

Bonenfant, Janice

From: Melanie Orman <karotskid@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 10, 2019 8:24 PM
To: * City Clerk
Subject: Mayor & City Council

I am a homeowner in the north end and I DO NOT support decreasing the buffer zone for residents raising chickens. Regardless of benefit, I want to enjoy my outdoor area around my home without the stench that comes with chickens. A friend on Clinton Street has told me about her neighbor's "pets" and I was not impressed.

Melanie Orman
41 Jackson Street
Concord, NH 03301
karotskid@gmail.com

Sent from my iPhone

Stefan Gary
17 Short Street
Concord, NH 03301
stefanfgary@gmail.com
(603) 496-1888

October 14, 2019

Dear Concord City Council:

I'm writing with regards to the City Chickens Public Hearing on October 15, 2019. I'm writing as a Concord resident, the father of two small children, and a climate change professional.

Since my house is situated in the approximate center of my lot, I essentially cannot keep chickens with the current ordinance requiring a 30 foot setback from the property line. The few square feet of my property that would satisfy the requirements of the ordinance are too small for chickens and too close to the house. My kids would be delighted to keep chickens and caring for chickens would teach them many important life lessons about sustainability, respect for living creatures, and responsibility. Furthermore, chickens would remove ticks and other insect pests from my yard while providing nutritious, locally sourced eggs.

We used to live next door to neighbors that kept chickens. The chickens were never a problem; in fact, they helped to bolster my relationship with my neighbors and build community since my kids were so curious!

I am also a climate change professional. I'm currently an Affiliate Research Professor at UNH, I developed the foundation for an ocean carbon uptake model with [Project Drawdown](#), and I have lead oceanographic research expeditions to observe dramatic changes in temperature and the presence of microplastics in the North Atlantic Ocean. I know that there is no single solution to reducing our carbon dioxide emissions; to avoid the dangerous effects of climate change, we must cut emissions and actively remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere as much as possible, as soon as possible, and in many ways.

The ability to keep chickens at home is only a small part of our transition toward a circular carbon economy. However, imparting this kind of flexibility to Concord residents supports the ethos around the co-benefits of local food production, reducing our carbon footprint, and fostering healthy minds, bodies, and communities. This intertwined community fabric weaves itself slowly over time and requires a distributed investment across many sectors well in advance of when we expect it to be mature. Chickens are one step along the way.

Thank you for considering my comments. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

