the GAAMP governing Site Selection and Odor Control for New and Expanding Livestock Facilities, the Commission added the following language to its preface:

This GAAMP does not apply in municipalities with a population of 100,000 or more in which a zoning ordinance has been enacted to allow for agriculture provided that the ordinance designates existing agricultural operations present prior to the ordinance’s adoption as legal nonconforming uses as identified by the Right to Farm Act for

³ Historic farming operations protected by MCL 286.473(2) are generally not at issue in long developed urban areas such as Detroit, as few if any commercial farm operations in Detroit predate the city’s zoning ordinance. See *Jerome Tp v Melchi*, 184 Mich App 228, 232–33 (1990).



purposes of scale and type of agricultural use. (See GAAMP, Site Selection, 2012, p iii.)

Seven municipalities have populations greater than 100,000. Ann Arbor, Detroit, Flint, Grand Rapids, Lansing, Sterling Heights, and Warren and are free from the Site Selection GAAMPs because of this language. In 2013, Detroit enacted an ordinance permitting agricultural activities in residential areas, thereby availing itself of the privilege to self-regulate based on this new provision.

Much uncertainty continued to surround the expansive reach of the RTFA. Except for the 7 largest cities, jurisdictions were faced with the possibility of having no means to limit agricultural activities so long as they conformed to the GAAMPs. Because the early versions of the GAAMP contained no restrictions regarding operations with fewer than 50 animal units, small farmers asserted they were free to conduct farm operations in any jurisdiction with a population of less than 100,000.

In 2014, the Michigan Commission of Agriculture and Rural Development revised the GAAMP, Site Selection, provision to include a new category, category 4. That category was defined as:

Sites not acceptable for new and expanding livestock facilities and livestock production facilities under the Siting GAAMPs. Sites that are primarily residential in current land use are not acceptable under the Siting GAAMPs for livestock facilities or livestock production facilities regardless of the number of animal units. The placement or keeping of any number of livestock on those sites does not conform to the Siting GAAMPs. (See GAAMP Site Selection, 2014, p 11.)

Primarily residential areas are defined as any area having “more than 13 non-farm residences within 1/8 mile of the site or have any non-farm residence within 250 feet of the livestock facility.” P 4. This change by the Commission was clearly intended to close a loophole that allowed urban farmers with less than 50 animals to farm in any location.⁴ Following this revision, farming sites

⁴ See *Removing Michigan Right to Farm Protection from Suburban Hobby Farms ‘Closes a Loophole’ Agriculture Official Says*, @mlive, Jan 22, 2014, p 1-2:

Small backyard farmers fear proposed changes in farming practices endorsed by the Michigan Agriculture Commission could strip them of state protection under Michigan’s Right to Farm Act.

They’re right, but that protection was never intended for them in the first place, said Jim Johnson, division director of the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development’s Environmental Stewardship Division in an interview Tuesday.



in “primary residential areas” throughout the state are non-GAAMP compliant and outside the shield of preemption.

This broad use of administrative authority to close legislative loopholes has, to date, not been tested in court. Michigan State University’s Farm Extension newsletter of April 11, 2023, framed the issue as follows:

There is a legal question as to if, through a GAAMP, the Michigan Commission of Agriculture and Rural Development has the authority to delegate local authority to regulate in face of statutory preemption of any local ordinance, regulation or resolution that extends or revises in any manner the provisions of the RTFA or GAAMPS. Michigan State University, MSU Extension, *Right to Farm Act Can Preempt Local Regulation Authority, But Not All Local Regulations*, April 11, 2023, p 5.

CONCLUSION

As currently drafted, the proposed ordinance would not be preempted by the RTFA because of the GAAMPs.

If you have any additional questions or concerns, please feel free to let me know.

“People found a loophole” . . . that allowed them to force farm animals into residential areas that are not appropriate, Johnson said.

The intent of the suggested changes: Close that loophole.

The proposed changes allows for local governments to decide what’s acceptable within their own communities and set conditions for that use,” said Jennifer Holton, Director of Communications for the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development.



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**PRIVILEGED AND CONFIDENTIAL
ATTORNEY-CLIENT COMMUNICATION**

CITY OF DETROIT MEMORANDUM

To: Honorable City Council

From: Jordan Miller, Assistant Corporation Council, Law Department

Date: May 20, 2024

Re: **Status of Animal Keeping in Detroit by Registered Non-Profit Organizations**

Your Honorable Body, through Council President Pro Tempore, James E. Tate Jr., submitted a multi-departmental inquiry to better understand the City’s position as to various elements of animal care, control, and regulation. The inquiry pays particular consideration to the ownership of farm animals by registered non-profits. The questions and requests presented in the inquiry are enumerated and responded to below:

1. Does the City of Detroit, legally speaking, consider honeybees as a “farm animal” as defined in Chapter 6 of the Detroit City Code?

Yes, honeybees are generally considered to be “farm animals” under the definition contained in Section 6-1-2 of the 2019 Detroit City Code¹. Although the Code does not expressly name honeybees, they fall within the broader description of “any animal held or raised for purposes of food or other commercial consumption.” This position is consistent with the Generally Accepted Agricultural and Management Practices for the Care of Farm Animals (GAAMPS) as published by the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD).²

2. Does the highlighted language below allow for registered non-profits in the City of Detroit to have animals on their property? Chapter 6, Section 6-1-5(a) of the Detroit City Code states “Owning, harboring, keeping, maintaining, selling, or transferring of farm or wild animals prohibited; exception for circuses, zoos, and other approved activities; separate violations for each animal; disposition of animals in violation of this section.”

¹ *Farm animal* means, but is not limited to, a cow, a donkey, a goat, a horse, a llama, a mule, a pony, poultry, sheep, swine, or any animal held or raised for purposes of food or other commercial consumption.

² GAAMPS (2024) www.michigan.gov/mdard/-/media/Project/Websites/mdard/documents/environment/rtf/2024-GAAMPS/Care-of-Farm-Animals-GAAMPS-2024.pdf?rev=b1ef23edd6fe4beeab8a27ff5879ddd5&hash=026A843D9536C3001748B849FCEC1E16



- a. **Except as provided in Article VIII of this chapter, no person shall own, harbor, keep, or maintain, sell, or transfer any farm animal, or any wild animal, on their premises or at a public place within the City, provided, that such farm animal or wild animal may be kept in circuses, zoos, or laboratories, or non-profit organizations for educational purposes, subject to the approval of the City, where, at all times, the care or custody is under the care of a trained and qualified animal attendant whose responsibility shall be to see that such animals are securely under restraint.**

Yes, registered non-profits in the City of Detroit are allowed to own, harbor, keep, maintain, sell, and transfer animals, so long as three critical caveats are satisfied. First, the non-profit's use of the animal must be for "educational purposes." The exception provided in Section 6-1-5(a) does *not* provide carte blanche to registered non-profits to have and use animals in any way that they choose. Second, the animal must be under the care of a trained and qualified animal attendant. There is not currently an established method of qualifying such necessary animal attendants. And third, the proposed animal use by a registered non-profit is subject to the approval of the City. At present, no such formal review and approval process has been enacted. Accordingly, there is currently no way for a registered non-profit in the City to overcome both of the necessary requirements for eligibility under the exception of Section 6-1-5(a). Additionally, while Chapter 6 allows farm animals on premises owned and operated by non-profit organizations, Chapter 50 prohibits farm animals on urban farms and urban gardens, in accordance with section 50-12-397. There currently is no provision in the Chapter 50 Zoning Code that allows the housing of farm animals.

3. **If the highlighted language above allows for non-profit organizations to have farm animals on their property, what is the proper zoning classification to allow for farm animals, as defined by Chapter 6 in the Detroit City Code? Please work with the City Planning Commission to Answer this question.**

Currently, there is no provision in the Chapter 50 Zoning Code that allows the housing of farm animals. The proposed "Animal Husbandry" Zoning Ordinance revision would add a specific zoning use associated with Chapter 6 farm animal's provision.

4. **Lastly, if the highlighted language above allows for non-profit organizations to have farm animals on their property, what are all the proper permits? Please work with the Building Safety Engineering, and Environmental Department (BSEED), Planning and Development Department (PDD, and the Detroit Department of Animal Care and Control (DACC) to answer this question.**



No such zoning use has been established as of yet in the current Code. However, a Building Permit (or the to be established “Land Permit”) would be required to change a parcel zoning use to a “Animal Husbandry” facility as a principal or accessory use. Also included with that permit would be approval of any structures or structural elements. Separate electrical and plumbing permits would be required for any related equipment or systems. Further, no such DACC permits are currently in existence.

FW: [EXTERNAL] Animal Keeping Ordinance

CPC Mailbox <CPC@detroitmi.gov>

Thu 2/22/2024 9:25 AM

To: Kimani Jeffrey <jeffreyk@detroitmi.gov>

From: Alice Bagley <alice.bagley@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 22, 2024 9:11 AM
To: CPC Mailbox <CPC@detroitmi.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Animal Keeping Ordinance

I am writing to you today as a Detroit resident to encourage you to support the Animal Keeping Ordinance. I have been a part of many projects in Detroit that keep bees, chickens, and ducks. These animals nourish the people around them in mind, body and soul. All of these animals are much less dangerous and destructive than dogs- which are allowed by right on every Detroit property.

I hope that you will do all that you can to support this ordinance.

Alice Bagley
870 Gladstone

To whom it may concern,

My name is Amanda Brezzell and I am an active member of the community and urban farmer residing in District 6. For some time now, my farm has served to bridge the gaps to food sovereignty while providing free high quality produce to the community. It is my understanding that a vote will soon be held to determine the status of the Animal Keeping Ordinance. I am writing to you to express my **STRONG** support for this ordinance. Here are the reasons why:

First, there are already dozens of people keeping animals in nearly every part of the city. Animal Control receives only a few complaints per year regarding livestock. Current animal keepers have done a great job, using the proper tools and equipment to safely keep their livestock.

Second, animal keeping will contribute to the local food economy. Allowing residents to share or sell their eggs, meat, honey and beeswax will contribute to community food security and food sovereignty. Keeping chickens and ducks will help insulate the city's most vulnerable residents from the kind of shortages and inflation that result from supply chain breakdowns.

Third, this is a perfect opportunity for education. Neighborhood chickens show children where food comes from and how to care for animals. This also provides a space for farmers and growers like myself to engage the community on the farm, regarding food education and nutrition.

Fourth, most similar cities to Detroit allow animal keeping; and almost all the surrounding suburbs do as well. Detroit has been historically excluded from every form of community support, and allowing residents to participate in this is in line with the City's plan to revitalize neighborhoods, making Detroit a place where residents can grow and thrive.

And finally, city staff, animal keepers and residents have been working on this ordinance since the urban agriculture ordinance passed in 2013. The current version reflects more than two years of work from city staff and stakeholders. It is clear that this ordinance has received strong support over the last few years, and listening to residents will show that our work is not in vain, and that our city officials value our lives and our work to keep the city for the people.

I absolutely support this ordinance and would love to see this pass.

Thank you for your time.

Best,

Amanda Brezzell

Lead Farmer: Fennigan's Farms

[EXTERNAL]

space kid <anameneses1421@gmail.com>

Wed 5/1/2024 11:08 PM

To:Dolores Perales <Dolores.Perales@detroitmi.gov>

05/01/2024

Dear City Planning Commission and City Council, I would like to express my support for the proposed Animal Keeping Ordinance here in the City of Detroit. As a supporter of urban agriculture, I believe that passing this ordinance will contribute to the overall well-being of the community and the environment. This ordinance will provide an avenue for Detroiters to legally keep chickens, ducks, and bees in the city. I believe this will help contribute to the overall environmental and economic health of Detroit and its communities. Chickens and ducks not only offer a fresh source of eggs for eating or selling but also assist in weed management, natural pest control, and fertilization of soil. Additionally, beekeeping also promotes the pollination of plants and development of honey, which is key for maintaining biodiversity and supporting the local ecosystem/food system here in Detroit. Many residents have expressed interest in connecting deeper to Detroit's local food system. The allowable livestock identified in the ordinance is a step in the right direction in helping individuals to take control of their food sources in a responsible manner. In addition, many residents feel it is their cultural, economic, and or religious right to keep and cultivate appropriate livestock within the vicinity of their homes. Please consider the positive impact that legalizing this ordinance can have on Detroit. By supporting the Animal Keeping Ordinance, Detroit neighborhoods will only continue to grow and thrive. Thank you for consideration. I look forward to seeing Detroit thrive as a leader in urban agriculture.

Sincerely,
Ana Meneses

[EXTERNAL]

Mendez, Andrea <mendez20@msu.edu>

Wed 5/1/2024 11:06 PM

To:Dolores Perales <Dolores.Perales@detroitmi.gov>

May 1, 2024

Dear City Planning Commission and City Council,

I would like to express my support for the proposed Animal Keeping Ordinance here in the City of Detroit. As a resident, I believe that passing this ordinance will contribute to the overall well-being of our community and the environment.

This ordinance will provide an avenue for Detroiters to legally keep chickens, ducks, and bees in the city. I believe this will help contribute to the overall environmental and economic health of Detroit and its communities. Chickens and ducks not only offer a fresh source of eggs for eating or selling but also assist in weed management, natural pest control, and fertilization of soil. Additionally, beekeeping also promotes the pollination of plants and development of honey, which is key for maintaining biodiversity and supporting our local ecosystem/food system here in Detroit.

Many residents have expressed interest in connecting deeper to Detroit's local food system. The allowable livestock identified in the ordinance is a step in the right direction in helping individuals to take control of their food sources in a responsible manner. In addition, many residents feel it is their cultural, economic, and or religious right to keep and cultivate appropriate livestock within the vicinity of their homes.

Please consider the positive impact that legalizing this ordinance can have on Detroit. By supporting the Animal Keeping Ordinance, Detroit neighborhoods will only continue to grow and thrive.

Thank you for consideration. I look forward to seeing Detroit thrive as a leader in urban agriculture.

Sincerely,

Andrea Mendez

District 6

FW: [EXTERNAL] We love farm animals in our neighborhood!

CPC Mailbox <CPC@detroitmi.gov>

Thu 5/2/2024 9:27 AM

To: Kimani Jeffrey <jeffreyk@detroitmi.gov>; Dolores Perales <Dolores.Perales@detroitmi.gov>

From: Arboretum Detroit <treetroit@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2024 9:47 PM

To: CPC Mailbox <CPC@detroitmi.gov>

Cc: April Worden <april@worden.org>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] We love farm animals in our neighborhood!

To Whom It May Concern:

I support my neighbors, April and James Worden, keeping domestic farm animals on their property for educational purposes.

April and James are creating a safe space for urban youth to experience the life-changing benefits of connecting with and caring for nature. They already open their yard to the children of the neighborhood, providing access to gardening, creative outdoor play and urban farming education.

The Wordens have the experience, resources, space and skills to create a beautiful place for both animals and people. April grew up on a Michigan dairy farm and worked for several years at summer camps for youth from urban environments. They have also secured a veterinarian who is willing and able to come to their home and give veterinary care to the animals.

Allowing children to care for animals has numerous benefits, including reducing anxiety, boosting self-confidence and compassion, positively impacting academic performance and strengthening work ethic. The youth of Detroit need more opportunities to experience what James and April are working to provide.

I live within 1000 feet of the Wordens' property and I support the educational benefits of having farm animals in my neighborhood.

Signed: Andrew "birch" Kemp

Date: May 1, 2024

City Council District: 5

February 22, 2024

Re: Animal Husbandry

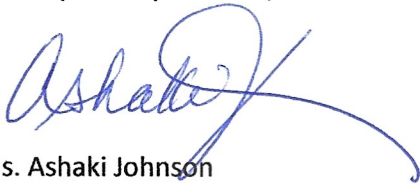
Dear City Council members and City Planning Commission:

Please accept this letter as a formal request that the Animal Husbandry ordinance is approved. Many parts of Detroit do not have access to fresh foods. Being able to raise our food legally in the city limits will help many families. This will also help the urban farmers within our community.

Many areas of Detroit land are still damaged from our industrial past which have caused lead and other chemicals in our soils. Urban farming and Animal husbandry both help restore the soil to make it healthy for all in the city. Passing the Animal Ordinance will restore soil health as duck and chicken manure creates healthier soils without the use of chemicals.

Bryden Central Block club is for the Animal Husbandry Ordinance.

Thank you for your time,



Ms. Ashaki Johnson
President, Bryden Central Block Club
BrydenCentralBlockClub@gmail.com
(313) 241-7601
@BrydenCentral
District 6



1420 Washington Blvd.
Detroit, MI 48226

P: 313.833.0396
www.detroitfoodpc.org

Detroit Food Policy Council
1420 Washington Blvd.
Detroit, MI 48226

Detroit City Council/ Detroit City Planning Commission
2 Woodward Ave.
Detroit, MI 48226

Dear Detroit City Council and City Planning Commission members,

We, the undersigned, are writing to express support for the immediate passage of the city's proposed animal keeping ordinance.

