

From: [Anna White](#)
To: [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)
Subject: Title 13 proposed changes testimony
Date: Tuesday, July 28, 2020 1:31:39 PM

Dear Sir or Madam,

I would like to continue to have the option of obtaining a special permit for more (8-12) backyard poultry on a standard-sized lot. This permit would show that high standards for pest mitigation, smell, noise and neighbor approval have been met. Producing my family's food has been extremely important to me for decades, but is especially so during this pandemic, when we would like to restrict the number of trips to the grocery store. 3 or 4 chickens will never provide enough eggs for my family of four, for several reasons:

1. We think of our chickens as pets (as do our neighborhood kids), and therefore do not cull them. 3-4 elderly chickens produce few eggs, yet we prefer, when possible, to keep our hens to the end of their natural life.
2. Even if we were to cull regularly to keep a tiny flock in top egg production mode, that would average less than 2 eggs/day.
3. My teenage son alone eats 5 eggs/day. We require a minimum of 3 dozen eggs a week.
4. A flock of 8-12 chickens would allow you to have a few chickens in each category of life: 3 chicks every other year, 6 layers, and 4 retirees, for example.
5. The old permit number (25?) was excessive. But to remove the permit process altogether will force me to disobey the law, which I do not want to do.
6. Seattle lets any householder have 8 hens, regardless of lot size. It is possible to have a mid-sized flock on a standard lot, if cared for properly.
7. The reason why I want to take a stand for more chickens is that I value having the freshest eggs, humanely raised, which are fed organic food.
8. As you probably know, a chicken can live 10 or more years, but typically only lay regularly for the first four years. This means that once a hen's egg production declines, the flock owner is faced with a difficult decision: either cull the flock (butchering) or give away for someone else to butcher, or keep the hens, but no longer have a solid supply of fresh eggs.
9. I understand that there may be concerns about the neighborhood impact by allowing extra chickens, however, in our case it is a huge benefit. Dozens of my neighbors stop by our coop every day to let their kids feed dandelions to our 12 chickens, and they all love having this as part of their day. That our run is visible and accessible from the street makes this more convenient. No one in our vicinity has ever made a negative comment about our flock – only a regular flow of happy thanks for providing a neighborhood service.

Yours sincerely,
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