

A Motion For The Arlington County Civic Federation

Resolution Regarding Proposed Changes to the County Zoning Ordinance Affecting
Livestock and Poultry in Single-Family Residential Districts

WHEREAS Arlington County Government has formed a task force on urban agriculture that may likely include findings and recommendations regarding the raising livestock and poultry in Arlington; and

WHEREAS the current zoning ordinance for R5, R6, R8, R10, and R20 zoned properties requires that the raising, housing, or sale of livestock and poultry must be maintained at a distance of no less than 100 feet from any street or lot line; and

WHEREAS a substantial effort is underway by members of the Arlington Egg Project advocating relaxation of such poultry provisions of the code to permit residential "backyard chickens" for the purposes of locally producing chicken eggs; and

WHEREAS relaxation of such restrictions on livestock or poultry would likely result in impacts on neighboring properties and, according to the U.S. Center for Disease Control, would like likely introduce disease vectors such as (in the case of chickens) salmonella; and

WHEREAS materials such as excess chicken mash (feed), nesting straw, and droppings may pollute rainwater runoff, attract rodents, and spread noxious odors; and

WHEREAS the County Board did not appoint a Civic Federation representative to the aforementioned task force, therefore representation of the Civic Federation's position on the relaxation of residential zoning ordinances should be expeditiously adopted to advise the County Board and the task force;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Arlington County Civic Federation is opposed to relaxing the current restrictions in the Arlington County residential zoning ordinance that relate to the raising, housing, or sale of livestock or poultry.

Submitted by Jim Pebley on 4//3/12