There are multiple benefits to legalizing the keeping of farm animals in the city limits. Allowing residents to share or sell their eggs, meat, honey and beeswax will contribute to community food security and food sovereignty. It will boost the local food economy and help insulate the city's most vulnerable residents from the kind of shortages and inflation we saw when the food supply chain broke down during the pandemic. When eggs were in short supply and extremely costly, animal keepers stepped up and ensured their neighbors had local, fresh eggs available when many sources of protein were not. Even as the worst of the pandemic has passed, food access remains an issue in the city; this ordinance will provide locally raised meat, eggs and honey to people who may otherwise struggle to access nutritious food.

The time to pass this ordinance has come. Most peer cities to Detroit allow animal keeping, and almost all the surrounding suburbs do as well. City staff, animal keepers and other stakeholders have been working on this ordinance since the urban agriculture ordinance passed in 2013. This most recent iteration reflects more than two years of work from city staff and members of the community. It's extremely well thought out and represents cooperation and compromise from all sides. Months of research, discussion and planning has resulted in a carefully crafted proposed ordinance that balances the needs of all concerned.

Detroiters deserve the opportunity to keep animals responsibly, humanely and respectfully, as dozens of residents are already doing. Allowing a legal structure that clearly lays out the expectations of animal keepers protects them, their neighbors and the animals themselves. We urge you to pass this ordinance without delay.

Sincerely, (the following 555 Detroiters)

Council District 1

Brie Ann Bell

Roland Matthews
Carla McClure
Brittney Rooney

Anna Harris
David Brown
Brittany Mitchell-Kelley

Michael Kelley
Amy willaert
Pamela Ronson
Shannon Zandee
Blake Maurice
Jennifer Janke
Amy Maurice
Cheryl Buswell
Claudine Mamo
Spencer Field
Carole Hawke
Milos Nikolic
Annabelle Williams
Cheryl Simon
Erin Wilson
Camille Kirksey
Clara Gamalski
louella pizzuti
Miriam K Champlin
Bridget Crawford
Charlotte Robinson
Justin Fenwick
Luz Lule Camargo
Jalyn Spencer
Jaclyn Wilke
Emma Stark
Jody Conradi Stark
Susan Steigerwalt
Terry Powe
Sharon LeMieux
Lisa Rivera
Roberto Rivera
Lisa Bednarz
Brandy Zink
Kim May
Rosalyn Flint
Zakiyah Karim
Querida Jordan
Mark Schumack
Shelby
Mathew Standifer
Mia White

Council District 2

Amy Kuras
Paul Eggebrecht
Theodore Eggebrecht
Molly Sweeneg
Alaina Jackson
Patricia Alford-Lewis
James Lewis
Earl Akim Williams
Shari Williams
Chase L. Cantrell
Kimberly Williams
Amelia Stachowicz
Jacob James Benda-Torok
Stephanie Osborn
Zach Osborn
Alyssa Rogers
I'Sha Schultz-Spradlin
Alex Schultz-Spradlin
Jessica Bondalapati
Birch Snogles
Lola Gibson-Berg
Alyssa Turnbull
Evan Denomme
Tamika Lovejoy
LaTanya Pettis
Christina Ponsaran
Christian Gerard
Kathryn Debs
Eleanor Gamalski
Erin Kanzig
Karen C Brown
Deidre Woodhouse-Phillips
Erika Fox
Matthew Daigler
Madalyn Knebel
Erica Schopmeyer
Todd Pierce
Alexis Chingman-Tijerina
Jodee Raines
Alexis Chingman-Tijerina
Heather Lloyd
Lutalo Sanifu
Mary Wilbur
Jennifer Norton

Emily Sioma
Adam Lezotte
Almeta Andary
Shirletha Alberty
Kess Ballentine
Christopher George
Amy Wilson
Teresa McCarty
Aliyah tyson
Debra Cooper-Coleman
Morgan Leary
Azri Afework
I'Sha Schultz-Spradlin
Eleanor Carey
Brigitte Evariste
Gabriella Starke
Jennifer Keuten
Kristen LeForce
Mitchell Dziekan
Kyle Akey
Rachel Cappadona

Council District 3

La'Kenya Melton
Detra Iverson
Zenaida Flores
Tharmond Ligon Jr.
Lillian mcintyre
Latrina Conaway
Camille Maddox
Deborah Bunkley
Gilbert Chrostowski
Jeffrey Tranchell
Elizabeth Phillips
Katelyn Wolcott
Anjelica Vinson
Francine Adams
Terry Blount
Celena Adams
Selwyn Cameron
Joy Van Bael
Dylan Pyle
Jesse Burke-Beyers
Reatta Jefferson

Loren nosan
Kyle Kentala
George Thottakath
Latrina Conaway
Emily Allgeyer

Council District 4

shakara tyler
jøn kent
Joseph Rashid
Corey Gilchrist
Sarah Feldman
Trevor Walters
Francis Vallejo
Charon Nogues
Gaston Nogues
Nathan Kempinski
Parker Jean
Denise Moore
Dazmonique Carr
Mark Rutherford
Kenneth Tompkins
Anders Johnson
Tony Johnson
Kate Devlin
Sean Hurley
Lucas Simpson
Ivan King
Rukiya Colvin
Ted Tansley
Pat Kolon
Quinita Good
Tova Israel
Elysia Khalil
Thomas Montgomery
Erin Oly
Kayla Slavey
Abigail Johnson
Stevie baka
Travis Blake
Kaitlin Krupp
Kelly Eubank
Troye Aho
Kameron Sheffield

Rory Hyde
Tim Sargent
Cassidy Strome
Sara Weertz
Pete Weertz
Nathanael Egger
Cynthia Jefferson Lane
Mary Rousseaux
Betsy Palazzola
Dessa Cosma
Soh Suzuki
Hannah Buford
Michele Howard
Mel Moeinvaziri
Rachel Van Andel
Roanna Cooper
elizabeth garrett
Heather Mawson
Rhonda Tidwell
Doris Walker
Sarah Feldman
Loretta Powell
Dana Eldred
Keisha Brooks
Donald Jones
Lee Qualls
Sydney LaDuke
Kristen Egger
Regina Harris
Catherine Fazio
Nathanael Egger
Kwaku Osei-Bonsu
Sara Weertz
Pete Weertz
Kalid Al-Rahji

Council District 5

Jason Lindy
Gabrielle Knox
Danielle Dagui
Patrice Brown
Kathleen Rashid
Calandra Jones
Carl Goines

Kim Casteel
Chris Casteel
Lanay Gilbert-Williams
Cassi Meitl
Tema Jamison
Joanna Dueweke-Perez
Meghan McGowan
Shelby Doyle
Juan Carlos Dueweke-Pérez
Val-Marie Wilson
Alexa gallo
Matthew Hargis
Tim nutt
Justin Wallick
Philip Carrel
Sarah Burger
Lis Thomas
Katherine Knox-Davies
Tyson Gersh
Anita Singh
Julie Wainwright
Andrew Schrock
Meredith Potter
Ryan Dinkgrave
Kim Schroeder
Krystal Bush
Renaë Micou
Allie Stornant
Andrew Jordan
Mark Wallace
Ollie Lagrou
Trina Fennell
Nicholas Mancuso
Rory Hejtmanek
Asiya El
Chay Buckner
Rebecca flora-kik
Richard kik
Donnamarie Hall
Mac Farr
Ollie dodt
Jacinda Bowman
george vidas
Emily Zonder

Corey Wellik
Chris Chiaravalli
Diala Khalife
Aliqae Geraci
Chloe Lundine
Alia Elhajj
Evelyn Boer
Erin Yelda
Rae Hopp
Amy Ervin
kayleigh waterman
Marie Mastrangelo
Stefanie Steele
David Davis
Elise Martin
Erin Wakeland
Valeria de Jongh
James Ervin
Molly Leebove
Joshua Longsdorf
Katharine Yugo
Steven Gerard
Talia Gordon
Dee Henderson
Rachel Delmotte
Stephen Riccardi
Megan LaValla
Nicole Tischler
Taylor Struna
Julia Callis
Jay Cotton
Alice Bagley
Sara Elbohy
Sterling Bowman-Randall
Aubrey Agee
Shawn Glinis
KT Morelli
Jessica Vu
Adam Verville
Zoe Cutler
Carolyn Leadley
Jacob VanDyke
Finnegan Leadley
Rowan Leadley

Glenn Leadley
Brighde Leadley
Garrett MacLean
James Worden
Marian Steggerda
Elise Gallant
Jennifer Jackson
Jessica Lofton-Williams
Jeff Herron
Sara Hodges
Melissa Sargent
Andrew Seegars
Kinga Osz-Kemp
Malik Wali
Nayomi Cawthorne
Nicole Gilbert
Rebekah Galang
Marguerite Woodward
Emily Levine
Cassandra Harris
Esmee de Braal
Famika Jackson-Roberts
Phoenix Sky
Mathew holman
Alexa Kempton
Alexandria Jones
Natalia McIntyre
Mary Zatina
Michael slomzenski
Anthony Head
Jennie Booth
Grace Miotke
Olivia Marshall
James Marshall
Bianca Winward
Kirk Bennett
Ryan Myers-Johnson
Anita Singh
Chanell McCollum
Megan Frances Barber
MJ Slide
Brianna Bloxsom
Maria Galarza
Georgéa Cole

Tania Miller
Lily Fasano
Martha Cavazos
Jessica Williams
Vincent Calimazzo
Man Nga Ip
Ken Carhart
Joel Batterman
Thayer Morton
Veejah Purnell
Laura Reincke
Juliana Ledesma
April Worden
Claudine Cesano
Joy Cranshaw
Laura Howard
Ash Arder
Sarah Bovan
Joy orf
Kinga Osz-Kemp
John Decker
Carly Sugar
Cedar Rock
Emily Decker
Katherine Morelli
Leah Resh
Joe Stornant
Rachel Balanon
Leeandre Qualls
Justine Lauer
Madeline Ciofu
Olivia Marshall
David Clover
Conner Darling
Marian (Molly) Steggerda
Grace Meyer
Madeline Bohl
Adam Cichy
Anthony Hatinger
timothy guthrie
Monica Breen
Ross Shaw
Michael Slomzenski
Cassie Lehman-Martin

Seth Martin
Kathryn Verville

Council District 6

Nina Wimberley
Nicole Alequin-Aviles
Jim Bullard
Douglas Holmes
Matthew Bihun
Janae Wilson
Angela Fabbri
Keith Pielack
Grant Jones
Laura Amtower
Karen Barnhart
Le'Genevieve Squires
Paige Scoggin
Lorina Karreci
Aran Ruth
Madeline Bohl
Livv Fleet
Charlotte Gale
Kristen Schoettle
Alexandra Dalecke
Maria Jones-Foster
Leonardo Enriquez
Kasi Seguin
celina ortiz
Meghan navoy
Ali O'Neil
Carolyn Suttles
Matthew Morris
Emily
Elise DeChard
Kevin Debs
Brigid Tepe
Regina Mareglia
Sebastian Gutierrez
Rachel Wasserman
Audrey McPartlin
Alex lauer
Neidy Jimenez
Lydia Chouinard
Millee Tibbs

Kathleen gmyrek
Emi Jackson
Erin Stanley
Mari Anzicek
Stephanie Mason
Keshona Tomorrow
Betsy Cooper
Kristy Allen
Joyce M. Dallas
Jesalyn Stagg
Rebeka Rooks
Stefany Washington
Nina Martinez
Nicole Alequín-Avilés
Elizabeth Wallace
Juan Jhong-Chung
Jackson Jeffrey
Ben Dueueke
Sophia Wojnovich
Mary Clare O'Brien
Aarica Marsh
Elizabeth Patton
Victoria Llorens
Joseph Reilly
Bre Williamson
Rachel Ostroski
Amanda Brezzell
Porche MCGhee-crump
Monica Lauer
Sophia Wojnovich
Priscilla Propson
Lisa Kim
Giles Simmer
Blake Almstead
Joshua Clark
Council District 7
Hannah Miller
Piper Carter
Ajara Alghali
Sonia Brown
Ivas Robertsob
Taneshia Greet
Denise Bradford

Nan'Chang Thompson-
Springer
Jeffrey
Chelsie Strong
Phazhe Jackson
Kirsten Kirby
Carly Steele
Dennis Connors
Chardonnay Owens
Althea Kyles
Erin Shawgo
Diane Pears
Bonnie Schow
Stephen Schow
Hannah Blair
Shona Beasley
Michael Beasley
Katia Beasley
NanChang Thompson
Jessica Mark

*The undersigned did not
provide a council district but
signed their names to the
letter as Detroit residents.*

Mali Haslerig
Emma Randall
Jessica Soulliere
Sydney Ostrander
Holly Glod
Jessica Carhart
Scarlet Susan
Allison Waite
Candice Guevara
Amanda Purchiss
Tiffany Wyles
victoria fraccarolli
Ava Blunden
Keielle Paris
Cherdaya Allen
Breann G Forkapa
Julie Reincke
Camille Quinn
Anita Bradford



1420 Washington Blvd.
Detroit, MI 48226

P: 313.833.0396
www.detroitfoodpc.org

Cawina bush
Markieta Phillips
William Tillery
Robert Wilson
Jennifer James
Hailey Brandes
Irish Enriquez
Erica Webb Powell
Donald Faulkner
Amy Senese
Della Ashmore
Mathew Standifer
Mary Ashmore

Gail Hines
Jozylynn Dufrin
Vanessa Cronan
Kyle Coppock
Aurelia McClure
Zjalyn Carter
Jupiter Levine
Kennedi Drew
Dajah Callen
Jade Riggins
Alice Flowers
Harrison Miller
Peter wojcik

Nadine Whigham
Angelica Barnett
Darkeevia Adams
Ashley Becker
Sarah Brooks
Tene Dismuke
Jennie neu-sipkay
Raquel Gast
Krista Boyd
Mariah Campbell
Sandra Sanders



1420 Washington Blvd.
Detroit, MI 48226

P: 313.833.0396
www.detroitfoodpc.org



1420 Washington Blvd.
Detroit, MI 48226

P: 313.833.0396
www.detroitfoodpc.org

April 17, 2024

To the Detroit City Planning Commission and City Council:

I am writing to express my support for the proposed Animal Keeping Ordinance here in the City of Detroit. As a resident and proponent of urban agriculture, I believe that passing this ordinance will contribute to the overall well-being of our community and the environment.

This ordinance will provide an avenue for Detroiters to legally keep chickens, ducks, and bees in the city, thus contributing to the overall environmental and economic health of Detroit and its communities. Chickens and ducks not only offer a fresh source of eggs for eating or selling but also assist in weed management, natural pest control, and fertilization of soil. Additionally, beekeeping also promotes the pollination of plants and development of honey, which is key for maintaining biodiversity and supporting our local ecosystem/food system here in Detroit.

Many residents have expressed interest in connecting deeper to Detroit's local food system. The allowable livestock identified in the ordinance is beneficial for helping individuals to take control of their food sources in a responsible manner. In addition, many residents feel it is their cultural, economic, and or religious right to keep and cultivate appropriate livestock within the vicinity of their homes.

Please consider the positive impact that legalizing this ordinance will have on Detroit. By supporting the Animal Keeping Ordinance, our neighborhoods will continue to grow and thrive.

Thank you for your consideration. I am excited to see Detroit serve as a leading example in urban agriculture.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "McCart", is placed on a light gray rectangular background.

Madelynn Carter

District 4, Cornerstone Village Resident

FW: [EXTERNAL] Animal keeping ordinance

CPC Mailbox <CPC@detroitmi.gov>

Thu 5/2/2024 12:18 PM

To: Kimani Jeffrey <jeffreyk@detroitmi.gov>; Dolores Perales <Dolores.Perales@detroitmi.gov>

-----Original Message-----

From: Anna Gladstone <acedeuceanna@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2024 11:34 AM

To: CPC Mailbox <CPC@detroitmi.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Animal keeping ordinance

I do not keep animals in Detroit but for the food security of our city I wholeheartedly support this ordinance and hope you will pass it at today's meeting during other business. I am unable to attend the meeting due to the time I have to pick up my kids from school but wanted to express the importance of this ordinance.

There are already dozens of people keeping animals in nearly every part of the city. Animal Control receives only a few complaints per year regarding livestock while the problems of stray dogs still plague the city.

Allowing residents to share or sell their eggs, meat, honey and beeswax will contribute to community food security and food sovereignty in our great city.

Animal keeping will contribute to the local food economy and decrease carbon emissions by providing a hyper local option for sourcing these foods that doesn't require shipping.

Keeping chickens and ducks will help insulate the city's most vulnerable residents from the kind of shortages and inflation that result from supply chain breakdowns.

Neighborhood chickens show children where food comes from and how to care for animals, teaching our kids the value of food and nutrition will have a net positive impact throughout their whole lives.

Most similar cities to Detroit allow animal keeping; almost all the surrounding suburbs do as well.

City staff, animal keepers and residents have been working on this ordinance since the urban agriculture ordinance passed in 2013. The current version reflects more than two years of work from city staff and stakeholders.

Please support it fully.

