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COMM. #61-13 Ref'd to Ordinance Committee on 03/18/2014 (Special Meeting).  
March 17, 2014

Fleeta Hudson  
City Clerk  
City of Bridgeport  
45 Lyon Terrace  
Bridgeport, CT 06604

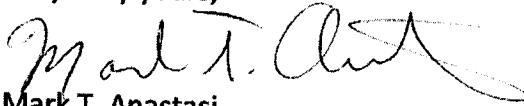
**Re: Proposed Amendment to Code of Ordinances Sec. 6.04.010**

Dear Clerk Hudson:

Attached is a proposed amendment to the Code of Ordinances for referral to the Ordinance Committee on behalf of the Health Department.

Please issue an Addendum to tomorrow's Special City Council meeting to refer this matter to committee as this is a time sensitive matter.

Very truly yours,

  
Mark T. Anastasi

Cc: Frances Wilson, Asst. City Clerk  
Thomas McCarthy, Pres. City Council  
Richard Paoletta, Co-Chair Ord. Committee  
Kristen Dubay-Horton, Dir. Health  
Warren Blunt, Dir. of Environmental Health

ATTEST  
CITY CLERK

RECEIVED  
CITY CLERK'S OFFICE  
2014 MAR 17 P 5:15

*Submitted by Office of the City Attorney on behalf of the Health Director*

**PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO CODE OF ORDINANCES SEC, 6.04.010**

**Whereas**, there is a growing trend of sustainable living and food security concerns within the City of Bridgeport which supports the Mayor's BGreen2020 initiative for sustainable communities;

**Whereas**, the Administration supports creating all viable options to address food security, while ensuring public health and safety;

**Whereas**, increasing Bridgeport residents' ability to consume locally produced food will help reduce carbon emissions;

**Whereas**, the proposed amendments to Code of Ordinances Sec. 6.04.010 will allow residents to have improved access to fresh eggs, a healthy and affordable form of high-quality protein;

**Whereas**, chickens and hens aid in eating insects, providing organic waste that can be used as fertilizer and consume weeds.

**Whereas**, despite their many benefits locally for residents, if not appropriately housed and maintained, chickens and hens may pose a public health nuisance, can attract rats, mice and other vermin and/or predators.

**Whereas**, appropriate guidelines must be followed in order to seek approval by the Bridgeport Director of Health to keep chickens or hens on private property.

**Now Therefore Be It Resolved** that Bridgeport Code of Ordinances, Sec. 6.04.010 be, and is, hereby amended as follows:

**6.04.010 Keeping of certain animals prohibited.**

A. No person shall keep any swine within one hundred (100) feet of any house, schoolhouse, church, street or park. No person shall keep or maintain live swine, or any live pigeons, ducks, geese, hens, chickens, roosters, game birds of any kind, or domestic fowl of any kind within the limits of the city without a written permit therefor from the board of health Director of Health; and any permit granted for such purpose may be revoked by such board director at any time. Nothing in this section shall be construed as to be inconsistent with Section 19-343 of the General Statutes.

B. Regulations for Housing of Chickens and Hens on Residential Property.

### 1. Plot Plan for the Coop

- Chicken coops must be stored 25 feet away from the host house and from any neighboring homes.
- Chicken coops must be located no closer than 5 feet to any side or rear property line.
- Minimum size of the coop (inside of coop) shall be 2 sq ft of floor space per chicken or hen to allow adequate space for feeding, exercise, nesting and roosting.

Space:

Minimum Space Requirements

Type of Bird	Sq ft/bird inside	Sq ft/bird outside runs
Bantam Chicken	1	4
Laying Hens	1.5	8
Large chickens	2	10

- Coops must be properly ventilated to prevent buildup of odors and moisture.
- Appropriate measures must be taken to reduce the presence of rodents, flies, other insects, and the creation of odors and other nuisances. All pesticides must be EPA approved and used in accordance with directions on the manufacturer's label.
- Litter material on the floor of the coop must be kept dry (but not dusty) to reduce ammonia emissions, and completely removed and the coop sanitized once every six months or as needed. Feeders and waterers shall be maintained in proper sanitary condition.
- Chickens and hens must be contained at all times. They are not to be permitted to roam in the yard without the presence of the owner and only within fenced enclosures.

### 2. Discarding of Waste

- Permit applicants must provide an adequate description as to how feces and other waste materials will be removed from the property and disposed of or treated so as not to result in unsanitary conditions or attraction of rodents and insects.

### 3. Keeping Chickens at Rental Properties

- If the host property is a multi-family, the individual requesting to raise chickens must have written consent from the owner, and all current tenants occupying the property.

#### 4. Acquiring and Keeping Chickens and Hens

- Purchase of chickens and hens must be from an approved source where the animals receive a blood test to ensure that they are healthy. They should be purchased from a licensed establishment. Documentation must be provided showing where they were purchased.
- Chickens may be kept for pets or personal use egg consumption only, not for selling of any kind.
- No more than 6 chickens and/or hens shall be allowed for each single family dwelling.
- Absolutely no roosters will be permitted to be kept on residential property.

#### 5. Right of Entry

The Animal Control Officer and Health Department staff may enter and inspect any property or coop at any reasonable time for the purpose of investigating either an actual or suspected violation or to ascertain compliance with the safe keeping of chickens.

#### 6. Suspension or Revocation of Permit

Any permit granted under these regulations may be suspended or revoked permanently for cause by the Health Department, provided that a hearing has been held after seven days' notice of suspension or revocation, except in the case of emergency as set out below. Notice shall be given by first-class mail sent to the address shown on the most recent application for permit.

Whenever the Health Department has determined that an emergency exists, it may, without prior notice or hearing, issue an order reciting the existence of the emergency and ordering that the permit be immediately revoked or suspended, as specified therein. The person affected by the order may request a hearing within seven days after the service of the order and the hearing shall be granted as soon as possible; provided, however, that such a request for hearing shall not stay or in any way modify the terms of the emergency order.

The owner of the host residence will be notified if a permit has been suspended or revoked.

#### 7. Cause of Emergency

- Cruel treatment of chickens
- Using chickens for illegal purposes
- Sale of chickens or eggs

- Outbreak of a communicable animal disease as determined by the Animal Control Office, sanitarian or veterinarian licensed in the state of Connecticut.

#### 8. Violations and Penalties

Any person who violates any provision of this article shall, upon conviction, be fined not more than \$150.00 for each violation. Each day of the violation shall constitute a separate offense.

Repeated violations may result in loss of permit for chicken keeping on residential property.

#### 9. Fee

There shall be a \$50.00 fee per year fee that must be paid to the Environmental Health Department for costs related to inspection of the area to ensure compliance with these guidelines. The fee for seniors and students will be \$25.00.

#### 10. Training

Successful completion of appropriate training as determined by the Health Director will be a mandatory pre-requisite to a permit being issued to house chickens or hens on residential property. This training may be provided by the Connecticut Beardsley Zoo.