

Support for Backyard Chickens

August 10, 2021

1. Letter from John Rife, Owner, East End Market
3201 Corrine Drive, Orlando, FL 32803
2. 6 letters of support for backyard chickens from neighbors:
 - The Kennerly Family- Orlando, FL 32806
 - *The Scarpinato Family- Orlando, FL 32806
 - *The Geren Family- Orlando, FL 32806
 - *The Burden Family- Orlando, FL 32806
 - *The Blakley Family- Orlando, FL 32806
 - The Robinson Family- Orlando, FL 32806

*Are direct neighbors of the Thorp family who had chickens at one time.

August 5, 2021

**Board of County Commissioners
Orange County, FL**

RE: **Backyard Chicken Ordinance**

Dear Mayor Demings and Commissioners,

I am writing in support of the forthcoming vote on backyard chickens in unincorporated Orange County.

As the owner of East End Market and as co-founder of Fleet Farming, I have seen, first hand, the incredible value urban agriculture has brought to our community.

The market garden we operate at East End and the many distributed backyard farmlettes under Fleet Farming's care provide an invaluable window into an oft unseen part of our food system. All too often the means of our food production is an "out of sight out of mind" scenario. What we can't see, we don't typically care about.

That's why I consider backyard chickens as a great gateway to important conversations our community should be having around our food system.

As a community garden plot serves as a sustainable counterpoint to the excess and environmental degradation of the industrial food system; so too does the backyard chicken coop offer a sustainable and regenerative alternative to the inhumane and often toxic factory farming practiced throughout our nation.

When a child nurtures a few hens, collects the wholesome eggs and prepares their first breakfast with those bright yellow yolks, a paradigm shift happens. Store bought eggs are no longer a commodity, they are now seen linked to hens on a farm somewhere and it's not a big jump for a child to wonder how those chickens are raised. Or to ask the question ... Why aren't these store bought eggs as bright yellow and yummy as "our" eggs?

By approving this ordinance you are restoring an American tradition. A tradition that kept us meaningfully connected to our planet and its flora and fauna. Caring for hens in the backyard was a right of passage for many Baby Boomers and sadly, through well meaning but misplaced restrictions, that grand old tradition has been lost.

Thank you so much for your time and consideration. I do hope that your vote will help restore and preserve this important tradition.



**John Rife
Owner, East End Market**

5201 Corrine Dr.
Suite 201
Orlando, FL 32803
727.276.3576
www.EastEndMarket.com



A L A I R

August 9, 2021

Mayor Demings and Orange County Commissioners
400 S. Orange Ave.
Orlando, FL 32801

Dear Mayor Demings and Orange County Commissioners,

I am writing to encourage you to pass the backyard chicken ordinance for unincorporated Orange County. The Kennerly family at 1527 Waterwitch Place is in full agreement of this passing.

I am a father of three young boys and I also grew up on a cattle ranch. Chickens were a normal part of my childhood and I would like the opportunity for my boys to have chickens as a part of their childhood. Backyard chickens are an excellent source of education and nutrition in the form of eggs for our children. They are also a small animal that does not impinge on other property owners rights.

My wife and I believe that this ordinance should not require neighbor approval. Chickens are not harmful or hurtful to neighbors in any way. Chickens are smaller than dogs and much less of a danger and annoyance to neighbors, so why should we need a permit for 4 chickens.

With guidelines outlined in the ordinance, we see nothing but success for such a program especially since Orange County will become consistent with other surrounding municipalities.

Our family appreciates your time and hardwork in our community. Many thanks for saying YES to backyard chickens.

Sincerely,

The Kennerly Family
1527 Waterwitch Drive
Orlando, FL 32806

Dear Mayor Demings and Orange County Commissioners,

I am writing to encourage you to pass the backyard chicken ordinance for unincorporated Orange County. The Scarpinato family at 715 Albertson Place is in full agreement of this passing.

Our neighbor, Jodi Thorp and her family, live across the street from us. Even though the time she had chickens was brief, our family delighted in watching them grow and they became a fun part of our street. We enjoyed watching children on the street feed them and also benefited from the fresh eggs often shared with us. We never saw the chickens as a nuisance or detrimental to the neighborhood in any way. Jodi took great care of her coop and set a good example for others on how to raise backyard chickens.

We believe that this ordinance should not require neighbor approval. Chickens are not harmful or hurtful to neighbors in any way. Just as you don't need permission for a dog, which may loudly bark, you should not need a permit for 4 chickens. Furthermore, we did not find the chickens to be loud, ever.

With guidelines outlined in the ordinance, we see nothing but success for such a program especially since Orange County will become consistent with other surrounding municipalities.