Anna Gladstone, DO
she/her/hers

FW: [EXTERNAL] CPC Letter of Support

CPC Mailbox <CPC@detroitmi.gov>

Thu 5/2/2024 9:26 AM

To: Kimani Jeffrey <jeffreyk@detroitmi.gov>; Dolores Perales <Dolores.Perales@detroitmi.gov>

From: Anthony Hatinger <hatingan@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2024 8:22 AM

To: CPC Mailbox <CPC@detroitmi.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] CPC Letter of Support

Hello. My name is Anthony Hatinger, and I am a Detroit resident and urban grower in support of the Animal Ordinance. Here are some reasons why:

- There are already dozens of people keeping animals in nearly every part of the city.
- Animal Control receives only a few complaints per year regarding livestock.
- Allowing residents to share or sell their eggs, meat, honey and beeswax will contribute to community food security and food sovereignty.
- Animal keeping will contribute to the local food economy.
- Keeping chickens and ducks will help insulate the city's most vulnerable residents from the kind of shortages and inflation that result from supply chain breakdowns.
- Neighborhood chickens show children where food comes from and how to care for animals.
- Most similar cities to Detroit allow animal keeping; almost all the surrounding suburbs do as well.
- City staff, animal keepers and residents have been working on this ordinance since the urban agriculture ordinance passed in 2013.
- The current version reflects more than two years of work from city staff and stakeholders.

Thank you for your consideration.

Anthony S. Hatinger
CEO/Co-Founder
Detroit Ento LLC
Michigan State University
B.A. Religious Studies and Horticulture
Class of 2013

FW: [EXTERNAL] Support of domestic farm animals in Detroit for educational programs

CPC Mailbox <CPC@detroitmi.gov>

Thu 5/2/2024 12:18 PM

To: Kimani Jeffrey <jeffreyk@detroitmi.gov>; Dolores Perales <Dolores.Perales@detroitmi.gov>

From: April Worden <april@worden.org>

Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2024 10:31 AM

To: CPC Mailbox <CPC@detroitmi.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Support of domestic farm animals in Detroit for educational programs

My name is April Worden, I live in District 5 with my husband and 3 of our children.

We are in support of farm animals being kept in the city of Detroit.

I moved to Detroit 15 years ago in order to work with youth. I have been involved with schools, churches, residential foster homes and non-profits. My desire is to create a safe and quiet space in the city where people of all ages can engage with nature. Studies show that caring for nature benefits us physically, mentally, emotionally, spiritually and socially.

I experienced all those benefits, spending the first 18 years of my life on a Michigan dairy farm. Later, I worked at rural camps for youth from urban areas and saw beautiful changes happen in campers from their week in nature. Those are the benefits I want to make accessible to the youth of Detroit.

My husband and I have already made our property a space for neighborhood children to enjoy creative outdoor play, work in gardens and learn about agriculture. The children -- and their parents -- love what we are providing.

We want to include farm animals on our property in order to provide programs for youth to learn how to care for animals. Our neighbors are very excited and supportive of our plans.

I've seen first-hand how programs like these can change the trajectory of a life. I recently met a former camper who told me that the horses at camp changed her life. She's currently working at a nonprofit that provides extra-curricular opportunities for children in Detroit.

Please allow all children in Detroit access to farm animals. Caring for animals will lessen their anxiety and stress, boost their confidence and compassion, and positively impact their academic performance and work ethic ... and through that, we will ALL benefit from the animals.

FW: [EXTERNAL] Urban Ag Animal Ordinance - IN FAVOR

CPC Mailbox <CPC@detroitmi.gov>

Thu 2/22/2024 9:25 AM

To: Kimani Jeffrey <jeffreyk@detroitmi.gov>

From: Beaverland Farms <beaverlandfarms@gmail.com>**Sent:** Thursday, February 22, 2024 9:14 AM**To:** CPC Mailbox <CPC@detroitmi.gov>**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Urban Ag Animal Ordinance - IN FAVOR

Good morning City Planning Commission,

I just wanted to thank you for your continued openness to the urban agriculture animal ordinance. As a member of the urban agriculture community, it means a lot to hear that the city is willing to stand up for our livelihoods and for food access for the city.

I am a small farmer here in the city of Detroit so I wanted to reach out and voice my support for the passing of the ordinance that would allow for chickens, ducks, and bees in the city. As you know, many cities already allow these types of animals to be kept and have had great success by allowing them.

As a farmer, I provide fresh and nutritious food to my community, while also revitalizing vacant land in the city. Allowing residents like me to keep chickens and bees will contribute to the necessary growth and sustainability of Detroit's local food system.

To be frank, certain residents and farmers in my community already keep these animals in their gardens and backyards. The number of residents keeping these sorts of animals has only grown since the last introduction of a similar ordinance in 2018. Animal Control receives very few complaints and calls about these types of animals currently. By legalizing proper animal keeping, we can promote fair and equitable enforcement, and ensure that animals are kept in ways that are safe for the animals and for the neighbors.

As a Detroit farmer, I can assure you that there is a network of folks that already have the skills and knowledge around proper animal keeping and would happily share that within our communities.

I look forward to the City Planning Commission Meeting this evening.

Thank you,
Brittney Rooney
Beaverland Farms

FW: [EXTERNAL] Detroit animal keeping.

CPC Mailbox <CPC@detroitmi.gov>

Thu 5/2/2024 10:19 AM

To:Dolores Perales <Dolores.Perales@detroitmi.gov>;Kimani Jeffrey <jeffreyk@detroitmi.gov>

From: Rebekah Llusho <r.llusho@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2024 9:46 AM

To: CPC Mailbox <CPC@detroitmi.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Detroit animal keeping.

Help I'm hoping to voice my desire to make this happen. I home school and am always hoping to create spaces for my kids to learn how to be sustainable and take care of themselves and other living things.

Also, There are already dozens of people keeping animals in nearly every part of the city. Animal Control receives only a few complaints per year regarding livestock. Allowing residents to share or sell their eggs, meat, honey and beeswax will contribute to community food security and food sovereignty. Animal keeping will contribute to the local food economy. Keeping chickens and ducks will help insulate the city's most vulnerable residents from the kind of shortages and inflation that result from supply chain breakdowns. Neighborhood chickens show children where food comes from and how to care for animals. Most similar cities to Detroit allow animal keeping; almost all the surrounding suburbs do as well. City staff, animal keepers and residents have been working on this ordinance since the urban agriculture ordinance passed in 2013. The current version reflects more than two years of work from city staff and stakeholders.

Thank you,

Becky Llusho
Grandmont resident

5/1/2024

Dear City Planning Commission and City Council,

I would like to express my support for the proposed Animal Keeping Ordinance here in the City of Detroit. As a resident and supporter of urban agriculture, I believe that passing this ordinance will contribute to the overall well-being of our community and the environment.

This ordinance will provide an avenue for Detroiters to legally keep chickens, ducks, and bees in the city. I believe this will help contribute to the overall environmental and economic health of Detroit and its communities. Chickens and ducks not only offer a fresh source of eggs for eating or selling but also assist in weed management, natural pest control, and fertilization of soil. Additionally, beekeeping also promotes the pollination of plants and development of honey, which is key for maintaining biodiversity and supporting our local ecosystem/food system here in Detroit.

Many residents have expressed interest in connecting deeper to Detroit's local food system. The allowable livestock identified in the ordinance is a step in the right direction in helping individuals to take control of their food sources in a responsible manner. In addition, many residents feel it is their cultural, economic, and or religious right to keep and cultivate appropriate livestock within the vicinity of their homes.

Please consider the positive impact that legalizing this ordinance can have on Detroit. By supporting the Animal Keeping Ordinance, Detroit neighborhoods will only continue to grow and thrive.

Thank you for your consideration. I look forward to seeing Detroit thrive as a leader in urban agriculture.

Sincerely,

Brian Polsgrove

City Council District 4

FW: [EXTERNAL] Letter of Support: Livestock in Detroit

CPC Mailbox <CPC@detroitmi.gov>

Wed 5/1/2024 4:10 PM

To: Kimani Jeffrey <jeffreyk@detroitmi.gov>; Dolores Perales <Dolores.Perales@detroitmi.gov>

From: Carly Sugar <carlybsugar@gmail.com>**Sent:** Wednesday, May 1, 2024 2:13 PM**To:** CPC Mailbox <CPC@detroitmi.gov>**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Letter of Support: Livestock in Detroit

To Whom It May Concern,

As a Detroit resident of district 5, I am writing to voice my ardent support for the ordinance allowing livestock in Detroit. The myriad reasons for my support range from social and economic benefits, to the care with which I see residents keeping animals. While regulations will be important to ensure good conditions, I have witnessed many caring for animals with the utmost respect for the health and safety of the animals, land and other Detroit residents.

Detroit has been a center for urban agriculture in the nation, drawing media attention, agrotourists from all over the world, and millions of dollars in funding to support community-led food access programs, including programs where residents produce food for ourselves. Please allow Detroit to remain an exceptional example for what's possible in American cities.

Thanks for your consideration,
Carly

Carly Sugar

*"What time is it on the clock of the world?"
- Grace Lee Boggs*

FW: [EXTERNAL] Detroit Livestock Ordinance

CPC Mailbox <CPC@detroitmi.gov>

Thu 5/2/2024 9:27 AM

To: Kimani Jeffrey <jeffreyk@detroitmi.gov>; Dolores Perales <Dolores.Perales@detroitmi.gov>

From: Carolyn Leadley <c.m.leadley@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2024 9:46 PM

To: CPC Mailbox <CPC@detroitmi.gov>

Cc: April Worden <april@worden.org>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Detroit Livestock Ordinance

To Whom It May Concern:

I support my neighbors, April and James Worden, keeping domestic farm animals on their property for educational purposes.

April and James are creating a safe space for urban youth to experience the life-changing benefits of connecting with and caring for nature. They already open their yard to the children of the neighborhood, providing access to gardening, creative outdoor play and urban farming education.

The Wordens have the experience, resources, space and skills to create a beautiful place for both animals and people. April grew up on a Michigan dairy farm and worked for several years at summer camps for youth from urban environments. They have also secured a veterinarian who is willing and able to come to their home and give veterinary care to the animals.

Allowing children to care for animals has numerous benefits, including reducing anxiety, boosting self-confidence and compassion, positively impacting academic performance and strengthening work ethic. The youth of Detroit need more opportunities to experience what James and April are working to provide.

I live within 1000 feet of the Wordens' property and I support the educational benefits of having farm animals in my neighborhood.

Signed: Carolyn Leadley

Date: 5/1/24

City Council District: 5

4/12/2024

Dear City Planning Commission and City Council,

I would like to express my support for the proposed Animal Keeping Ordinance here in the City of Detroit. As a Wayne County resident and overall supporter of urban agriculture, I believe that passing this ordinance will contribute to the overall well-being of our community and the environment.

This ordinance will provide an avenue for Detroiters to legally keep chickens, ducks, and bees in the city. I believe this will help contribute to the overall environmental and economic health of Detroit and its communities. Chickens and ducks not only offer a fresh source of eggs for eating or selling but also assist in weed management, natural pest control, and fertilization of soil.

Additionally, beekeeping also promotes the pollination of plants and development of honey, which is key for maintaining biodiversity and supporting our local ecosystem/food system here in Detroit.

Many residents have expressed interest in connecting deeper to Detroit's local food system. The allowable livestock identified in the ordinance is a step in the right direction in helping individuals to take control of their food sources in a responsible manner. In addition, many residents feel it is their cultural, economic, and or religious right to keep and cultivate appropriate livestock within the vicinity of their homes.

Please consider the positive impact that legalizing this ordinance can have on Detroit. By supporting the Animal Keeping Ordinance, our neighborhoods will only continue to grow and thrive.

Thank you for your consideration. I look forward to seeing Detroit thrive as a leader in urban agriculture.

Sincerely,

Christian Perales



04/10/2024

Dear City Planning Commission and City Council,

On behalf of the Core City Strong District 6 Block Club, I am writing to express our support for the proposed Animal Keeping Ordinance in the City of Detroit. As an organization dedicated to making our community safe, equitable, healthy, and prosperous, we believe that passing this ordinance will benefit both the residents and the environment here in Detroit.

This ordinance presents an opportunity for residents and nonprofits to legally engage in urban agriculture by keeping chickens, ducks, and bees within city limits. Core city Strong believes that this initiative will not only enhance the environmental health of our city but also contribute to its economic development.

Many of our residents and businesses in Core City have expressed an interest in deepening their connection to Detroit's local food system and helping create a better environment in our neighborhood. By allowing these forms of livestock, the ordinance aligns with the aspirations of our community members to take charge of their food sources responsibly. Additionally, it recognizes the cultural, economic, and religious significance for many residents to engage in the cultivation of appropriate livestock near their homes.

Please consider the positive impact that the legalization of this ordinance can have on Detroit. By supporting the Animal Keeping Ordinance, Detroit's neighborhoods will continue to flourish and serve as a model for sustainable urban development.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Vanessa Serna". The signature is stylized with loops and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Vanessa Serna

Lead Organizer

Core City Strong



Cadillac Urban Gardens
Letter of Support
4/3/2024

Dear City Planning Commission and City Council,

I am writing to express Cadillac Urban Garden's full support for the proposed animal keeping ordinance in Detroit; which aims to legalize the keeping of ducks, chickens, and bees within city limits. As a representative of Cadillac Urban Gardens, my team and I wholeheartedly endorse this initiative and believe it will bring about numerous benefits to our community and environment.

Urban agriculture plays a vital role in fostering sustainable food systems, enhancing food security, and promoting a healthier lifestyle for residents. Allowing the keeping of ducks, chickens, and bees aligns perfectly with these goals, providing Detroit residents with an opportunity to engage in responsible animal husbandry practices while contributing positively to our local ecosystems.

As Detroit's largest raised bed urban garden our team understands the need to support and promote food security across Detroit, specifically to our residents in Southwest Detroit where our farm resides.

Allowing residents to keep ducks and chickens enables them to produce their own fresh eggs and poultry, increasing their access to nutritious, locally sourced food. This is especially crucial in underserved neighborhoods, like ours where access to fresh produce may be limited and expensive.

Urban agriculture initiatives have the power to bring communities together, fostering connections among neighbors and promoting social cohesion. The shared experience of tending to animals and cultivating gardens strengthens community bonds and creates a sense of pride in our local food system.

As a whole we believe that approving this ordinance is needed within our community and fits the city's goals of promoting sustainability, community resilience, and economic empowerment. We urge you to support this ordinance.

Thank you for considering our input on this matter,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Sarah Clark'.

Sarah Clark
Co-Director
Cadillac Urban Gardens
Sarah@cadillacurbangardens.org
(248) 756 - 8078

FW: [EXTERNAL] Animal keeping ord

CPC Mailbox <CPC@detroitmi.gov>

Thu 2/22/2024 12:10 PM

To: Kimani Jeffrey <jeffreyk@detroitmi.gov>

From: Dan Jones <danjones.srs@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, February 22, 2024 11:10 AM

To: CPC Mailbox <CPC@detroitmi.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Animal keeping ord

Good morning,

I understand that there is an animal keeping ord up for debate. I am a resident of district 5 in Detroit. I would like this ordinance to pass. Please advocate accordingly.

Best,

04-15-2024

Dear City Planning Commission and City Council,

I would like to express my support for the proposed Animal Keeping Ordinance here in the City of Detroit. As a resident I believe that passing this ordinance will contribute to the overall well-being of the community and the environment.

This ordinance will provide an avenue for Detroiters to legally keep chickens, ducks, and bees in the city. I believe this will help contribute to the overall environmental and economic health of Detroit and its communities. Chickens and ducks not only offer a fresh source of eggs for eating or selling but also assist in weed management, natural pest control, and fertilization of soil. Additionally, beekeeping also promotes the pollination of plants and development of honey, which is key for maintaining biodiversity and supporting our local ecosystem/food system here in Detroit.

Many residents have expressed interest in connecting deeper to Detroit's local food system. The allowable livestock identified in the ordinance is a step in the right direction in helping individuals to take control of their food sources in a responsible manner. In addition, many residents feel it is their cultural, economic, and or religious right to keep and cultivate appropriate livestock within the vicinity of their homes.

Please consider the positive impact that legalizing this ordinance can have on Detroit. By supporting the Animal Keeping Ordinance, our neighborhoods will only continue to grow and thrive.

Thank you for consideration. I look forward to seeing Detroit thrive as a leader in urban agriculture.

Sincerely,

Danielle Houston

District 6

FW: [EXTERNAL] Urban Livestock in Detroit

CPC Mailbox <CPC@detroitmi.gov>

Thu 5/2/2024 9:28 AM

To: Dolores Perales <Dolores.Perales@detroitmi.gov>; Kimani Jeffrey <jeffreyk@detroitmi.gov>

From: David Minerva <davidminervaclover@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2024 8:29 PM

To: CPC Mailbox <CPC@detroitmi.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Urban Livestock in Detroit

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to register my wholehearted approval and support for the keeping of domestic farm animals, or livestock, in the city of Detroit.

Detroit is a beautiful and vibrant city with a rich and storied past, and for several decades now it has been a hub for urban farming. The urban farming movement has been an incredible boon to the city, creating beautiful gardens in spaces that had been destroyed and abandoned by corporate greed, allowing more city residents access to fresh food, and providing educational opportunities for people young and old. And if we are being perfectly honest, some farm animals have always been a part of that movement.

