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MAR 31 2015

CITY OF DANA POINT
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT

Dear Ursula and Erika,

At this point I feel very obligated to many of my supporters – to the extent that I ask you to give the following careful consideration along with remembering that I am forever grateful for all the time, energy and expense you went to, to develop an suitable ordinance change.

However, first of all, I need to state my original intent when I began pursuing an ordinance change to allow up to six chickens on single residential property. My intent was to have the code changed to allow the citizens of Dana Point the option to have or not have hens.

Having said that – we started out, after much research, asking for up to six chickens and coops 25 feet from neighboring homes. ----- that got changed to 35 feet from neighboring homes, which knocked a large number of residents out of the ability to have chickens because of their lot configurations.----- Many other things were dictated in the proposed code change that were very attainable (such as sanitary standards, size of coops etc.) BUT, the item added saying 5 foot setbacks could not be used, blew the whole purpose of an ordinance change out the window for over 95 % of the families in Dana Point.

I (we) humbly ask that the 5 foot (many already only have 3 foot setbacks depending upon when they were built) setback requirement be removed from the suggested ordinance change for the following reasons:

The setbacks in Dana Point are currently used for trees/shrubs/, gardens, hardscape, pool sheds, garden sheds, storage sheds, greenhouses, air conditioning units attached to the outside of homes etc. etc. etc. Should the city ever have to utilize the easements (setbacks) for things like the installation of underground wiring etc, then the homeowner is going to have to temporarily remove whatever they are using their land for at that time (the city has easements, but we own the land). Coops should be no different from all the other current uses.

Agenda Item No. 25
April 7, 2015

The fact of the matter is – the closer a coop can be to a lot line fence, the better sound barrier you will have – rather than having 5 feet of air space to carry sound (although the decimal level of sound is quite low). The ordinance requires coops be kept in good sanitary condition, so the argument of smells being carried to the neighbor because of coop placement would be eliminated because there cannot be smells anyway.

We need to think of the whole picture – Please eliminate this small part of the proposed ordinance change, therefore enabling more residents to have hens,

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nancy". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Nancy C. Weagley