



CITY COUNCIL MEMORANDUM

FROM: The Office of the City Manager **DATE:** October 14, 2024

SUBJECT: Discussion to consider revision of Ordinance No. 3825 restating and adopting 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, removing the previously stated sunset provision of November 30, 2025

PRESENTER: Stefanie Martinez, Director of Neighborhood Services

SUMMARY:

Staff will update Council on the current status of Ordinance 3825, more commonly known as “the Backyard Chicken Ordinance,” including a recommendation to consider setting aside the current 2025 sunset provision.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

In the Fall of 2023 in response to citizen requests for new city codes allowing the keeping and raising of chickens on residential properties, Ordinance 3825 was adopted. At that time the ordinance established a provision to review the ordinance for effectiveness by November 30, 2025.

Since passage of the ordinance 27 Backyard Chicken permits have been issued, and 7 complaints have been filed regarding violations of the Backyard Chicken Ordinance. Of these violations, 5 have been resolved.

The items below generally describe the key points of Ordinance 3825:

- Clarified the approved lot size for the keeping of Livestock as well as the number of Backyard Chickens allowed per acre of land.
- Created definitions for Backyard Chicken, Chicken Coop, Exercise Area, Nesting Box and Rooster.
- Established permit requirements and an application process for properties that keep and raise Backyard Chickens.



- Established that a Chicken Coop and attached Exercise Area are required for the keeping and raising of Backyard Chickens including the size and placement of such.
- Established the sanitary conditions required for the keeping and raising of Backyard Chickens.
- Established the allowed number of Backyard Chickens and distance from neighboring occupied structures.