Animals offer so many benefits, from the educational benefit of working with animals, mental health benefits, and increasing our compassion for other living things. Many young people in our beautiful city can benefit from experience with animals, and they shouldn't have to travel out to the countryside to do it when we have the space and the farmers right here.

Continuing to outlaw domestic farm animals in Detroit only creates a culture of worry and fear. Crackdowns against farm animal ownership have been haphazard, sporadic, and tend to go after individuals with the least amount of privilege and clout. It only serves as one more way to make the city less fair and equitable.

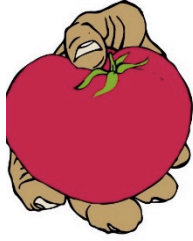
Some may have concerns about the safety of domestic farm animals. To that I will only say that dogs and cars also can be kept both safely and responsibly, as well as unsafely and irresponsibly. In my Detroit neighborhood, many people have kept animals classified as livestock over the years. It has only served to improve the charm of the neighborhood.

I support Detroiters' rights to responsibly own domestic farm animals.

David Clover

5/1/2024

City Council District 5



KEEP GROWING DETROIT

1445 Adelaide, Detroit, MI 48208 * 313-656-4769 * www.keepingrowingdetroit.org

4/25/2024

Dear City Planning Commission and City Council,

On behalf of Keep Growing Detroit, I am writing to express our support for the proposed Animal Keeping Ordinance in the City of Detroit. Keep Growing Detroit (KGD) is a non-profit organization based in Detroit with a mission to promote a food sovereign city where the majority of fruits and vegetables consumed by Detroiters are grown by residents within the city's limits. To these ends, KGD operates a number of nationally recognized programs including the Garden Resource Program (GRP), which supports a network of more than 2,300 urban gardens and farms in the city and Grown in Detroit (GID), which provides urban growers with low-barrier opportunities to sell their produce and farm products at local market outlets. KGD also operates a 1.38-acre urban farm and teaching facility located in Detroit's historic Eastern Market District.

We believe that passing this ordinance will benefit both the residents and the environment here in Detroit. This ordinance presents an opportunity for residents and nonprofits to legally engage in urban agriculture by keeping chickens, ducks, and bees within city limits. Keep Growing Detroit believes that this initiative will not only enhance the environmental health of our city but also contribute to its economic development. Many residents have expressed an interest in deepening their connection to Detroit's local food system. Of the 2,300 gardens and farms that participated in our programming last year, 1,477 Detroit residents expressed interest in learning about keeping bees, chickens and ducks. Since 2017, 119 Detroit residents have attended our 'Chicken Keeping 101' class. By allowing these forms of livestock, the ordinance aligns with the aspirations of our community members to take charge of their food sources responsibly. Additionally, it recognizes the cultural, economic, and religious significance for many residents to engage in the cultivation of appropriate livestock near their homes. KGD also believes that the practice of beekeeping plays a vital role in pollinating crops cultivated in urban gardens and farms across Detroit. To support new beekeepers, KGD facilitates the [Sweet on Detroit \(SOD\) Beekeeper Training Program](#). Over the last decade, this program has successfully trained more than 250 Detroit residents in responsible and sustainable beekeeping techniques. We also facilitate the SOD Beekeeper Club. With an annual membership exceeding 50 individuals, the Club convenes monthly to enhance beekeeping skills, address pertinent issues, and offer mutual support in the management and upkeep of beehives throughout the city. Moreover, it serves as a platform for local beekeeping entrepreneurs to market honey, wax, pollen, and other hive products, thereby contributing to the local food ecosystem. Notably, in the past decade, no beekeepers affiliated with our programs have faced citations from the city for any nuisance or complaints. While the precise number of beekeepers in Detroit remains untracked, we

estimate their count to range between 100 and 200, encompassing SOD program participants and our collaborative partners within the beekeeping community. Together, this network oversees approximately 200-300 beehives throughout the city.

Please consider the positive impact that the legalization of this ordinance can have on Detroit. By supporting the Animal Keeping Ordinance, Detroit's neighborhoods will continue to flourish and serve as a model for sustainable urban development.

Sincerely,

Kido Pielack

Beekeeping Program Coordinator / Farmer Infrastructure and Technical Assistance Manager

Keep Growing Detroit



1420 Washington Blvd.
Detroit, MI 48226

P: 313.833.0396
www.detroitfoodpc.org

Office of the Detroit City Planning Commission
2 Woodward Avenue, Suite 208
Detroit, MI 48226

Dear Council President Sheffield, President Pro Tem Tate, and members of the Detroit City Council and Detroit City Planning Commission:

We represent Detroit's community of growers, who have brought the city recognition nationally and internationally as a hub of urban agriculture. We urge you to pass the amendments to the zoning and animal control ordinances that would allow us to keep chickens, ducks and bees on our farms and at our homes.

As farmers, we help supply fresh, local, sustainably grown food to the community, as well as providing an example of how to revitalize vacant land and a hands-on demonstration of what it takes to get food from a seed to the plate. During the pandemic, while the national food supply chain broke down, our local growers ensured Detroiters had access to fruits and vegetables. Many farmers share their excess produce with the community at no charge. In a city where 69 percent of people experience food insecurity, local growers have a significant impact on Detroiters' access to quality food. Allowing chickens and ducks, as well as bees, will contribute to the localization of Detroit's food system and allow our farms and gardens to be more viable. Allowing chickens, ducks and bees within the city limits will have significant environmental benefits as well. Chickens eat bugs that would otherwise become garden pests and their manure is a highly effective fertilizer. This will reduce the need for pesticides and artificial fertilizers and improve overall soil health. Bee populations are dwindling; allowing farmers to keep bees will improve the resiliency of those populations locally. Producing meat, eggs, and honey right in the city will reduce the carbon footprint of Detroiters' food choices, as well. Finally, passing the amendments to the zoning and animal control ordinances would allow farmers already keeping animals to comply with city regulations. It would also allow for fair and equitable enforcement of those regulations and not rely on neighbor relationships to avoid disputes. Detroit's farmers already have skills and knowledge about proper animal keeping. The agricultural community stand willing to be leaders and mentors for new animal keepers and are ready to take an active role in making animal keeping an asset for the community. We have been waiting for 10 years since the passage of the urban agriculture ordinance in 2013 to expand it to allow animals. We urge you to pass these amendments without delay.

Sincerely,

Name	Farm Name	City Council District
Patrice Brown	Lamar Family Gardens	3
Jordan Queen	Lamar Family Gardens	3
Aaron Lamar	Lamar Family Gardens	3
Lindsay Hamby	Wonder Farm	5

Mark Covington	GSCC Urban Farm	3	
Lorraine Covington	GSCC Urban Farm	3	
Nate & Kristen Egger	Sown in Peace Farm	4	
Myles Hamby	Wonder Farm	5	
Cody Michael		5	
Jøn Kent	Sanctuary Farms	4	
Rukiya Colvin		4	
Danielle Daguio	GROWceries	5	
Joclyen Fox	N/A	7	
Kyle Dunn		7	
Rebekah Galang	808 Atkinson	5	
Emily VanWormer	home grower	5	
Rosemarie Aldridge	Crary/St.Mary Garden	6	
Vincent Ziols		5	
Josie Silver	Josie, Honey! Apiary	5	
Pamela Ronson	Seedfolx Farm	1	
Meghan McGowan	A&M	5	
Hannah Miller	Harwall Fam Farm	7	
Elsa Pang	SHUKR Farm	1	
Kido Keith Pielack	Avery St Garden	6	
Amirah Jackson Barrett	Barrett Family Farm	2	
Kyle Kentala	Beets, Thymes & Life	2	
Brittany Bradd	Greydale Farms	1	
Aba Ifeoma	D-Town Farm	2	
Elizabeth Phillips	Iroquois Ave Farm	3	
Bill and Billie Hickey	Lamphere Comm.Garden	1	
Lurdes Arambula	Knaggs Creek Garden	6	
Dr. Ashanti Israel	Sheer Ability Housing Comm. Garden	5	5
Renee Fussello	McCauley Family Farms LLC	6	
Gaston Nogues	Cornwall corridor	4	
Dennis Conners	QueerSeed Gardens	7	
Jessica Mark			
Breann Forkapa	Homestead Farm	4	
Tiffany Pilson	Red Flower Growers	1	
Sr. Lauren Adderly	Holy Redeemer Sch. Garden	6	
Kenny Rose	Home Garden	6	
Angela Lugo-Thomas	Boricua Garden/ Palmer Park Community Garden	2	
Kelsey Maas	Shipherd Greens Comm. Garden	5	
Bhubanjyoti Bhattacharya	N/A	4	
Chloe Lundine	Regina Trospers Memorial Garden	5	
Carla M McClure	Berg-Lahser Community Garden	1	
Cynthia Heenan	Harbor Island community garden	4	
Robbie Moore	New Suns	5	
Sara Weertz	Back 40	5	



1420 Washington Blvd.
Detroit, MI 48226

P: 313.833.0396
www.detroitfoodpc.org

Pete Weertz	Back 40	5
Erin Busk-Sutton	Busk-Sutton Backyard	2
Eric Jones	Home garden	6
Shannon O'Brien	Parkside Family Farm	2
Birch Snogles	Lyndon St.	1
Colleen McInerney	Family garden	1
Debra Cooper-Coleman	Garden of Angels	
Latrina Conaway	Treetop Grows	3
Mrs. C. Phipps		2
Roanna E. Cooper		6
Beverly Loudon	Loudon/Warn	1
Glen Warn	Loudon/Warn	1



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Re: [EXTERNAL] Re: Animal Keeping at ECAC Meeting

Roshaun Harris <rharris@ecn-detroit.org>

Thu 5/2/2024 3:15 PM

To: Kimani Jeffrey <jeffreyk@detroitmi.gov>

Good Morning Kimani,

Below you will find our official statement:

"Eastside Community Network, alongside our Eastside Climate Action Coalition, stands in support of the proposed Animal Ordinance set to go before the City Planning Commission on Thursday, May 2, 2024. We encourage the City to work with organizations like ours moving forward to give community members the support they need to understand the ordinance and how it works for their respective communities and individual lots. We've worked hand-in-hand with members of Council Pro Tem James Tate's office to engage community members as well as members of the City Planning office leading up to Thursday's proceedings. We were hoping to see a more comprehensive policy but we do endorse the policy as is with hopes of strengthening relationships between the City and the community. This allows for a continued dialogue that facilitates the type of growth and sustainability we espouse for our neighbors, local community, and city as a whole. We support the efforts the City is making to envision what sustainable neighborhood growth can look like as long as community members are engaged throughout the process. We hope the city moves forward with this ordinance with our Organization's full support."

Best Regards,

Roshaun Harris

(He/Him)

Eastside Community Network

Power Building & Advocacy Organizing Manager

4401 Conner St

Detroit, MI 48215

(313)-264-1412

rharris@ecn-detroit.org

On Wed, May 1, 2024 at 10:15 AM Kimani Jeffrey <jeffreyk@detroitmi.gov> wrote:

That's perfect Roshaun, thanks sir!

Best,

Kimani Jeffrey, City Planner-Historic

Detroit City Council

Legislative Policy Division/

FW: [EXTERNAL] Public Comment for the Record

CPC Mailbox <CPC@detroitmi.gov>

Thu 2/22/2024 2:56 PM

To: Kimani Jeffrey <jeffreyk@detroitmi.gov>

From: Erin Stanley <estanley@ecn-detroit.org>
Sent: Thursday, February 22, 2024 2:39 PM
To: CPC Mailbox <CPC@detroitmi.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public Comment for the Record

Hello,

I would like to submit the following public comment to the record for tonight's Planning Commission meeting (February 22 at 5pm).

My name is Erin Stanley and I am a resident of District 6 and work as the Director of Climate Equity at Eastside Community Network in District 4. We work with urban gardeners and farmers, some of which do keep animals and others who are interested in adding this service to their programming. We have heard of the social, emotional, and physical benefits that come from interacting with animals and nature in an urban environment, of taking care of plants and animals, and of enjoying the honey and eggs that they produce. I am in support of this ordinance and I think it is important for our City to prioritize sustainability, biodiversity, and climate resilience, which responsible animal keeping help does. Humans and nature are interdependent, and policy should work to strengthen this connection, not undermine it. I appreciate all of the work and collaboration over the years that has gone into crafting this ordinance and strongly urge the commission to help move it forward to the City Council.

Thank you,

Erin

--



FW: [EXTERNAL] Support Animal Keeping Ordinance

CPC Mailbox <CPC@detroitmi.gov>

Thu 2/22/2024 12:10 PM

To: Kimani Jeffrey <jeffreyk@detroitmi.gov>

-----Original Message-----

From: Elizabeth Phillips <muinighinn@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, February 22, 2024 11:09 AM

To: CPC Mailbox <CPC@detroitmi.gov>

Cc: Scott Benson <bensons@detroitmi.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Support Animal Keeping Ordinance

Hello,

I am a resident of District 3 and I am in support of the Animal Keeping Ordinance. Please vote yes.

Thank you,

Elizabeth Phillips

6818 Iroquois

Detroit, MI 48213

FW: [EXTERNAL] in enthusiastic support of farm animals in Detroit!

CPC Mailbox <CPC@detroitmi.gov>

Thu 5/2/2024 9:28 AM

To: Kimani Jeffrey <jeffreyk@detroitmi.gov>; Dolores Perales <Dolores.Perales@detroitmi.gov>

From: Emmy Bright <emmy.bright@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2024 8:13 PM

To: CPC Mailbox <CPC@detroitmi.gov>

Cc: April Worden <april@worden.org>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] in enthusiastic support of farm animals in Detroit!

To Whom It May Concern:

I enthusiastically support my neighbors, April and James Worden, keeping domestic farm animals on their property for educational purposes.

April and James are creating a safe space for urban youth to experience the life-changing benefits of connecting with and caring for nature. They already open their yard to the children of the neighborhood, providing access to gardening, creative outdoor play and urban farming education. The animals are quiet, gently and all very kind in my experience!

The Wordens have the experience, resources, space and skills to create a beautiful place for both animals and people. April grew up on a Michigan dairy farm and worked for several years at summer camps for youth from urban environments. They have also secured a veterinarian who is willing and able to come to their home and give veterinary care to the animals.

Allowing children to care for animals has numerous benefits, including reducing anxiety, boosting self-confidence and compassion, positively impacting academic performance and strengthening work ethic. The youth of Detroit need more opportunities to experience what James and April are working to provide.

Additionally, the animals add charm and value to my experience living in this neighborhood. I moved here for the Bird park and pleasant walks and abundance of trees. How delightful it is, when i am walking my dogs, to go visit the other neighborhood animals!

I live within 1000 feet of the Wordens' property and I support the educational and enrichment benefits of having farm animals in my neighborhood. I only wish we had more!

Yours Truly,

**Emmy Bright
5222 Moran st.
Detroit, MI 48211
May 1, 2024
City Council District: 5**

Sent from Iphone

Monday, April 15 2024

Dear City Planning Commission and City Council,

I would like to express my support for the proposed Animal Keeping Ordinance here in the City of Detroit. As a resident of district 6 in Detroit and an avid supporter of urban agriculture, I believe that passing this ordinance will contribute to the overall well-being of my community and the environment.

This ordinance will provide an avenue for Detroiters to legally keep chickens, ducks, and bees in the city. I believe this will help contribute to the overall environmental and economic health of Detroit and its communities in addition to its communities cultural expression. Chickens and ducks not only offer a fresh source of eggs for eating or selling but also assist in weed management, natural pest control, and fertilization of soil. In top of these benefits keeping chickens and ducks is part of Mexican people's cultural heritage which is a large portion of district 6's population. Additionally, beekeeping also promotes the pollination of plants and development of honey, which is key for maintaining biodiversity and supporting our local ecosystem/food system here in Detroit, especially those in and around local urban gardens.

Many residents have expressed interest in connecting deeper to Detroit's local food system. The allowable livestock identified in the ordinance is a step in the right direction in helping individuals to take control of their food sources in a responsible manner. In addition, many residents feel it is their cultural, economic, and or religious right to keep and cultivate appropriate livestock within the vicinity of their homes.

Please consider the positive impact that legalizing this ordinance can have on Detroit. By supporting the Animal Keeping Ordinance, our neighborhoods will only continue to grow and thrive.

Thank you for your consideration. I look forward to seeing Detroit thrive as a leader in urban agriculture.

Sincerely,

Eric Vincenté Perales

District 6

April 27th, 2024

Dear City Planning Commission and City Council,

I would like to express my support for the proposed Animal Keeping Ordinance here in the City of Detroit. As a Detroit resident, gardener and supporter of urban agriculture, I believe that passing this ordinance will contribute to the overall well-being of our community and the environment.

This ordinance will provide an avenue for Detroiters to legally keep chickens, ducks, and bees in the city. I believe this will help contribute to the overall environmental and economic health of Detroit and its communities. Chickens and ducks not only offer a fresh source of eggs for eating or selling but also assist in weed management, natural pest control, and fertilization of soil. Additionally, beekeeping also promotes the pollination of plants and development of honey, which is key for maintaining biodiversity and supporting our local ecosystem/food system here in Detroit.

Many residents have expressed interest in connecting deeper to Detroit's local food system. The allowable livestock identified in the ordinance is a step in the right direction in helping individuals to take control of their food sources in a responsible manner. In addition, many residents feel it is their cultural, economic, and or religious right to keep and cultivate appropriate livestock within the vicinity of their homes.

