



City of Sacramento City Council

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915 I Street, Sacramento, CA, 95814
www.CityofSacramento.org

Meeting Date: 10/16/2012

Report Type: Consent

Title: Keeping of Backyard Hen Chickens

Report ID: 2012-00729

Location: Citywide

Recommendation: Receive and file.

Contact: Gina Knepp, Animal Care Manager, (916) 808-8333, General Services Department

Presenter: None

Department: General Services Dept

Division: Animal Care

Dept ID: 13001111

Attachments:

1-Description/Analysis

2-Attachment 1 -Background

City Attorney Review

Approved as to Form

Lan Wang

10/8/2012 1:36:31 PM

City Treasurer Review

Reviewed for Impact on Cash and Debt

Russell Fehr

9/28/2012 11:48:47 AM

Approvals/Acknowledgements

Department Director or Designee: Craig Lymus - 10/3/2012 11:38:47 AM



Description/Analysis

Issue: On August 30, 2011, City Council adopted Ordinance No. 2011-039 amending Section 9.44.340 of the City Code relating to the keeping of hen chickens, and Resolution No. 2011-510 approving permit and license fees, and rules and regulations for the keeping of hen chickens. This report provides information to City Council about the keeping of hen chickens since the ordinance took effect.

Policy Considerations: The ordinance and resolution adopted by City Council relating to the keeping of hen chickens are consistent with the City's Strategic Plan goal to achieve sustainability and livability.

Economic Impacts: None

Environmental Considerations:

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA): The recommendation in this report is a continuing administrative activity and is, therefore, exempt from the requirements of CEQA, pursuant to Section 15378(b)(2) of the CEQA guidelines.

Sustainability: The keeping of hen chickens supports the Sustainability Master Plan by providing city residents with an option for a local, sustainable food source.

Commission/Committee Action: None

Rationale for Recommendation: There is no staff recommendation. This report is for City Council's information only.

Financial Considerations: This report does not result in any financial impact to the City.

Emerging Small Business Development (ESBD): No goods or services are being purchased as a result of this report.



Background

Ordinance No. 2011-039 amending Section 9.44.340 of the City Code relating to the keeping of hen chickens includes the following provisions:

- Allowing for the keeping of up to three hen chickens per parcel of residential property with a permit (renewable annually)
- Requiring hen chickens to be confined and properly caged in a pen, coop, or cage at all times
- Requiring hen chickens to be kept within an enclosure at least thirty feet from any neighboring dwelling unit
- Prohibiting hen chickens from being allowed to be a noise disturbance across real property lines
- Prohibiting the slaughter of hen chickens in any residential zone
- Prohibiting the keeping of roosters on residential parcels
- Giving the Animal Care Manager the authority to promulgate regulations to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the public and to ensure proper and humane treatment of all hen chickens kept within City limits

Resolution No. 2011-510 approved a permit fee of \$15 per household keeping hen chickens and an annual license fee of \$10 per hen chicken, as well as the following rules and regulations:

- Requiring the tagging of all hen chickens for identification
- Requiring that all enclosures for hen chickens be well maintained and clean
- Requiring that feed for hen chickens is stored properly
- Specifying the minimum and maximum size allowed for enclosures and the location of chicken coops as well as the requirement of nest boxes

The August 30, 2011 council report in which City Council adopted the ordinance and resolution provided information about the estimated revenue and costs related to keeping hen chickens. The following tables provide that same estimated revenue and cost information, as well as the actual information since the ordinance took effect on November 1, 2011:

	Permits/Licenses/Citations		Administration		Enforcement	
	Estimated	Actual	Estimated	Actual	Estimated	Actual
Permit fees (\$15/hen)	100	39	\$1,500	\$570		
Annual Licenses (\$10/hen)	300	102			\$3,000	\$1,000
Citation Revenue*	Unknown	73			Unknown	\$6,650

*Citations may be appealed to a Hearing Officer which sometimes results in the reduction or waiver of a citation.

The City received and responded to 414 calls (down from 430 last year) to investigate related complaints. The staff cost of investigating these calls is estimated to be \$30,250.