

*Hello*

We are representatives of the Rapid City Hens

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We are here today to talk about

Backyard Chickens

# *Mission*

To allow those who are interested to learn more about keeping hens in their backyard

To help develop a city ordinance that allows hens to be kept in Rapid City

Urban chickens are being welcomed nation-wide

There is strong support and interest here in Rapid  
City

The majority of people appear to support backyard  
hens for others, if not for themselves

# *What is a Backyard Hen?*

Hens are quiet, gentle, low maintenance pets that provide affordable wholesome food

Hens are not roosters.

Roosters are not required for hens to lay eggs

Backyard hens are not farm animals.

Small flocks do not present the same issues as large chicken operations

# *The Benefits of Chicken-Keeping*

Hens provide a wholesome food source

Reliable and trustworthy

Non-GMO and Local.

Extremely relevant to those with food sensitivities and even more so to those whose children have food sensitivities

They are a great gardener's friend

providing great compost and fertiliser

100% organic pest control

and their scratching aerates the soil

Pest control includes

ticks

fleas

grasshoppers

mice

snakes

all kinds of plant-destroying pests

# *Food waste disposal*

\$ 715 million is spent each year nationally disposing of food waste.

For a city the size of rapid: ~\$150,000 / year

"The decomposition of uneaten food accounts for 23 percent of all methane emissions in the United States. Of all the food that is lost at different stages from farm to fork, only 3 percent is composted. The vast majority ends up in landfills. In fact, food now represents the single largest component of municipal solid waste reaching landfills where it gradually converts to methane, a greenhouse gas at least 25 times more powerful in global warming as carbon Dioxide."

- Natural Resources Defense Council, March 2013

[www.nrdc.org/food/files/wasted-food-ip.pdf](http://www.nrdc.org/food/files/wasted-food-ip.pdf)

[www.nrdc.org/living/eatingwell/files/foodwaste\\_2pgr.pdf](http://www.nrdc.org/living/eatingwell/files/foodwaste_2pgr.pdf)

Chickens will eat anything.

Chicken keeping is **ecologically sound**.

It allows greater food security.

It reduces our fossil fuel emissions.

It is good for the local environment.

It fosters community.

People in Rapid City want them.



# *Concerns*

## Smell

Backyard hens are not comparable to commercial chicken operations.

## Noise

We propose that roosters are NOT allowed within city limits

## "Wild chickens"

Chickens return to the same roost every night, and do not wander far during the day.

## Predators and vermin

wildlife already exists within city limits

a properly built coop and secure food storage will not attract predators

## Property value

is more likely to increase than decrease

"I can honestly say I haven't heard a single thing. Our Market here is booming again. And I know a lot of families that have homes in very nice areas. [...] Based on what I do know I haven't seen or heard of any issues. Or drops in values."

- Kristine Glover, Glover Realty Group,  
Billings, MT

# The 10 Healthiest Metros for Housing in 2013 according to Forbes

1. Houston, TX
2. San Francisco, CA
3. Bethesda-Rockville-Frederick, MD
4. San Antonio, TX
5. Austin, TX
6. Seattle, WA
7. Omaha, NE-IA
8. Peabody, MA \*\*\*
9. Fort Worth, TX
10. Louisville, KY-IN

<http://www.forbes.com/sites/trulia/2012/12/17/2013s-top-10-healthiest-housing-markets/>



# *Backyard Hens are Progressive*

- Sioux Falls, SD
- Spearfish, SD
- Fort Collins, CO
- Billings, MT
- Los Angeles, CA
- Seattle, WA
- New York, NY
- San Francisco, CA
- Houston, TX
- Omaha, NE
- Louisville, KY
- Saint Louis, MO,
- Indianapolis, IA
- ... and 500+ more across the United States

# *Ordinances*

A well crafted ordinance allows citizens to enjoy the freedom that they are entitled to, while addressing the concerns of neighbors and the community.

# *Ordinances*

6 hens allowed

No roosters

Must be kept in a well-designed, predator-resistant coop.

Must follow existing noise and nuisance ordinances.



# *Community*

Backyard hens build community and have the potential to benefit the local economy.

Many communities have a "Tour de Coop".

These can integrate large sectors of the community, raise money for local programs and generally spread good information and awareness on sustainable living.

We would appreciate the opportunity to speak with city council and city staff regarding urban hens in Rapid City.

The community of Rapid City stands to benefit in many ways.

Thank you for your time  
and consideration