Please consider the positive impact that legalizing this ordinance can have on Detroit. By supporting the Animal Keeping Ordinance, our neighborhoods will only continue to grow and thrive.

Thank you for consideration. I look forward to seeing Detroit thrive as a leader in urban agriculture.

Sincerely,

Francis Barber

M. Francis Barber

District 5

2/22/2024

Hello!

My name is Amanda Brezzell and I am an Urban Farmer in District 5. Currently, my farm services the community with free produce. I am writing to encourage you to pass this Animal Ordinance. As a farmer, I am keyed into the ecological needs of our community. As a community worker, I am also keyed into the needs of the people who live in my neighborhood, and we need sustainable access to fresh food. Passing this ordinance will help to make this ecosystem thrive.

Here are a few more reasons why I support this ordinance:

1. Allowing residents to share or sell their eggs, meat, honey and beeswax will contribute to community food security and food sovereignty.
2. Animal keeping will contribute to the local food economy and will help insulate the city's most vulnerable residents from the kind of shortages and inflation we saw when the food supply chain broke down during the pandemic.
3. Food access remains an issue in the city; this will provide locally raised meat, eggs and honey to people who may otherwise struggle to access nutritious food.
4. Neighborhood chickens teach children where food comes from.
5. Most peer cities to Detroit allow animal keeping; almost all the surrounding suburbs do as well.
6. City staff, animal keepers and residents have been working on this ordinance since the urban agriculture ordinance passed in 2013. This most recent iteration reflects more than two years of work from city staff and stakeholders. It's extremely well thought out and represents a lot of cooperation and compromise from all sides.

Detroit deserves to have access to the same beautiful resources that other communities have, and we as farmers have been working on the ground, literally, to create this. Please support the work we are doing to feed the community by passing this ordinance.

Best Regards,
Amanda Brezell
Co-Founder/Lead Farmer
Fennigan's Farms

April 9, 2024

Dear City Planning Commission and City Council,

I would like to express my support for the proposed Animal Keeping Ordinance here in the City of Detroit. As a resident and supporter of urban agriculture, I believe that passing this ordinance will contribute to the overall well-being of the community and the environment.

This ordinance will provide an avenue for Detroiters to legally keep chickens, ducks, and bees in the city. I believe this will help contribute to the overall environmental and economic health of Detroit and its communities. Chickens and ducks not only offer a fresh source of eggs for eating or selling but also assist in weed management, natural pest control, and fertilization of soil. Additionally, beekeeping also promotes the pollination of plants and development of honey, which is key for maintaining biodiversity and supporting the local ecosystem/food system here in Detroit.

Many residents have expressed interest in connecting deeper to Detroit's local food system. The allowable livestock identified in the ordinance is a step in the right direction in helping individuals to take control of their food sources in a responsible manner. In addition, many residents feel it is their cultural, economic, and or religious right to keep and cultivate appropriate livestock within the vicinity of their homes.

Please consider the positive impact that legalizing this ordinance can have on Detroit. By supporting the Animal Keeping Ordinance, Detroit neighborhoods will only continue to grow and thrive.

Thank you for consideration. I look forward to seeing Detroit thrive as a leader in urban agriculture.

Sincerely,

Idamis Gutierrez

FW: [EXTERNAL] Animal husbandry

CPC Mailbox <CPC@detroitmi.gov>

Thu 5/2/2024 9:26 AM

To: Kimani Jeffrey <jeffreyk@detroitmi.gov>; Dolores Perales <Dolores.Perales@detroitmi.gov>

From: James Worden <james@worden.org>

Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2024 9:22 AM

To: CPC Mailbox <CPC@detroitmi.gov>

Cc: April Worden <april@worden.org>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Animal husbandry

City Planning Commission,

The development of early city planning regulations and ordinances restricting animal husbandry served to compound hardship and further disenfranchise urban poor. Although health and sanitation concerns at the time (pre-1930) were legitimate factors in densely populated cities, our sanitation technologies have advanced sufficiently to render those concerns impotent. Additionally, much of 21st Century Detroit is not as densely populated as to have the same concerns. Therefore, it is incumbent upon modern legislators to reform city ordinances in light of the classist red-lining of previous generations, as well as the current realities of advances in sanitation and animal husbandry practices.

Please continue to strive for developing ordinances that encourage so-called "farm animals" to be embraced as a normal part of Detroit life. Let's create a city with large sections of "vacant land" converted to homesteads with pasture land for horses, cows, sheep and goats. I'm thinking primarily of neighborhoods like Poletown East and Brightmor.

Although there are smattering of dissenting voices (well-meaning citizens who have rights) , I believe their attitudes could be changed if they understand the historical context of leveraging "nuisance" regulations to disenfranchise the urban poor.

Here is a helpful article on the subject:

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4256670/>

Quote:

The ultimate effect of removing animal agriculture from cities was to dismantle urban food systems in which animals and their tenders among the urban poor previously played pivotal roles in cities' food production, processing, and waste management. The destruction of this system redefined the economic geography and opportunities of the city, especially for the poor; and debates over animal industries reveal tension between different business and class interests. Pushing animal husbandry and processing out of cities removed many livelihoods and some of the food supply from poor neighborhoods, contributing to the need for food aid programs. This is an important part of the history of planning's impacts on urban ecosystems and social equity.

Sincerely,

James Worden

james@worden.org

(313) 597-2214

April 9, 2024

Dear City Planning Commission and City Council,

I would like to express my support for the proposed Animal Keeping Ordinance here in the City of Detroit. As a resident and supporter of urban agriculture, I believe that passing this ordinance will contribute to the overall well-being of the community and the environment.

This ordinance will provide an avenue for Detroiters to legally keep chickens, ducks, and bees in the city. I believe this will help contribute to the overall environmental and economic health of Detroit and its communities. Chickens and ducks not only offer a fresh source of eggs for eating or selling but also assist in weed management, natural pest control, and fertilization of soil. Additionally, beekeeping also promotes the pollination of plants and development of honey, which is key for maintaining biodiversity and supporting the local ecosystem/food system here in Detroit.

Many residents have expressed interest in connecting deeper to Detroit's local food system. The allowable livestock identified in the ordinance is a step in the right direction in helping individuals to take control of their food sources in a responsible manner. In addition, many residents feel it is their cultural, economic, and or religious right to keep and cultivate appropriate livestock within the vicinity of their homes.

Please consider the positive impact that legalizing this ordinance can have on Detroit. By supporting the Animal Keeping Ordinance, Detroit neighborhoods will only continue to grow and thrive.

Thank you for consideration. I look forward to seeing Detroit thrive as a leader in urban agriculture.

Sincerely,

Julissa Gutierrez

FW: [EXTERNAL] Support for farm animal ordinance

CPC Mailbox <CPC@detroitmi.gov>

Thu 5/2/2024 10:20 AM

To: Kimani Jeffrey <jeffreyk@detroitmi.gov>; Dolores Perales <Dolores.Perales@detroitmi.gov>

From: Justine Lauer <justine.lauer@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2024 10:07 AM

To: CPC Mailbox <CPC@detroitmi.gov>

Cc: April Worden <april@worden.org>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Support for farm animal ordinance

To Whom It May Concern:

I support my neighbors, April and James Worden, keeping domestic farm animals on their property for educational purposes.

April and James are creating a safe space for urban youth to experience the life-changing benefits of connecting with and caring for nature. They already open their yard to the children of the neighborhood, providing access to gardening, creative outdoor play and urban farming education.

The Wordens have the experience, resources, space and skills to create a beautiful place for both animals and people. April grew up on a Michigan dairy farm and worked for several years at summer camps for youth from urban environments. They have also secured a veterinarian who is willing and able to come to their home and give veterinary care to the animals.

Allowing children to care for animals has numerous benefits, including reducing anxiety, boosting self-confidence and compassion, positively impacting academic performance and strengthening work ethic. The youth of Detroit need more opportunities to experience what James and April are working to provide.

I live within 1000 feet of the Wordens' property and I support the educational benefits of having farm animals in my neighborhood.

Signed: Justine Lauer

Date: May 2, 2024

City Council District: 5

April 9, 2024

Dear City Planning Commission and City Council,

I would like to express my support for the proposed Animal Keeping Ordinance here in the City of Detroit. As a resident and supporter of urban agriculture, I believe that passing this ordinance will contribute to the overall well-being of the community and the environment.

This ordinance will provide an avenue for Detroiters to legally keep chickens, ducks, and bees in the city. I believe this will help contribute to the overall environmental and economic health of Detroit and its communities. Chickens and ducks not only offer a fresh source of eggs for eating or selling but also assist in weed management, natural pest control, and fertilization of soil. Additionally, beekeeping also promotes the pollination of plants and development of honey, which is key for maintaining biodiversity and supporting the local ecosystem/food system here in Detroit.

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Please consider the positive impact that legalizing this ordinance can have on Detroit. By supporting the Animal Keeping Ordinance, Detroit neighborhoods will only continue to grow and thrive.

Thank you for consideration. I look forward to seeing Detroit thrive as a leader in urban agriculture.

Sincerely,

Juvencio Gutierrez

May 1, 2024

Dear City Planning Commission and City Council,

I would like to express my support for the proposed Animal Keeping Ordinance here in the City of Detroit. As a resident, I believe that passing this ordinance will contribute to the overall well-being of our community and the environment.

This ordinance will provide an avenue for Detroiters to legally keep chickens, ducks, and bees in the city. I believe this will help contribute to the overall environmental and economic health of Detroit and its communities. Chickens and ducks not only offer a fresh source of eggs for eating or selling but also assist in weed management, natural pest control, and fertilization of soil. Additionally, beekeeping also promotes the pollination of plants and development of honey, which is key for maintaining biodiversity and supporting our local ecosystem/food system here in Detroit.

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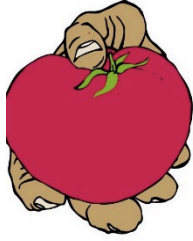
Please consider the positive impact that legalizing this ordinance can have on Detroit. By supporting the Animal Keeping Ordinance, our neighborhoods will only continue to grow and thrive.

Thank you for consideration. I look forward to seeing Detroit thrive as a leader in urban agriculture.

Sincerely,

Katherine Glandon

City Council District 5



KEEP GROWING DETROIT

1445 Adelaide, Detroit, MI 48208 * 313-656-4769 * www.keeppgrowingdetroit.org

City Planning Commission
2 Woodward Avenue, Suite 208
Detroit, MI 48226

Re: Detroit Animal Husbandry Ordinance Recommendations pertaining to Beekeeping

Dear City Planning Commission and City Council,

Keep Growing Detroit (KGD) is a non-profit organization based in Detroit with a mission to promote a food sovereign city where the majority of fruits and vegetables consumed by Detroiters are grown by residents within the city's limits. To these ends, KGD operates a number of nationally recognized programs including the Garden Resource Program (GRP), which supports a network of more than 2,300 urban gardens and farms in the city and Grown in Detroit (GID), which provides urban growers with low-barrier opportunities to sell their produce and farm products at local market outlets. KGD also operates a 1.38-acre urban farm and teaching facility located in Detroit's historic Eastern Market District.

KGD believes that the practice of beekeeping plays a vital role in pollinating crops cultivated in urban gardens and farms across Detroit. To support new beekeepers, KGD facilitates the [Sweet on Detroit \(SOD\) Beekeeper Training Program](#). Over the last decade, this program has successfully trained more than 250 Detroit residents in responsible and sustainable beekeeping techniques. We also facilitate the SOD Beekeeper Club. With an annual membership exceeding 50 individuals, the Club convenes monthly to enhance beekeeping skills, address pertinent issues, and offer mutual support in the management and upkeep of beehives throughout the city. Moreover, it serves as a platform for local beekeeping entrepreneurs to market honey, wax, pollen, and other hive products, thereby contributing to the local food ecosystem. Notably, in the past decade, no beekeepers affiliated with our programs have faced citations from the city for any nuisance or complaints. While the precise number of beekeepers in Detroit remains untracked, we estimate their count to range between 100 and 200, encompassing SOD program participants and our collaborative partners within the beekeeping community. Together, this network oversees approximately 200-300 beehives throughout the city.

In February 2024, representatives from the City of Detroit Office of Urban Agriculture, BSEED, Planning and Development, Representative from Pro-Tem Tate's Office and Animal Control met with KGD and representatives from the Sweet on Detroit Beekeeping Club to hear concerns

regarding the proposed ordinance. As a result of this discussion, our collective recommendation is that the City:

- Remove beekeeping from Chapter 6 of the Detroit City Code amendments and rely on the State GAAMPS for keeping and maintaining honey bee hives outlined in the [Michigan Apiary Act of 1976](#), [Care of Farm Animals GAAMPS 2024](#) and the [Michigan Right to Farm Act](#).
- Retain language regarding beekeeping in the proposed Chapter 50 amendments of the Detroit City Code regarding set-backs, accessory land use, and special allowances for educational non-profits.

The following is a summary of the feedback and recommendations related to Chapter 6 and Chapter 50 presented at the meeting:

- **Number of Hives (Chapter 6):** The proposed limit of 2 hives for residential and 4 for Urban Farms and Gardens is too low.
 - Most beekeepers maintain at least 3 - 6 hives over the course of the season, which is a generally accepted practice to support the health and reproduction of sustainable hive management.
 - **Recommendation is to follow Michigan GAAMPS, which allows for up to 6 hives on less than an acre. Remove beekeeping from Chapter 6**
 - An alternate recommendation could be to establish a backyard limit of 6 hives and an additional provision which could allow for more hives in larger areas (based on square footage).
 - Example:
 - Six hives for properties with a lot area greater than 22,000 square feet but not greater than 43,450 square feet in area.

Eight hives for properties with a lot area greater than 43,450 square feet (one acre) in area.
 - One additional hive is allowed for each additional acre of land.
- **Hive Care and Tagging (Chapter 6):** Tagging hives would be too difficult to effectively manage. Hives are manipulated constantly and boxes are often exchanged at one site and/or moved to other sites.
 - **Recommendation to remove beekeeping from chapter 6 and require beekeepers follow State GAAMPS**
 - Alternative recommendation would be to require signage that indicates hives are present in lieu of tags.
- **License and Annual Fee (Chapter 6):** An annual fee of \$50 per hive would be cost prohibitive for most beekeepers. This would mean a yard with 4 hives would need to pay \$200 a year. One of our members has over 50 hives divided amongst several sites, which would incur an exorbitant \$2,500 in annual fees.
 - **Recommendation to remove beekeeping from chapter 6 and require beekeepers follow State GAAMPS**
 - Alternative recommendation would be to charge a one time fee per site no more than \$10 to register a “bee yard”

- Beekeeping as accessory land use (Chapter 50): Some members of the club have been maintaining hives at several properties (mowing grass, beautification) with beekeeping as the principal land use.
 - **Recommendation to retain current language for beekeeping as an accessory land use, but consider special cases, as described below.**
 - Recommendation to grandfather in or support change of use for special cases.
- Special allowances for 4H and Educational non-profits (Chapter 50):
 - **Recommendation to retain current language regarding special allowance for 4H and Educational non-profits pursuant of a special land use hearing.**
- Setbacks (Chapter 50): Hives must be set back 25 feet from a neighbors residence OR have a 6' flyway fence around hives that are within 6' of neighboring property.
 - **This is acceptable.**

Sincerely,

Kido Pielack

Beekeeping Program Coordinator / Farmer Infrastructure and Technical Assistance Manager

Keep Growing Detroit

FW: [EXTERNAL] Urban Livestock Ordinance

CPC Mailbox <CPC@detroitmi.gov>

Wed 5/1/2024 1:12 PM

To:Dolores Perales <Dolores.Perales@detroitmi.gov>;Kimani Jeffrey <jeffreyk@detroitmi.gov>

From: Kyle Kentala <kylekentala@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2024 12:14 PM

To: CPC Mailbox <CPC@detroitmi.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Urban Livestock Ordinance

Hello all! I am a 20 year resident of Detroit and an 8 year urban farmer and gardener in the Grixdale Farms neighborhood. I teach the children in my neighborhood to grow food and care for bees. Bees are so important to the health of our food chain and population! Animal control has had very few to no complaints yearly in regards to bees and other farm animals on Detroit property. Most cities similar to Detroit and other suburbs allow animal keeping. It is also helpful for a vibrant healthy neighborhood to have food sources and food sovereignty. Selling eggs, meet, honey and bees wax can help a neighborhood thrive. Please pass this ordinance for the continued success of Detroit's farms & gardens and also drop the charges against Leandra King for having animals on her cider mill.

Thank you,
Kyle Kentala / DJ SkeeZ
313.207.1276

Mixes & Events : <https://linktr.ee/djskeez313>

  : @djskeez313

5/1/2024

Dear City Planning Commission and City Council,

I would like to express my support for the proposed Animal Keeping Ordinance here in the City of Detroit. As a West Village resident and strong supporter of urban agriculture, I believe that passing this ordinance will contribute to the overall well-being of our community and the environment. As an architect at 1+1+, many of my neighbors and also clients engage in agricultural practices as a key way of supporting their communities and neighborhoods.

