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CITY OF DANA POINT
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT

Mayor Olvera and Council Members:

Thank you so very much for putting the Chicken Issue on the April 7th Agenda.

You already have a multitude of information that has been submitted to the city. However, as my last written communication to you, there are several things that I have realized need to be addressed:

Fact: We are not asking for anything different from what many towns/cities across America already have in place. These municipalities have found that, in general, allowing a given number of backyard hens does NOT cause problems - if problems do occur they are few and far between and do not become an expensive burden for the cities. Also, they have not found having chickens stimulates people to constantly be asking for goats, pigs etc. Please remember that chickens are not defined as being livestock – they are of the Poultry family and in the proposed code change are well identified, even excluding other types of fowl. If other animals are asked to be allowed – the answer is simply – no livestock or fowl other than chickens (hens).

Please keep in mind, in comparison to the number of households that have dogs and cats – a very small number of households want the right to own up to six chickens - which, as the Environmental Impact Report supports, would have no negative impacts. When you cross out the number of areas in our city that are controlled by Homeowner's Associations which wouldn't allow hens, and realize the high variety of lot configurations in our city that may deter the ability to have hens, we are not looking at anything overwhelming about having hens. For example: In my personal case, there is not one family around my entire block, excepting the Georges who complained, that does not support being able to have backyard chickens – they are supporting private property rights including the continued variety of uses for their set back areas– I doubt there is one of them that actually wants to get chickens – but they want the option to do so, if they so choose. That is really what this is all about!

During the last year and a half, I have tried very hard not to be critical of other people. I was just going for what I believe should be our right to have a given number of hens on our own private property. However, at this point and time I have to, for the sake of my supporters, actually tell it like it is - The reality of the entire situation happens to be: the Georges, my neighbors who complained, were the ONLY NEGATIVE VOICE heard from for OVER A YEAR – then they panicked because their reasoning was being shot down by truths from knowledgeable people (a veterinarian, for one) - so they rounded up friends to support them at the 2nd Planning Commission meeting and have been conducting a propaganda campaign ever since. My belief is that the truth will prevail – the Environmental Impact Report and the other research done by the city Planning department that produced very positive information should be honored. My support has come from not only the people in my neighborhood, but people from all over Dana Point that I never knew before they contacted me or just appeared at meetings.-----Please do not allow scare tactics and bullying to influence you. Protecting our rights that we didn't even know we had lost through cityhood, is extremely

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important to your constituents. Need I again remind you, the whole town is not seeking to have hens, but are people standing up for their rights – rights that so many city Americans enjoy. Thank you for understanding my need to express these thoughts/ facts to you.