



Interoffice Memorandum

AGENDA ITEM

February 18, 2021

TO: Mayor Jerry L. Demings
— AND —
County Commissioners

FROM: Jon V. Weiss, P.E., Director
Planning, Environmental, and Development
Services Department

CONTACT PERSON: **Lori Forsman, LEED GA, Sustainability Programs
Manager, Planning Division
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SUBJECT: March 9, 2021 – Work Session
Residential Backyard Chicken Program

There has been a national movement towards local foods and urban agriculture as communities and individuals have become more aware of the many nutritional and educational benefits, along with concepts of a healthier and more sustainable lifestyle.

The 2018 Mayor Demings Transition Team Report included a recommendation to "Cultivate a Local Food Economy through promotion and reducing regulatory barriers." The County was encouraged to be a leader in the area by adopting a holistic approach to local foods and to be more responsive to consumer preferences of local growing and sustainable sourcing. This topic of local foods is addressed at a very high level in FLU 6.1.12 of the Orange County Comprehensive Plan along with a few strategies for planning and implementation in the 2015 Sustainable Orange County Plan.

Currently, a cross-departmental team of staff is working on a healthy food initiative, which includes steps towards reducing barriers, identifying areas of opportunity, and reviewing the work of other cities and counties. Considering a Residential Backyard Chicken Program is one of the first steps in this initiative. Although this program was previously reviewed by the Board in 2013 and 2016, there have been recent request from residents to consider this program, once again.

At the work session, staff will highlight previous efforts, alignment with community goals, and an overview of proposed program standards and requirements should the Board desire to establish a Residential Backyard Chicken Program for

unincorporated Orange County. Establishment of the program would require changes to Chapter 38 of Orange County Code which would be amended via an ordinance at a future public hearing.

This item is for informational purposes only; no action is required.

JVW/LF/fb

- c: Byron W. Brooks, AICP, County Administrator
Chris Testerman, AICP, Deputy County Administrator
Jennifer Moreau, Manager, Zoning Division
Jason Reynolds, Manager, Neighborhood Services Division
Jeff Benavides, Chief Sustainability and Resilience Officer
Kevin Camm, Manager, IFAS Cooperative Extension Office