The Animal Keeping Ordinance will provide an avenue for Detroiters to legally keep chickens, ducks, and bees in the city! I believe this will help contribute to the overall environmental and economic health of Detroit and its communities. Chickens and ducks not only offer a fresh source of eggs for eating or selling but also assist in weed management, natural pest control, and fertilization of soil. Additionally, beekeeping also promotes the pollination of plants and development of honey, which is key for maintaining biodiversity and supporting our local ecosystem/food system here in Detroit.

Many residents have expressed interest in connecting deeper to Detroit's local food system. The allowable livestock identified in the ordinance is a step in the right direction in helping individuals to take control of their food sources in a responsible manner. In addition, many residents feel it is their cultural, economic, and or religious right to keep and cultivate appropriate livestock within the vicinity of their homes.

Please consider the positive impact that legalizing this ordinance can have on Detroit. By supporting the Animal Keeping Ordinance, Detroit neighborhoods will only continue to grow and thrive.

Thank you for consideration. I look forward to seeing Detroit thrive as a leader in urban agriculture.

Sincerely,

Laura Marie Peterson, West Village, District 5

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Laura M. Peterson". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the typed name.

To: Detroit Planning Commission
From: Matthew Hargis (resident 2669 Garfield St. 48207)
RE: Urban Animal Ordinance

Esteemed commissioners I write to you in in strong support of the proposed changes to the City of Detroit's zoning ordinance to end the prohibition of chickens, honeybees, and ducks within the city. The proposed rules are the culmination of a decade of effort by stakeholders to see this change, following the historic passage of the urban agriculture ordinance in 2013. With respect to the position of detractors, this proposal is well thought out and is a strong compromise that carefully balances the rights and wishes of all Detroiters. Allowing this proposed change in ordinance will contribute to greater food sovereignty, community self-determination, and a stronger understanding of where food comes from for our youth. In a world increasingly beset by misinformation and divorce of citizens from the food system, it is imperative that these connections are preserved and fostered. I have been a resident and homeowner in the city for a decade and have seen the city at its low point in its bankruptcy. Urban agriculture and animal husbandry serve as a necessary vehicle for reimagining what sustainable city life can be. My neighborhood is especially vacant and is composed of new-comers seeking a different city experience, as well as long-time residents. There is no great ideological divide in my community, new and old ideas largely live harmoniously with several neighbors engaging in animal keeping already. Animal keepers have been responsibly caring for animals in the city and many others across the country for many years, even at the risk of legal jeopardy. To say that large cities are incapable of safely and responsibly keeping animals is itself irresponsible with many major urban centers like New York City already paving the way and showing leadership on this issue. In summation, I implore you to advance food sovereignty and food system equity in our city with your support and advancement of this proposal before you.

Thank you,

Matthew Hargis

University of Michigan Sustainable Food Program

May 1, 2024

Dear City Planning Commission and City Council,

On behalf of University of Michigan Sustainable Food Program, I am writing to express our support for the proposed Animal Keeping Ordinance in the City of Detroit. As an organization dedicated to sustainability and food justice in Southeast Michigan, we believe that passing this ordinance will benefit both the residents and the environment here in Detroit.

This ordinance presents an opportunity for residents and nonprofits to legally engage in urban agriculture by keeping chickens, ducks, and bees within city limits. UM Sustainable Food Program's Leadership Team believes that this initiative will not only enhance the environmental health of our region but also contribute to its economic development.

Many UM students have expressed an interest in deepening their connection to Detroit's local food system. By allowing these forms of livestock, the ordinance aligns with the aspirations of our community members to take charge of their food sources responsibly. Additionally, it recognizes the cultural, economic, and religious significance for many residents of Southeast Michigan to engage in the cultivation of appropriate livestock near their homes. As UM students and staff members, we are proud to be able to learn from and with Detroiters about the city's innovative community-led food system and believe that this ordinance could set a powerful precedent for similarly-sized cities in the US.

Please consider the positive impact that the legalization of this ordinance can have on Detroit. By supporting the Animal Keeping Ordinance, Detroit's neighborhoods will continue to flourish and serve as a model for sustainable urban development for all of the state of Michigan.

Sincerely,

Leyna Doerr & Yumna Dagher

Co-directors

UM Sustainable Food Program

FW: [EXTERNAL] In support of the Worden farm animals

CPC Mailbox <CPC@detroitmi.gov>

Thu 5/2/2024 12:18 PM

To: Kimani Jeffrey <jeffreyk@detroitmi.gov>; Dolores Perales <Dolores.Perales@detroitmi.gov>

From: Madeline Bohl <bohlmadeline@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2024 11:36 AM

To: CPC Mailbox <CPC@detroitmi.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] In support of the Worden farm animals

To Whom It May Concern:

I support my neighbors, April and James Worden, keeping domestic farm animals on their property for educational purposes.

April and James are creating a safe space for urban youth to experience the life-changing benefits of connecting with and caring for nature. They already open their yard to the children of the neighborhood, providing access to gardening, creative outdoor play and urban farming education.

The Wordens have the experience, resources, space and skills to create a beautiful place for both animals and people. April grew up on a Michigan dairy farm and worked for several years at summer camps for youth from urban environments. They have also secured a veterinarian who is willing and able to come to their home and give veterinary care to the animals.

Allowing children to care for animals has numerous benefits, including reducing anxiety, boosting self-confidence and compassion, positively impacting academic performance and strengthening work ethic. The youth of Detroit need more opportunities to experience what James and April are working to provide.

I live within 1000 feet of the Wordens' property and I support the educational benefits of having farm animals in my neighborhood.

Signed: Madeline Bohl

Date: April 2, 2024

City Council District: 5

FW: [EXTERNAL]

CPC Mailbox <CPC@detroitmi.gov>

Thu 5/2/2024 12:18 PM

To: Kimani Jeffrey <jeffreyk@detroitmi.gov>; Dolores Perales <Dolores.Perales@detroitmi.gov>

From: Madeline Ciofu <madciofu@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2024 11:25 AM

To: CPC Mailbox <CPC@detroitmi.gov>

Cc: april@worden.org

Subject: [EXTERNAL]

To Whom It May Concern:

I support my neighbors, April and James Worden, keeping domestic farm animals on their property for educational purposes. My backyard directly adjoins the space that their animals are kept it has been an exceptionally positive experience being their neighbors.

April and James are creating a safe space for urban youth to experience the life-changing benefits of connecting with and caring for nature. They already open their yard to the children of the neighborhood, providing access to gardening, creative outdoor play and urban farming education.

The Wordens have the experience, resources, space and skills to create a beautiful place for both animals and people. April grew up on a Michigan dairy farm and worked for several years at summer camps for youth from urban environments. They have also secured a veterinarian who is willing and able to come to their home and give veterinary care to the animals.

Allowing children to care for animals has numerous benefits, including reducing anxiety, boosting self-confidence and compassion, positively impacting academic performance and strengthening work ethic. The youth of Detroit need more opportunities to experience what James and April are working to provide.

I live within 1000 feet of the Wordens' property and I support the educational benefits of having farm animals in my neighborhood. There is no notable smell and no noise disruption from having these animals in our neighborhood. I love being able to interact with them and the children in our neighborhood derive huge amounts of joy from it. Please do not restrict their ability to keep livestock.

Signed: Madeline Ciofu

Date: 05/02/2024

City Council District: 5

FW: [EXTERNAL] Domestic farm animals

CPC Mailbox <CPC@detroitmi.gov>

Thu 5/2/2024 9:27 AM

To: Kimani Jeffrey <jeffreyk@detroitmi.gov>; Dolores Perales <Dolores.Perales@detroitmi.gov>

From: molly motor <mollymotor65@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2024 8:50 PM

To: CPC Mailbox <CPC@detroitmi.gov>

Cc: April Worden <april@worden.org>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Domestic farm animals

To Whom It May Concern:

I support my neighbors, April and James Worden, keeping domestic farm animals on their property for educational purposes.

April and James are creating a safe space for urban youth to experience the life-changing benefits of connecting with and caring for nature. They already open their yard to the children of the neighborhood, providing access to gardening, creative outdoor play and urban farming education.

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I live within 1000 feet of the Wordens' property and I support the educational benefits of having farm animals in my neighborhood.

Marian (Molly) Steggerda

3379 Farnsworth

Detroit, Mi 48211

April 9, 2024

Dear City Planning Commission and City Council,

I would like to express my support for the proposed Animal Keeping Ordinance here in the City of Detroit. As a resident and supporter of urban agriculture, I believe that passing this ordinance will contribute to the overall well-being of the community and the environment.

This ordinance will provide an avenue for Detroiters to legally keep chickens, ducks, and bees in the city. I believe this will help contribute to the overall environmental and economic health of Detroit and its communities. Chickens and ducks not only offer a fresh source of eggs for eating or selling but also assist in weed management, natural pest control, and fertilization of soil. Additionally, beekeeping also promotes the pollination of plants and development of honey, which is key for maintaining biodiversity and supporting the local ecosystem/food system here in Detroit.

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Please consider the positive impact that legalizing this ordinance can have on Detroit. By supporting the Animal Keeping Ordinance, Detroit neighborhoods will only continue to grow and thrive.

Thank you for consideration. I look forward to seeing Detroit thrive as a leader in urban agriculture.

Sincerely,

Mariana Gutierrez

FW: Livestock Ordinance SUPPORT

CPC Mailbox <CPC@detroitmi.gov>

Tue 2/20/2024 4:08 PM

To: Kimani Jeffrey <jeffreyk@detroitmi.gov>

From: Mary Wilbur <hashesta@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, February 20, 2024 3:33 PM

To: CPC Mailbox <CPC@detroitmi.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL]

Please pass the ordinance to allow for chickens, bees and ducks in Detroit. This can be very helpful to our environment as well as fighting hunger. Thank you, Mary Wilbur



**NORTH
CORKTOWN**
NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

✉ brewilliamson@northcorktown.org
📍 30005 Rosa Parks Blvd. Detroit, MI 48216

May 1st, 2024

To:

City of Detroit Planning Commission

2 Woodward Ave # 208
Detroit, MI
48226

Re: Downzoning in Core City

To whom it may concern,

I, Bre Williamson a representative from the North Corktown Neighborhood Association, am in favor of downzoning the "M4 Intensive Industrial" lots in the Core City neighborhood of Detroit to "SD2 Special Development District–Mixed-Use".

We want to make sure there will be no new toxic project proposals beside the residents, businesses, and community organizations in Core City. Instead, we want to see zoning that's fully compatible with the neighborhood that will safeguard the community from potential future bad actors and attract more people to become neighbors in their beautiful part of Detroit.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bre Williamson".

Bre Williamson
Board President

Northend Christian CDC
9354 Oakland Avenue
Detroit, MI 48211
313-903-0049
313- 731-7760 fax
www.northend-cdc.org
www.oaklandurbanfarm.org



Date:2/22/24

Dear Kimani and the members of City Council,

We want to submit to you our letter of support for the Animal Care Ordinance.

We believe that offering a legal way for residents to keep chickens and ducks at their home or garden is how we will maintain good relationships between these gardeners and their neighbors. It is also the best way to make sure Detroiters keep their animals in a manner that is safe, sanitary, and humane.

So long as animal keeping is left in the legal darkness we will have Detroiters that feel it is their cultural, religious, or economic right to fight the law and keep animals anyway. By bringing the practice into the light through law we can be sure those that would otherwise keep animals without our guidance have the freedom to operate but must do so in a way that does makes sure the animals they keep are kept in clean shelters that are appropriately sized and distanced enough not to bother any neighbors or affects property values.

We know how hard James Tate and his team have worked on these rules in partnership with Kathryn Underwood and the city's legal team to carve a path that makes all Detroiters happy and protected. We believe this ordinance will provide opportunity for many while protecting those that do not want to see or smell anything near their property.

We also believe that programs like 4H prove how important it is for the children of Detroit to have access to the same agricultural educational resources that their peers

have in the surrounding metro area. By allowing this ordinance to provide a means for nonprofit-educational sites to connect with our youth and offer programs to connect them with farm animals, we believe our children will be healthier and happier.

Please vote in support of this ordinance that will offer safe, sanitary, and humane animal practices, in support of our gardeners that do so much to build community around them, and for our Detroit Youth who deserve every economic and educational advantage given to those in the rest of the state.

Sincerely,

Jason Lindy
Jason Lindy

King Street Block Club

Jerry Ann Hebron

Jerry Ann Hebron
Executive Director

May 1st, 2024

Dear City Planning Commission and City Council,

I would like to express my support for the proposed Animal Keeping Ordinance here in the City of Detroit. As a resident and supporter of urban agriculture, I believe that passing this ordinance will contribute to the overall well-being of our community and the environment.

This ordinance will provide an avenue for Detroiters to legally keep chickens, ducks, and bees in the city. I believe this will help contribute to the overall environmental and economic health of Detroit and its communities. Chickens and ducks not only offer a fresh source of eggs for eating or selling but also assist in weed management, natural pest control, and fertilization of soil. Additionally, beekeeping also promotes the pollination of plants and development of honey, which is key for maintaining biodiversity and supporting the local ecosystem/food system here in Detroit.

Many residents have expressed interest in connecting deeper to Detroit's local food system. The allowable livestock identified in the ordinance is a step in the right direction in helping individuals to take control of their food sources in a responsible manner. In addition, many residents feel it is their cultural, economic, and or religious right to keep and cultivate appropriate livestock within the vicinity of their homes.

Please consider the positive impact that legalizing this ordinance can have on Detroit. By supporting the Animal Keeping Ordinance, Detroit neighborhoods will only continue to grow and thrive.

Thank you for your consideration. I look forward to seeing Detroit thrive as a leader in urban agriculture.

Sincerely,

Nina Martinez

Zip code 48216

April 12, 2024,

Dear City Planning Commission and City Council,

I would like to express my support for the proposed Animal Keeping Ordinance here in the City of Detroit. As a Detroit resident, I believe that passing this ordinance will contribute to the overall well-being of our community and the environment.

This ordinance will provide an avenue for Detroiters to legally keep chickens, ducks, and bees in the city. I believe this will help contribute to the overall environmental and economic health of Detroit and its communities. Chickens and ducks not only offer a fresh source of eggs for eating or selling but also assist in weed management, natural pest control, and fertilization of soil. Additionally, beekeeping also promotes the pollination of plants and development of honey, which is key for maintaining biodiversity and supporting our local ecosystem/food system here in Detroit.

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Please consider the positive impact that legalizing this ordinance can have on Detroit. By supporting the Animal Keeping Ordinance, our neighborhoods will only continue to grow and thrive.

Thank you for your consideration. I look forward to seeing Detroit thrive as a leader in urban agriculture.

Sincerely,

Odalís Perales

City Council District 6



PIQUE EARTH

Products for the well-being of Earth, ecosystems, and humanity

May 1, 2024

Attn: City Planning Commission

2 Woodward Ave., Coleman A. Young Municipal Center
Detroit, MI 48226

RE: ANIMAL KEEPING ORDINANCE

Dear City Planning Commission members:

Pique Earth is a woman owned food manufacturing company whose mission is to develop products for the well-being of Earth, ecosystems, and humanity.

We are in full support of the City's proposed animal ordinance that will legalize keeping farm animals in the city limits.

If you ask anyone in Detroit if their grocery bills are high and you will get a resounding "Yes!" You will hear people saying that before COVID, cartons of eggs were only .99 cents, now a carton of eggs is \$2.50 to \$5.00.

With natural disasters, wars, power outages, supply chain interruptions, inflation, labor wage and cost of fuel increases the cost of food will continue to escalate benefiting corporate profits - not the citizens of Detroit who struggle to access nutritious food.

Your support in allowing urban farms to keep small animals, such as fowl, goats, bees, fish, and rabbits in a safe manner will allow residents to share or sell their eggs, meat, honey and beeswax to contribute to the local food economy and to the community food security and food sovereignty.

We are in full support of the passage of the City's proposed animal keeping ordinance.

Regards,

Laura Howard, Founder

May 1, 2024

Dear City Planning Commission and City Council,

I would like to express my support for the proposed Animal Keeping Ordinance here in the City of Detroit. As Detroit resident (District 5), I believe that passing this livestock ordinance will contribute to the overall well-being of our community and the environment.

This ordinance will provide an avenue for Detroiters to legally keep chickens, ducks, and bees in the city. I believe this will help contribute to the overall environmental and economic health of Detroit and its communities. Chickens and ducks not only offer a fresh source of eggs for eating or selling but also assist in weed management, natural pest control, and fertilization of soil. Additionally, beekeeping also promotes the pollination of plants and the development of honey, which is key for maintaining biodiversity and supporting our local ecosystem/food system here in Detroit.

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Please consider the positive impact that legalizing this ordinance can have on Detroit. By supporting the Animal Keeping Ordinance, our neighborhoods will only continue to grow and thrive.

Thank you for your consideration. I look forward to seeing Detroit thrive as a leader in urban agriculture.

Sincerely,

Cameron Wilson

843 Pingree St

Detroit, MI 48202

District 5

May 1, 2024

Dear City Planning Commission and City Council,

I would like to express my support for the proposed Animal Keeping Ordinance here in the City of Detroit. As Detroit resident (District 6), I believe that passing this livestock ordinance will contribute to the overall well-being of our community and the environment.