Our family appreciates your time and hardwork in our community. Many thanks for saying YES to backyard chickens.

Sincerely,

The Scarpinato Family
715 Albertson Place
Orlando, FL 32806

Dear Mayor Demings and Orange County Commissioners,

I am writing to encourage you to pass the backyard chicken ordinance for unincorporated Orange County. The Geren family at 714 Albertson Place is in full agreement of this passing.

Our neighbor, Jodi Thorp and her family, live directly beside us. Even though the time was brief that she had chickens, we never smelled or experienced anything different than normal to our backyard or outside activities. My husband and I both work from home and whatever noise they may have made, it was never a disruption to our schedules. We never saw the chickens as a nuisance. Jodi took great care of her coop and set a good example for others on how to raise backyard chickens.

We would like to have the freedom to own chickens one day too. Considering the guidelines outlined in the ordinance, we see nothing but success for such a program especially since Orange County will become consistent with other surrounding municipalities.

We hope you will vote YES to backyard chickens.

Sincerely,

The Geren Family
714 Albertson Place
Orlando, FL 32806

Dear Mayor Demings and Commissioners,

I am writing to you to express my support of backyard chickens in Unincorporated Orange County. My neighbors, the Thorps, had briefly had chickens and they were a delight to my children and neighboring families. To be honest, I didn't even realise that they had the chickens until Jodi invited me over to meet them. They were never a disruption or distraction. They were quiet, well kept and attended to. The children loved learning about the chickens and feeding them. In my opinion, the chickens added to our neighborhood as a resource for learning and a welcomed joy.

I encourage you to vote yes for backyard chickens in Unincorporated Orange County.

Sincerely,
Jessica and David Burden
704 Lillian Drive
Orlando, FL 32806

Good Afternoon Mayor Demings and Orange County Commissioners.

I am writing to encourage you to pass the backyard chicken ordinance next week. The Blakley family at 506 Lillian Drive says YES to the chickens!

Our County is a leader in so many ways, and so it seems reasonable that like many of our municipal neighbors and many others across the state, that we too would adopt a sustainable program to allow residents to have backyard chickens.

Our neighbor, and backyard chicken advocate/spokeswoman, Jodi Thorp has demonstrated how you can successfully raise chickens in your backyard without disturbance to the neighborhood. In fact, it's a wonderful community benefit. My kids have learned how to farm eggs and the benefits of healthy fresh food from your home. The Thorp's also share their bounty with neighbors and friends, and the eggs are incredible!

I also believe that this ordinance should not consider pre-approval from neighbors. I don't need permission from my neighbors (nor a permit) to own a dog, or an outside cat, yappy birds or a giant snake or any other FWC approved domesticated species (which includes jungle fowl, wild horses and llamas, folks), so I see no reason why we'd open the floodgate with a chicken.

CDC guidelines should also not dissuade us from this program. We all know salmonella exists, and yet we aren't shutting down the petting zoos nor the Melting Pot, where I bet more people are subject to salmonella from undercooked chicken. Plus, how accustomed are we to hand sanitizer these days - thank you, Covid - so yes, proper sanitization should occur whenever you handle animals, chickens or otherwise.

For some perspective too, the Thorp's one angry neighbor, who is a staunch opponent for reasons that don't make much sense, has a dog who spends a majority of time in the backyard and literally barks all day long. All. Day. Long. And while I suppose we could complain the dog's a nuisance, it's a dog and he's doing dog like things barking at passerbys, all day long. It's life, and somehow we manage. As neighbors, we did not decide whether she was allowed to purchase said loud dog, nor did we approve the outdoor cats my elderly neighbor likes to keep about the neighborhood, and I definitely did not sign off on the slimy reptiles the boys down the street supposedly keep in cages steps away from my abode.

We live in a uniquely diverse and abundant community, and we must respect the rights and celebrate the differences of our neighbors and our community. I love my boxer, and

Jodi loves her chickens. (And the crazy kids down the street for whatever reason like reptiles)

With reasonable rules and guidelines, which the ordinance provides and is consistent with other municipal rules and guidelines, Orange County should allow responsible, caring and eco friendly residents of Orange County to maintain backyard chickens and demonstrate how we can cultivate a local food economy and bring neighbors together.

Keep up the great work. It's a tough job, and we appreciate all that you do for the citizens of Orange County.

Vote YES for backyard chickens, pretty please.

Best Regards,

Jessi Blakley
506 Lillian Dr., Orlando, FL 32806

August 9, 2021

Dear Commissioner Uribe:

We are writing to voice our support for the proposed ordinance to allow backyard chickens in Orange County. These types of ordinances have already been adopted in many cities and counties throughout Central Florida for good reason - Education, Sustainability, & Healthy Living!!

