

**Mitchell Sharlene**

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**From:** Costello Aaron  
**Sent:** Monday, March 07, 2011 7:30 AM  
**To:** Mitchell Sharlene  
**Cc:** Hanks Alan  
**Subject:** FW: to council members...on the chicken keeping ordinance  
Sharlene,

Please attach this letter to the agenda item. Thanks!

Cheers,  
Aaron

Aaron Costello  
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**From:** Talli Nauman [mailto:talli.nauman@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Sun 3/6/2011 12:37 PM  
**To:** Brown Gary; Weifenbach Ron; Kooiker Sam; Davis Dave; Waugh Bill; Mason Jordan; Kroeger Ron; Petersen Bonny; Costello Aaron  
**Subject:** to council members...on the chicken keeping ordinance

Dear Rapid City Council Members,

I am writing as a member of the Small Farms Committee of the 25-year-old, statewide membership organization Dakota Rural Action to influence the vote on ORDINANCE # 5714, **AN ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE KEEPING OF CHICKENS IN RAPID CITY BY AMENDING SECTION 6.08.020(C) OF THE RAPID CITY MUNICIPAL CODE.**

If there is no rule prohibiting chicken keeping, then I recommend leaving well-enough alone and avoiding any additional rulemaking. However, if the rules do prohibit it, I ask that you authorize it.

Dakota Rural Action members and people all across the country are trying to build stronger local economies and healthier local food alternatives. The most advanced towns and cities have supported this by allowing chicken keeping in their jurisdictions. That includes New York City, Key West, Memphis, Honolulu, San Francisco, Seattle, Portland, Missoula, and Laramie.

Chickens are part of integrated backyard gardening, providing natural pest control, soil enhancement and eggs to help reduce household expenditures and improve family nutrition. They are an opportunity for better health and education.

Pigeon keeping is already authorized in Rapid City, so a solid precedent exists to justify expanding the code to include chickens.

Contrary to the argumentation in the Rapid City Journal's editorial on the subject, chicken keeping could increase income for the city government and local businesses, attracting people to live in town, if thoughtful regulations are put in place for safe and attractive hen housing.

Why would a town that encourages an annual livestock show in its convention center and an annual tri-state fair within its city limits prohibit chicken keeping?

I urge you to read the comments in the discussion of that editorial in order to understand your constituents' interest in favoring the authorization.

[http://www.rapidcityjournal.com/news/opinion/editorial/article\\_8b16396a-3aee-11e0-939e-001cc4c002e0.html?mode=comments](http://www.rapidcityjournal.com/news/opinion/editorial/article_8b16396a-3aee-11e0-939e-001cc4c002e0.html?mode=comments)

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Talli Nauman