This ordinance will provide an avenue for Detroiters to legally keep chickens, ducks, and bees in the city. I believe this will help contribute to the overall environmental and economic health of Detroit and its communities. Chickens and ducks not only offer a fresh source of eggs for eating or selling but also assist in weed management, natural pest control, and fertilization of soil. Additionally, beekeeping also promotes the pollination of plants and the development of honey, which is key for maintaining biodiversity and supporting our local ecosystem/food system here in Detroit.

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Please consider the positive impact that legalizing this ordinance can have on Detroit. By supporting the Animal Keeping Ordinance, our neighborhoods will only continue to grow and thrive.

Thank you for your consideration. I look forward to seeing Detroit thrive as a leader in urban agriculture.

Sincerely,

Joe Wojtowicz

686 Selden St

Detroit, MI 48201

District 6

May 1, 2024

Dear City Planning Commission and City Council,

I would like to express my support for the proposed Animal Keeping Ordinance here in the City of Detroit. As Detroit resident (District 5), I believe that passing this livestock ordinance will contribute to the overall well-being of our community and the environment.

This ordinance will provide an avenue for Detroiters to legally keep chickens, ducks, and bees in the city. I believe this will help contribute to the overall environmental and economic health of Detroit and its communities. Chickens and ducks not only offer a fresh source of eggs for eating or selling but also assist in weed management, natural pest control, and fertilization of soil. Additionally, beekeeping also promotes the pollination of plants and the development of honey, which is key for maintaining biodiversity and supporting our local ecosystem/food system here in Detroit.

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Please consider the positive impact that legalizing this ordinance can have on Detroit. By supporting the Animal Keeping Ordinance, our neighborhoods will only continue to grow and thrive.

Thank you for your consideration. I look forward to seeing Detroit thrive as a leader in urban agriculture.

Sincerely,

Molly McGuire

706 Helen St

Detroit, MI 48207

District 5

April 26, 2024

Dear City Planning Commission and City Council,

I would like to express my support for the proposed Animal Keeping Ordinance here in the City of Detroit. As Detroit resident (District 1), food systems worker, and an avid gardener/supporter of urban agriculture, I believe that passing this livestock ordinance will contribute to the overall well-being of our community and the environment.

This ordinance will provide an avenue for Detroiters to legally keep chickens, ducks, and bees in the city. I believe this will help contribute to the overall environmental and economic health of Detroit and its communities. Chickens and ducks not only offer a fresh source of eggs for eating or selling but also assist in weed management, natural pest control, and fertilization of soil. Additionally, beekeeping also promotes the pollination of plants and the development of honey, which is key for maintaining biodiversity and supporting our local ecosystem/food system here in Detroit.

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Please consider the positive impact that legalizing this ordinance can have on Detroit. By supporting the Animal Keeping Ordinance, our neighborhoods will only continue to grow and thrive.

Thank you for your consideration. I look forward to seeing Detroit thrive as a leader in urban agriculture.

Sincerely,



Clara Gamalski

18250 Redfern

Detroit, MI 48219

Council District 1

May 1, 2024

Dear City Planning Commission and City Council,

I would like to express my support for the proposed Animal Keeping Ordinance here in the City of Detroit. As a resident, I believe that passing this ordinance will contribute to the overall well-being of our community and the environment.

This ordinance will provide an avenue for Detroiters to legally keep chickens, ducks, and bees in the city. I believe this will help contribute to the overall environmental and economic health of Detroit and its communities. Chickens and ducks not only offer a fresh source of eggs for eating or selling but also assist in weed management, natural pest control, and fertilization of soil. Additionally, beekeeping also promotes the pollination of plants and development of honey, which is key for maintaining biodiversity and supporting our local ecosystem/food system here in Detroit.

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Please consider the positive impact that legalizing this ordinance can have on Detroit. By supporting the Animal Keeping Ordinance, our neighborhoods will only continue to grow and thrive.

Thank you for consideration. I look forward to seeing Detroit thrive as a leader in urban agriculture.

Sincerely,

Dan Klein

City Council District 5

4/17/2024

Dear City Planning Commission and City Council,

I would like to express my support for the proposed Animal Keeping Ordinance here in the City of Detroit. As a resident, I believe that passing this ordinance will contribute to the overall well-being of our community and the environment.

This ordinance will provide an avenue for Detroiters to legally keep chickens, ducks, and bees in the city. I believe this will help contribute to the overall environmental and economic health of Detroit and its communities. Chickens and ducks not only offer a fresh source of eggs for eating or selling but also assist in weed management, natural pest control, and fertilization of soil. Additionally, beekeeping also promotes the pollination of plants and development of honey, which is key for maintaining biodiversity and supporting our local ecosystem/food system here in Detroit.

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Please consider the positive impact that legalizing this ordinance can have on Detroit. By supporting the Animal Keeping Ordinance, our neighborhoods will only continue to grow and thrive.

Thank you for consideration. I look forward to seeing Detroit thrive as a leader in urban agriculture.

Sincerely,

Dolores E. Sarasin

District 6 resident

May 1, 2024

Dear City Planning Commission and City Council,

I would like to express my support for the proposed Animal Keeping Ordinance here in the City of Detroit. As Detroit resident (District 2), I believe that passing this livestock ordinance will contribute to the overall well-being of our community and the environment.

This ordinance will provide an avenue for Detroiters to legally keep chickens, ducks, and bees in the city. I believe this will help contribute to the overall environmental and economic health of Detroit and its communities. Chickens and ducks not only offer a fresh source of eggs for eating or selling but also assist in weed management, natural pest control, and fertilization of soil. Additionally, beekeeping also promotes the pollination of plants and the development of honey, which is key for maintaining biodiversity and supporting our local ecosystem/food system here in Detroit.

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Please consider the positive impact that legalizing this ordinance can have on Detroit. By supporting the Animal Keeping Ordinance, our neighborhoods will only continue to grow and thrive.

Thank you for your consideration. I look forward to seeing Detroit thrive as a leader in urban agriculture.

Sincerely,

Eleanor Gamalski

18633 Prairie St

Detroit, MI 48221

District 2

4/17/2024

Dear City Planning Commission and City Council,

I would like to express my support for the proposed Animal Keeping Ordinance here in the City of Detroit. As a resident, I believe that passing this ordinance will contribute to the overall well-being of our community and the environment.

This ordinance will provide an avenue for Detroiters to legally keep chickens, ducks, and bees in the city. I believe this will help contribute to the overall environmental and economic health of Detroit and its communities. Chickens and ducks not only offer a fresh source of eggs for eating or selling but also assist in weed management, natural pest control, and fertilization of soil. Additionally, beekeeping also promotes the pollination of plants and development of honey, which is key for maintaining biodiversity and supporting our local ecosystem/food system here in Detroit.

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Please consider the positive impact that legalizing this ordinance can have on Detroit. By supporting the Animal Keeping Ordinance, our neighborhoods will only continue to grow and thrive.

Thank you for consideration. I look forward to seeing Detroit thrive as a leader in urban agriculture.

Sincerely,

Francisco Barela

District 6 resident

April 26, 2024

Dear City Planning Commission and City Council,

I would like to express my support for the proposed Animal Keeping Ordinance here in the City of Detroit. As Detroit resident (District 1), I believe that passing this livestock ordinance will contribute to the overall well-being of our community and the environment.

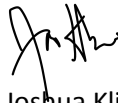
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Please consider the positive impact that legalizing this ordinance can have on Detroit. By supporting the Animal Keeping Ordinance, our neighborhoods will only continue to grow and thrive.

Thank you for your consideration. I look forward to seeing Detroit thrive as a leader in urban agriculture.

Sincerely,



Joshua Klimaszewski

18250 Redfern

Detroit, MI 48219

Council District 1

4/11/2024

Dear City Planning Commission and City Council,

I would like to express my support for the proposed Animal Keeping Ordinance here in the City of Detroit. As a resident, I believe that passing this ordinance will contribute to the overall well-being of our community and the environment.

This ordinance will provide an avenue for Detroiters to legally keep chickens, ducks, and bees in the city. I believe this will help contribute to the overall environmental and economic health of Detroit and its communities. Chickens and ducks not only offer a fresh source of eggs for eating or selling but also assist in weed management, natural pest control, and fertilization of soil. Additionally, beekeeping also promotes the pollination of plants and development of honey, which is key for maintaining biodiversity and supporting our local ecosystem/food system here in Detroit.

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Please consider the positive impact that legalizing this ordinance can have on Detroit. By supporting the Animal Keeping Ordinance, our neighborhoods will only continue to grow and thrive.

Thank you for consideration. I look forward to seeing Detroit thrive as a leader in urban agriculture.

Sincerely,

Paricia Perales

District 6 resident

04/30/2024

Dear City Planning Commission and City Council,

I would like to express my support for the proposed Animal Keeping Ordinance here in the City of Detroit. As a resident of Detroit, I believe that passing this ordinance will contribute to the overall well-being of the community and the environment.

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Please consider the positive impact that legalizing this ordinance can have on Detroit. By supporting the Animal Keeping Ordinance, our neighborhoods will only continue to grow and thrive.

Thank you for your consideration. I look forward to seeing Detroit thrive as a leader in urban agriculture.

Sincerely,

Hernan Don-Salazar

FW: [EXTERNAL] Farm animal ordinance

CPC Mailbox <CPC@detroitmi.gov>

Fri 2/23/2024 10:19 AM

To: Kimani Jeffrey <jeffreyk@detroitmi.gov>

From: Riet Schumack <rschumack@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, February 22, 2024 8:49 PM

To: CPC Mailbox <CPC@detroitmi.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Farm animal ordinance

Hello,

I was not able to stay in the zoom mtg until the end, so missed the public comments. I would like to voice my support for the animal ordinance bill.

Thank you,

Riet Schumack

[EXTERNAL] Letter for the chickens

Rigoberto Morales <rigoberto.m2019@gmail.com>

Tue 4/30/2024 11:51 AM

To:Dolores Perales <Dolores.Perales@detroitmi.gov>

4/30/24

Dear City Planning Commission and City Council,

I would like to express my support for the proposed Animal Keeping Ordinance here in the City of Detroit. As a resident, I believe that passing this ordinance will contribute to the overall well-being of the community and the environment.

This ordinance will provide an avenue for Detroiters to legally keep chickens, ducks, and bees in the city. I believe this will help contribute to the overall environmental and economic health of Detroit and its communities. Chickens and ducks not only offer a fresh source of eggs for eating or selling but also assist in weed management, natural pest control, and fertilization of soil. Additionally, beekeeping also promotes the pollination of plants and development of honey, which is key for maintaining biodiversity and supporting our local ecosystem/food system here in Detroit.

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Please consider the positive impact that legalizing this ordinance can have on Detroit. By supporting the Animal Keeping Ordinance, our neighborhoods will only continue to grow and thrive.

Thank you for consideration. I look forward to seeing Detroit thrive as a leader in urban agriculture.

Sincerely,

Rigoberto Morales

4/11/24

Dear City Planning Commission and City Council,

I would like to express my support for the proposed Animal Keeping Ordinance here in the City of Detroit. As a lifelong resident of Detroit, I believe that passing this ordinance will contribute to the overall well-being of our community and the environment.

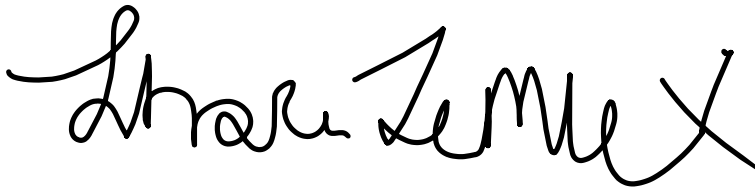
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Please consider the positive impact that legalizing this ordinance can have on Detroit. By supporting the Animal Keeping Ordinance, our Detroit neighborhoods will only continue to grow and thrive.

Thank you for your consideration. I look forward to seeing Detroit thrive as a leader in urban agriculture.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sharon LeMieux". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sharon LeMieux

District 1 Resident for 32 years

North Rosedale Park

FW: [EXTERNAL] City Zoning Ordinance for Animal and Bee Keepers in the City of Detroit

CPC Mailbox <CPC@detroitmi.gov>

Thu 5/2/2024 9:27 AM

To: Kimani Jeffrey <jeffreyk@detroitmi.gov>; Dolores Perales <Dolores.Perales@detroitmi.gov>

Jamie J. Murphy, City Planner

Legislative Policy Division

City Planning Commission

Coleman A. Young Municipal Center

2 Woodward Ave., Ste. 208

Detroit, Michigan 48226

313-224-6225

From: Kristen Egger <kristen.egger@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2024 11:58 PM

To: CPC Mailbox <CPC@detroitmi.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] City Zoning Ordinance for Animal and Bee Keepers in the City of Detroit

Thank you for taking the time to read this note of concern.

My family is in full support of the proposed city zoning ordinance permitting animal- and bee-keepers to raise their animals/bees within city limits, particularly in areas that have agriculture and space around the lots to safely raise these.

Our city is blessed to be home to many urban farms, which adds ecological and nutritional value to a space that has in recent history become a "food desert". My family owns/tends one of the urban farms on the East side of Detroit. Through this farm, we have developed wonderful relationships with our neighbors, adding beauty, care, employment, and an educational platform for neighbors and neighboring schools/organizations. We feel that chickens, bees, and other animals are an integral part of the agricultural system, providing nutrients for the soil, and pollinators for the crops, to name a couple of benefits.

One beautiful opportunity I believe farms like ours have provided the community is access to education about food, environmental responsibility, and sustainability. My children attend a public school in our neighborhood and another small school within the city, and we have been able to share educational material and experiences with students from both schools, many of whom have never had experience with gardening, or the concept of raising your own food. This is a value of Michigan's Common Core curriculum, as well as a moral responsibility of our society to teach these values to the younger generation. We are proud to be stepping into this educational space, and cannot do this well without being able to share the experience of a well-balanced farm, with pollinators, and livestock.

Detroit is perhaps even more particularly suited for rearing livestock because it hosts a lot of space in many of its residential areas where blight has been removed, or vacant lots are located, which can be utilized by urban farmers to produce ecological balance, food, beauty and employment opportunities. What an important balance we can strike in a city that also prides itself for innovation and industry!

Please consider this very important aspect of farming for many families and individuals in our city. This goes far beyond the needs/desires of the farmers, but also for the beauty, balance, and future generations of our beautiful city.

With gratitude,

Kristen Egger
Sown In Peace Farm
3869 Garland Street
Detroit, MI 48214

04/10/2024

Dear Detroit City Planning Commission and City Council,

I would like to express my support for the proposed Animal Keeping Ordinance here in the City of Detroit. As a District 6 resident and supporter of urban agriculture, I believe that passing this ordinance will contribute to the overall well-being of our community and the environment.

This ordinance will provide an avenue for Detroiters to legally keep chickens, ducks, and bees in the city. I believe this will help contribute to the overall environmental and economic health of Detroit and its communities. Chickens and ducks not only offer a fresh source of eggs for eating or selling but also assist in weed management, natural pest control, and fertilization of soil. Additionally, beekeeping also promotes the pollination of plants and development of honey, which is key for maintaining biodiversity and supporting our local ecosystem/food system here in Detroit.

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Please consider the positive impact that legalizing this ordinance can have on Detroit. By supporting the Animal Keeping Ordinance, our neighborhoods will only continue to grow and thrive.

Thank you for your consideration. I look forward to seeing Detroit thrive as a leader in urban agriculture.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Steven Serna', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Steven Serna

District 6

April 24, 2024

Dear City Planning Commission and City Council,

I would like to express my support for the proposed Animal Keeping Ordinance here in the City of Detroit. As a resident/ supporter of urban agriculture, I believe that passing this ordinance will contribute to the overall well-being of our community and the environment.

This ordinance will provide an avenue for Detroiters to legally keep chickens, ducks, and bees in the city. I believe this will help contribute to the overall environmental and economic health of Detroit and its communities. Chickens and ducks not only offer a fresh source of eggs for eating or selling but also assist in weed management, natural pest control, and fertilization of soil. Additionally, beekeeping also promotes the pollination of plants and development of honey, which is key for maintaining biodiversity and supporting our local ecosystem/food system here in Detroit.

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Please consider the positive impact that legalizing this ordinance can have on Detroit. By supporting the Animal Keeping Ordinance, our neighborhoods will only continue to grow and thrive.

Thank you for consideration. I look forward to seeing Detroit thrive as a leader in urban agriculture.

Sincerely,

Tania Barba

District 6

FW: [EXTERNAL] Support of domestic farm animals

CPC Mailbox <CPC@detroitmi.gov>

Thu 5/2/2024 9:27 AM

To: Kimani Jeffrey <jeffreyk@detroitmi.gov>; Dolores Perales <Dolores.Perales@detroitmi.gov>

From: tim guthrie <timguthrie@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2024 7:37 AM

To: CPC Mailbox <CPC@detroitmi.gov>

Cc: april@worden.org

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Support of domestic farm animals

To Whom It May Concern:

I support my neighbors, April and James Worden, keeping domestic farm animals on their property for educational purposes.