We understand that there are some who oppose this opportunity for various reasons, or who support it only with neighbor approval. It may seem reasonable initially but upon further thought, where does an approval from neighbors end when it comes to personal property? For example, in our neighborhood, there are often dogs who bark loudly all hours of the day and night; there are domestic cats who roam, sun, and poop in our yard all day long, not to mention the eerie sounding cat fights; there are people who play loud music, some selections better than others; there are kids squealing and shouting happily in play; there are hoarders. Some may consider these activities a nuisance but it's all a part of being in community with one another. We didn't "sign up" for any of this when we purchased our home. And that's ok. If we had wanted to live in a place where every piece of our home and property, as well as our neighbors', was micromanaged, we would have chosen to purchase a home in a subdivision with a HOA. Instead, we chose unincorporated Orange County. With all its quirks, we are happily raising kids and doing life right here!

We have several friends who keep chickens in Central Florida - Orlando, Lake County, and east Orange County. They are lovely, smart families with beautifully maintained properties. Their chickens are clean and healthy, and are a joy to their family, friends, and neighbors. I believe that these friends (and their neighbors) are a solid representation of the majority of those who desire this type of lifestyle within our metro area.

We absolutely support Orange County residents, our neighbors, having access to the experience of keeping backyard chickens if they so desire!

Sincerely,

The Robison Family

Support for Backyard Chickens

August 10, 2021

1. Signatures from 21 of the 25 residents on Albertson Place, Orlando, FL 32806.
2. Signatures from 13 neighbors on Lillian Drive, Orlando, FL 32806 (located directly behind Albertson Place). Many of us on Albertson Place have driveways on Lillian Drive.

Jodi Thorp
708 Albertson Place
Orlando, FL 32806
407-451-6189
jodi@veermanandassociates.com



OVERVIEW

My request is to allow a limited number and hygienically controlled backyard chickens in unincorporated Orange County which would follow suit like the *City of Orlando, Winter Park, Maitland, Winter Garden, Lake Mary, Altamonte Springs, Sanford, Longwood, Oviedo, Clermont, Lady Lake, Leesburg, Mount Dora, Edgewood and other municipalities.*

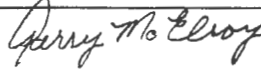
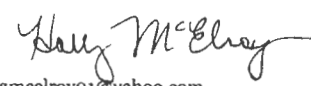



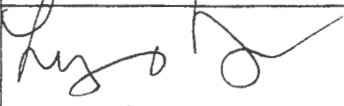


GOALS


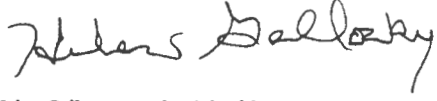
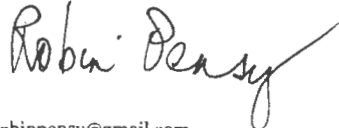


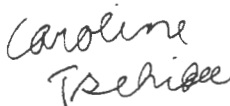
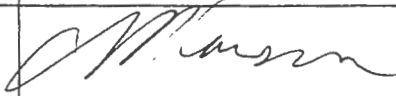
1. To have fresher and more nutritious foods.
2. To foster healthy and sustainable lifestyles that invest in the well being of children and families.

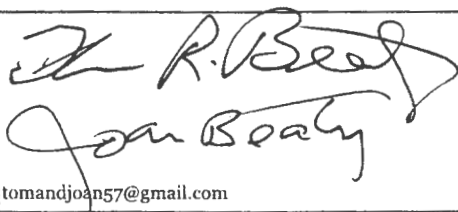
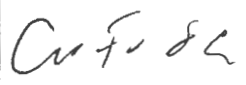
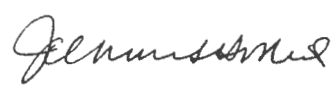


SPECIFICATIONS

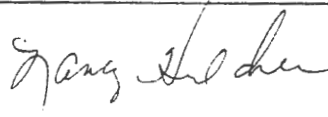
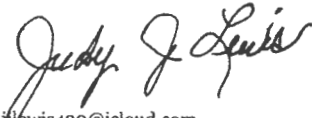

1. Up to 4 hens are sufficient to meet the needs of the average family's egg consumption.
2. Allow hens in single family detached residences.
3. Hen coops must be enclosed; protected from sun, weather and predators.
4. Mesh wire or hardware cloth must surround the coop in order to provide adequate protection from predators.
5. Hen coop must be tied down, secure and have materials buried under structure to deter digging predators.
6. Minimum of 4 square feet per hen. Maximum 50 square feet.
7. Maximum height of coop 6 ft.
8. Owner of hens must take Orange County class on raising hens.
9. Hens may only be used for personal use. No commercial selling of eggs. No roosters allowed.
10. 75 permits allowed in Orange County at first come, first serve.

