



CITY COUNCIL MEMORANDUM

FROM: The Office of the City Manager **DATE:** November 13, 2023

SUBJECT: Consider Ordinance No. 3825 Amending the North Richland Hills Code of Ordinances Chapter 14, Animals, to modify Article XIII, Section 14-442, add Article XVI for the Keeping of Backyard Chickens on residential properties within the City of North Richland Hills, and amending Chapter 34, Article II, Section 34-33 to declare specific nuisances.

PRESENTER: Stefanie Martinez, Director of Neighborhood Services

SUMMARY:

Over the last few months, a number of North Richland Hills residents have come before City Council making requests and providing suggestions on amending the City Codes to allow the keeping and raising of chickens on residential properties.

City staff has met with the Backyard Chickens of NRH group and individuals who are in favor of amending the ordinance as well as those who are against changing the current ordinance that allows one agricultural animal per acre on properties zoned AG or R-1-S.

City staff has drafted a proposed ordinance for City Council review and consideration to amend the current City Code which will allow for the keeping of Backyard Chickens on residential properties in the City of North Richland Hills.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

The items below generally describe the amendment to Section 14-442 as well as the newly established Article XVI of Chapter 14, Animals in the City of North Richland Hills Code of Ordinances:

- Clarifies the proper lot size for the keeping of Livestock as well as the number of Backyard Chickens allowed per acre of land.
- Creates definitions in this Article for Backyard Chicken, Chicken Coop, Exercise Area, Nesting Box and Rooster.
- Establishes permit requirements, and an application and inspection process for properties which will keep and raise Backyard Chickens.



- Establishes that a Chicken Coop and attached Exercise Area are required for the keeping and raising of Backyard Chickens to include the size and placement of such.
- Establishes the sanitary conditions required for the keeping and raising of Backyard Chickens.
- Establishes the allowed number of Backyard Chickens and distance from neighboring occupied structures.
- Establishes a review timeframe of four (4) years to re-evaluate the ordinance.

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve Ordinance No. 3825.