April and James are creating a safe space for urban youth to experience the life-changing benefits of connecting with and caring for nature. They already open their yard to the children of the neighborhood, providing access to gardening, creative outdoor play and urban farming education.

The Wordens have the experience, resources, space and skills to create a beautiful place for both animals and people. April grew up on a Michigan dairy farm and worked for several years at summer camps for youth from urban environments. They have also secured a veterinarian who is willing and able to come to their home and give veterinary care to the animals.

Allowing children to care for animals has numerous benefits, including reducing anxiety, boosting self-confidence and compassion, positively impacting academic performance and strengthening work ethic. The youth of Detroit need more opportunities to experience what James and April are working to provide.

I live within 1000 feet of the Wordens' property and I support the educational benefits of having farm animals in my neighborhood.

Timothy B Guthrie

May 2, 2024

City Council District: 5

04/10/2024

Dear Detroit City Planning Commission and City Council,

I would like to express my support for the proposed Animal Keeping Ordinance here in the City of Detroit. As a District 6 resident and supporter of urban agriculture, I believe that passing this ordinance will contribute to the overall well-being of our community and the environment.

This ordinance will provide an avenue for Detroiters to legally keep chickens, ducks, and bees in the city. I believe this will help contribute to the overall environmental and economic health of Detroit and its communities. Chickens and ducks not only offer a fresh source of eggs for eating or selling but also assist in weed management, natural pest control, and fertilization of soil. Additionally, beekeeping also promotes the pollination of plants and development of honey, which is key for maintaining biodiversity and supporting our local ecosystem/food system here in Detroit.

Many residents have expressed interest in connecting deeper to Detroit's local food system. The allowable livestock identified in the ordinance is a step in the right direction in helping individuals to take control of their food sources in a responsible manner. In addition, many residents feel it is their cultural, economic, and or religious right to keep and cultivate appropriate livestock within the vicinity of their homes.

Please consider the positive impact that legalizing this ordinance can have on Detroit. By supporting the Animal Keeping Ordinance, our neighborhoods will only continue to grow and thrive.

Thank you for your consideration. I look forward to seeing Detroit thrive as a leader in urban agriculture.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Vanessa Serna', with a stylized, overlapping loop structure.

Vanessa Serna

District 6

Good Evening City Planning Commission,

I live and own my home in District 7. I am also the co-organizer and current President of the Grand River Community Block Club. I am reaching out to admonish this Commission to approve the safe and responsible legalization of animal husbandry in Detroit.

Animal husbandry gives families the ability to have food sovereignty as well as economics and creativity opportunities.

The benefits of urban chickens include:

- Fresh eggs (healthier and more accessible)
- Natural pest and weed control
- Organic fertilizer

Chickens also provide hands on educational experiences for urban children who otherwise may not have the opportunity for agricultural and animal sciences in an experiential manner. It also gives them an opportunity to learn responsibility and focus on something positive rather than some of the negative influences available in the streets.

Although chickens are not pets, for comparison, from my experience raising both, chickens are easier to care for than dogs. They are also safer than dogs if they escape their enclosures. How often are children mauled by chickens or ducks?

If there is a question about the humane treatment of urban chickens and ducks, consider the conditions under which commercially raised chickens are housed. Mass producers who supply companies like KFC keep their chickens in the most confined, infested, and degrading conditions. Those who want to continue to consume chicken raised in those conditions can proceed. However, for those of us who prefer the option of consuming chicken raised under more humane conditions should have that option. People who engage in small scale husbandry would have more care that large scale because they are raising food for themselves and people they know. I met a large scale cow farmer some years ago who admitted that he treats the cows he raises for his family to eat better than the cows he raises to sell for the public.

As for bees, pollinators are so vital to sustain the beautification of our neighborhoods by pollinating native flowers and vegetable gardens. These are not the aggressive yellowjackets that tend to congregate around trash cans and food waste. True bees are docile and are interested in moving from flower to flower. I've literally approached my native flower beds with 10-20 bees pollinating at one time and watched and taken pictures of them up close. I have never been attacked.

In addition, honey has many health benefits. In a community suffering from health disparities, access to this alternative to sugar is important. It is very expensive and inaccessible to many. Local honey production would make this valuable food product more accessible to those who otherwise wouldn't have access.

I ask the Commission to do some research on the current municipal and state laws around beekeeping. Please do not further restrict beekeeping in Detroit if there is already a provision in place. If this ordinance will create greater restrictions, please amend accordingly.

Please approve the safe and responsible legalization of animal husbandry in Detroit.

Respectfully,

Victoria Shah, District 7

Grand River Community Block Club - President

Wildflower Association of Michigan - Member

National Registry Emergency Medical Technician (NREMT)

Wilderness Emergency Medical Technician (WEMT)

FW: [EXTERNAL] Proposed Animal Ordinance

CPC Mailbox <CPC@detroitmi.gov>

Thu 5/2/2024 9:28 AM

To: Kimani Jeffrey <jeffreyk@detroitmi.gov>; Dolores Perales <Dolores.Perales@detroitmi.gov>

From: Bill Hickey <whickey623@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2024 8:30 PM

To: CPC Mailbox <CPC@detroitmi.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Proposed Animal Ordinance

Dear City Planning Commission Members,

We're writing in support of the proposed Animal Ordinance for Detroit. We currently keep two hives of honey bees, and have never had any complaints from our neighbors. We used to keep 5-6 chickens, and had only support from egg-loving neighbors. There are already dozens of people keeping animals in nearly every part of the city, and Animal Control gets very few complaints.

Keeping animals in the city is a great way to show our kids where their food comes from, as well as help them learn how to care for animals.

City staff, animal keepers, and residents have been working on this ordinance since 2013. It's time to honor the hard work by city staff and animal-keeping stakeholders, and move this ordinance on to consideration by the City Council.

Please vote yes on the animal husbandry ordinance for Detroit.

William and Billie Hickey
14910 Lamphere St.
Detroit, MI 48223
(313) 472-5295

FW: [EXTERNAL] Letter of Support for Animal Keeping Ordinance

CPC Mailbox <CPC@detroitmi.gov>

Wed 5/1/2024 11:20 AM

To: Kimani Jeffrey <jeffreyk@detroitmi.gov>; Dolores Perales <Dolores.Perales@detroitmi.gov>

From: Zoe Cutler <zcutlerf@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2024 10:48 AM

To: CPC Mailbox <CPC@detroitmi.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Letter of Support for Animal Keeping Ordinance

To the City Planning Commission:

My name is Zoe Cutler and I am a resident of District 5 in Detroit, MI. I am a homeowner at the cross-streets of Warren and Mt. Elliot. I am writing to express my support for passing the Animal Keeping Ordinance.

Every year that I have lived in Detroit, I have joined a CSA or Farmshare program from farmers that grow in the city. Local food is very important to me, because it is more fresh and reduces waste. Detroit is particularly vulnerable to supply chain challenges, and local food has a positive impact on residents when grocery stores are low on stock.

I have friends in various neighborhoods who already keep animals, and I know there are lots of farmers and animal keepers who are already respectfully enhancing the city with local food. Animal control receives only a small number of complaints per year about livestock in the city, and I believe animals almost always create a positive impact on neighborhoods.

I know that people have been working hard on this ordinance for the past couple of years, and I hope we can align ourselves with other similar cities and nearby suburbs by allowing residents to keep animals.

Thank you for your time,
Zoe Cutler

FW: [EXTERNAL] animal keeping in Detroit

CPC Mailbox <CPC@detroitmi.gov>

Thu 5/2/2024 6:46 PM

To: Dolores Perales <Dolores.Perales@detroitmi.gov>; Kimani Jeffrey <jeffreyk@detroitmi.gov>; Timarie Szwed <Timarie.Szwed@detroitmi.gov>

-----Original Message-----

From: Louella Pizzuti <louellapizzuti@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2024 4:45 PM

To: CPC Mailbox <CPC@detroitmi.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] animal keeping in Detroit

Hello,

I'm writing in vigorous support of the animal keeping ordinance. I believe this lengthy process has sculpted an ordinance that protects neighbors from nuisances and provides food security for animal keepers. (Not to mention pals and a deeper understanding of where food comes from for kids.)

The objections I've heard are generally based on a lack of understanding of what the ordinance allows. Or a reaction to the idea of animals rather than the reality.

This ordinance is well thought out and has been shaped by the voices of supporters and objectors. Please go forward and make it legal for our most vulnerable to have of their food supply.

Thank you,
Louella Pizzuti
District 1

[EXTERNAL] Animal keeping ordinance

Oscar <oscardj.3130@gmail.com>

Tue 6/25/2024 9:38 PM

To:Dolores Perales <Dolores.Perales@detroitmi.gov>

I am a District 6 resident writing this email in support of animal keeping ordinance. I have kept chickens before and they acclimated well to the City.

FW: [EXTERNAL] Support for farm animals in Detroit

CPC Mailbox <CPC@detroitmi.gov>

Thu 5/2/2024 6:46 PM

To: Kimani Jeffrey <jeffreyk@detroitmi.gov>; Dolores Perales <Dolores.Perales@detroitmi.gov>; Timarie Szwed <Timarie.Szwed@detroitmi.gov>

From: Rachel M. McGrath <rachelm.mcgrath@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2024 4:32 PM

To: April Worden <april@worden.org>; CPC Mailbox <CPC@detroitmi.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Support for farm animals in Detroit

To Whom It May Concern:

Having livestock as neighbors and access to community garden space in my urban backyard is why I live in Detroit and covet my Farnsworth Street community. People like April and James contribute to the betterment of our community and although I do not have children I enjoy the benefit of living where they feel safe and loved because of the contributions made by April and James. All of the neighborhood children are welcome to play with their toys and experience the joy of safe childhood. Having animals to learn about has made that more educational than ever.

I support my neighbors, April and James Worden, keeping domestic farm animals on their property for educational purposes.

April and James are creating a safe space for urban youth to experience the life-changing benefits of connecting with and caring for nature. They already open their yard to the children of the neighborhood, providing access to gardening, creative outdoor play and urban farming education.

The Wordens have the experience, resources, space and skills to create a beautiful place for both animals and people. April grew up on a Michigan dairy farm and worked for several years at summer camps for youth from urban environments. They have also secured a veterinarian who is willing and able to come to their home and give veterinary care to the animals.

Allowing children to care for animals has numerous benefits, including reducing anxiety, boosting self-confidence and compassion, positively impacting academic performance and strengthening work ethic. The youth of Detroit need more opportunities to experience what James and April are working to provide.

I live within 1000 feet of the Wordens' property and I support the educational benefits of having farm animals in my neighborhood.

May 8, 2024

Dear City Planning Commission and City Council,

I would like to express my support for the proposed Animal Keeping Ordinance here in the City of Detroit. As a resident and supporter of urban agriculture, I believe that passing this ordinance will contribute to the overall well-being of our community and the environment.

This ordinance will provide an avenue for Detroiters to legally keep chickens, ducks, and bees in the city. I believe this will help contribute to the overall environmental and economic health of Detroit and its communities. Chickens and ducks not only offer a fresh source of eggs for eating or selling but also assist in weed management, natural pest control, and fertilization of soil. Additionally, beekeeping also promotes the pollination of plants and development of honey, which is key for maintaining biodiversity and supporting our local ecosystem/food system here in Detroit.

Many residents have expressed interest in connecting deeper to Detroit's local food system. The allowable livestock identified in the ordinance is a step in the right direction in helping individuals to take control of their food sources in a responsible manner. In addition, many residents feel it is their cultural, economic, and or religious right to keep and cultivate appropriate livestock within the vicinity of their homes.

Please consider the positive impact that legalizing this ordinance can have on Detroit. By supporting the Animal Keeping Ordinance, our neighborhoods will only continue to grow and thrive.

Thank you for consideration. I look forward to seeing Detroit thrive as a leader in urban agriculture.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Shayla Zimmerman', written in a cursive style.

Shayla Zimmerman

City Council District 5

[EXTERNAL] We Demand Change

Zamudio, Salvador <zamudios@msu.edu>

Thu 5/23/2024 11:40 PM

To: Kimani Jeffrey <jeffreyk@detroitmi.gov>; Dolores Perales <Dolores.Perales@detroitmi.gov>

05/23/2024

Dear City Planning Commission and City Council,

I would like to express my support for the proposed Animal Keeping Ordinance here in the City of Detroit. As a supporter of urban agriculture, I believe that passing this ordinance will contribute to the overall well-being of [our] [the] community and the environment.

This ordinance will provide an avenue for Detroiters to legally keep chickens, ducks, and bees in the city. I believe this will help contribute to the overall environmental and economic health of Detroit and its communities. Chickens and ducks not only offer a fresh source of eggs for eating or selling but also assist in weed management, natural pest control, and fertilization of soil. Additionally, beekeeping also promotes the pollination of plants and development of honey, which is key for maintaining biodiversity and supporting the local ecosystem/food system here in Detroit.

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Please consider the positive impact that legalizing this ordinance can have on Detroit. By supporting the Animal Keeping Ordinance, our Detroit neighborhoods will only continue to grow and thrive. Thank you for consideration. I look forward to seeing Detroit thrive as a leader in urban agriculture.

Sincerely,

Salvador Zamudio

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Dear City Council members,

Councilmember James Tate, held two “Animal Husbandry” meetings; one virtual Thursday February 8th (which drastically limited residents’ attendance/participation and one in-person in Southwest Detroit 48217 in January.

At the January meeting residents were very vocal and had many questions. Not only that the majority of residents overwhelming expressed opposition to the ordinance. During the meeting residents asked where was the other council members? Residents expressed concern over many other issues that are impacting their quality of life.

Questions residents ask:

With the ordinance being citywide, proposed zoning amendments and Detroit’s population being over 600,000 had mailers/information been sent to citizens regarding the ordinance – if not why not? So as many residents can weigh in on this issue.

To allow animal husbandry and beekeeping as an accessory use in R1, R2, R3, R4, R5, R6, B1, B2, B3, B4, B5, B6, M1, M2, M3, M4, M5, PC, PCA, TM, PR, SD1, SD2, MKT and SD4 zoning districts

How will the zoning amendments impact multi-family units, apartments and condos dwellers – will residents in multiple family complexes etc?

Will businesses be able to participate in Animal Husbandry?

Are the other council members holding meetings to inform their constituents of the proposed ordinance?

A “biggie question was asked, but not answered: Do the other council members support or oppose the ordinance if so who are they?

Residents are requesting that this be put on the ballot for voters to decide.

A nurse educator was in attendance at the January meeting and she gave health data and the dangers of housing chickens and other animals in residential areas. She provided statistics on the dangers of avian flu which many didn’t that there was an avian flu outbreak during Covid in 2022 which devastated the chicken and turkey population resulting in poultry shortages that caused a huge spike in poultry prices.

Concerns:

Resident expressed that spacing was a huge issue – that 30-feet was not enough separating for residents’ and the husbandry activity - the proponents supporting the ordinance at both meetings had space (three lots up to ten lots) for such husbandry enterprises.

Residents complained that the current burning of chicken fecal matter/waste stinks and many new residents are doing wood-burning which is a violation of the air quality ordinance.

Residents expressed concern that animal keeping will impact their property values. Also, neighborhoods throughout the city are dealing with infestations of rats, garter snakes, possums, raccoons and ground hogs. They have reported it to the city and were told that they don’t handle rats or snakes and that the ground hogs were a Michigan Department of Natural Resources. Residents were told that they would have to set their own traps, but the city could put out rat poison for rats. Chickens have been seen roaming the community and the rats are attracted to the chicken feces. In addition, loose dogs and raccoons got into the neighbor’s gated yard attacking the resident’s chickens killing all, but one. Also, dogs have been attacking residents and their pets.

Residents have witnessed a foxes and coyotes roaming the neighborhoods in Southwest Detroit 48217. A resident on Corbin streets has chickens, turkeys and pheasants which roam freely. Many residents have found possums, rats and raccoons in their trash cans.

Rabbits have taken over the yards and alleyway in the community. The rat problem is so bad that kids have attacked the rats with sticks. **See attached video and pictures of the chickens and rats.**

Moreover, Residents that attended expressed many concerns of proper enforcement when Detroit has serious problems with current enforcement now that is not being done. The enforcement officer (first name Mark) said that there are only seven enforcement officers – one for each district, so the shortage of officers is a great concern for residents. Residents have called the Neighborhood Police Officers and the Department of Neighborhood managers Eva Torres and Antonia Mills assigned to the area reporting these violations.

Residents complained that enforcement is not being done as folks park cars on front lawns, build fencing 6-feet high to the sidewalk blocking cross-street views and bar-b-que on the front lawns and porches.

Nearby Dearborn acknowledge the rat infestation in the city and have taken actions to alleviate the problem.

More challenges that the residents face is the streets flood constantly. Residents said that our city should work to take of the aforementioned problems, before introducing ordinances the will compound the problems they are faced with now.

One resident mentioned that Property law states: Those that are in violation of a city ordinance will prevent a budding neighbors' right to quiet enjoyment/entitlement of their property without interference. We are humbly asking that the city council respond to the questions and concerns of the residents. Thank you.

Theresa Landrum, resident District #6

t_landrum05@yahoo.com

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[video000000.mp4](#)
[773.2kB](#)