SUPPORT

Last Name	First Name	Signature/Email Address	Phone Number	Address
McElroy	Jerry Holly	  hgmcelroy01@yahoo.com	J:407-375-3346 H: 407-375-3345	738 Albertson Place Orlando, FL 32806
Postlewait	Brian Becky	  cityofpeace@gmail.com beckysuepost@gmail.com	B:407-360-6032 B: 407-360-8316	726 Albertson Place Orlando, FL 32806
Windsor	Bob Debbie	 BobWindsor46@gmail.com	B: 407-405-6565	732 Albertson Place Orlando, FL 32806
Rymer	Lynn	 rymer58@outlook.com rymer.lynn@icloud.com librymer@gmail.com	407-399-9789	720 Albertson Place Orlando, FL 32806
Geren	Spencer Dana	 dcgfy@gmail.com	S: 407-739-2932 D: 407-375-5258	714 Albertson Place Orlando, FL 32806
Thorp	Jodi Case	 jodi@veermanandassociates.com cthorp@fpco.org	J: 407-451-6189 C: 407-451-6188	708 Albertson Place Orlando, FL 32806

Hoevenaar	Ron Yvonne	 ron@hhprintinginc.com	R: 407-619-3248 Y: 407-619-3248	630 Albertson Place Orlando, FL 32806
Sutyak	Charles Anne	* Tried 3 times. Not home. may be at mountain house. No computer	407-855-0122	624 Albertson Place Orlando, FL 32806
Galloway	Helen	 Helen.Galloway@Orlandohealth.com	407-851-1504	618 Albertson Place Orlando, FL 32806
Pensey	Joe Robin	 robinpensey@gmail.com	R: 407-748-2746	612 Albertson Place Orlando, FL 32806
Heizhausen	Fred Nikki	 No email address	F: 321-278-4693 N: 404-660-5702	606 Albertson Place Orlando, FL 32806
Osburn	Robert Marcia	 little_oz@hotmail.com	407-859-2764	600 Albertson Place Orlando, FL 32806
Tschida	Joe Darla	 DTschida1130@outlook.com	J: 47-399-7553 D: 407-399-1403	601 Albertson Place Orlando, FL 32806
Brock	Margaret		407-990-7979	607 Albertson Place Orlando, FL 32806

		Margaret.d.brock@gmail.com		
Beaty	Tom Joan	 tomandjoan57@gmail.com	T:407-342-7773	613 Albertson Place Orlando, FL 32806
Eddy	Theresa	* tried 3 times. no answer. momma1@hotmail.com	407-257-6114	619 Albertson Place Orlando, FL 32806
O'Connor	Katie		407-810-5047	625 Albertson Place Orlando, FL 32806
Mills	Kenny Jennifer	 Kennethmillsdrywall@gmail.com	K: 407-619-2301 J: 407-619-3146	631 Albertson Place Orlando, FL 32806
Dowdell	Scott Buffy	 sd454ss@yahoo.com buffydowdell@yahoo.com	B: 407-929-3494	703 Alhertson Place Orlando, FL 32806
Burke	John Renee	* work for orange county. not comfortable signing although they support this effort. burke709@gmail.com rdnburke@gmail.com	J: 407-3256792 R: 407-443-8451	709 Albertson Place Orlando, FL 32806
Scarpinato	Steven Hope	 steven.scarpinato@gmail.com mhopescarpinato@gmail.com	S: 321-402-4115 MH: 407-405-3570	715 Albertson Place Orlando, FL 32806

Hulcher	Nancy	 Nphulcher@aol.com	407-495-9211	721 Albertson Place Orlando, FL 32806
Lewis	Judy	 jlewis430@icloud.com	407-399-8492	727 Albertson Place Orlando, FL 32806
Fisher	Travis Amy	christophifisher@gmail.com amyrfisher77@gmail.com	T: 407-236-6384 A: 407-914-7003	733 Albertson Place Orlando, FL 32806
Silva	Robert	 robhoats1992@yahoo.com		739 Albertson Place Orlando, FL 32806

Neighbors on Lillian Dr. directly behind us:

Jordan Alexander
Ann White
Bob Bandy
Kaye Lowe
Alexandra Thorp
Annette Dehlinger
Charmon Shuford
TAL SHUFORD
Carson Shuford
Wyatt Shuford
Jessica Burden
David Burden
Joey Blakley
Jessi Blakley

Janet Pyraobe
Don White
Bob Bandy
Kaye Lowe
Alexandra Thorp
Annette Dehlinger
Charmon Shuford
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Don White
Bob Bandy
Kaye Lowe
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