

Daniel Bursuck - We Love our Backyard Chickens

From: Amanda Gormley <gormley.amanda@gmail.com>
To: <Daniel.Bursuck@tucsonaz.gov>
Date: 10/03/2017 9:03 PM
Subject: We Love our Backyard Chickens

Daniel,

My name is Amanda Gormley, and I live in Casas Adobes, within the Tucson city limits. I have had the pleasure of keeping backyard chickens as permitted by the Urban Agriculture rules since late in 2015. My family has four chickens, and we love that the City of Tucson has permitted chicken husbandry. Not only are Buttercup, Taylor, Baba and Una our pets, they also provide a reliable, healthy source of fresh eggs that we enjoy at home and share with our friends and co-workers. My favorite part of being a chicken owner is that we've noticed a marked decrease in the number of mosquitos and other bugs in our yard. I strongly recommend that the Planning Commission make the Urban Agricultural rules regarding backyard chickens permanent.

Thank you,

Amanda Gormley

From: Dan Imblum <dandog_1@yahoo.com>
To: <Daniel.Bursuck@tucsonaz.gov>
Date: 10/03/2017 10:08 PM
Subject: Chickens

Sir, please support urban chicken keeping in Tucson.

Sent from my iPad

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Daniel Bursuck - Chickens in Tucson

From: Rachael Colley <rachaelscolley@gmail.com>
To: <Daniel.Bursuck@tucsonaz.gov>
Date: 10/03/2017 8:52 PM
Subject: Chickens in Tucson

Dear Mr. Bursuck,

I wanted to write to encourage you to allow the new backyard chicken keeping rules to remain in effect after the last day of 2017. The new rules have really made the difference for Tucson residents in their ability to legally keep chickens. Our lot and the placement of the surrounding houses made it impossible to have hens prior to the new law, without tearing down well-established shade trees. Although we did not take advantage of the 20-foot requirement, we are at 35 feet from our neighbors with no complaints. In fact, we are able to share eggs with our neighbors, the children in the neighborhood have had quite a few science lessons in our yard thanks to chickens and my children love learning and practicing responsibility in caring for them. We are a low-income family, and the privilege to have protein from our own hens much cheaper than what is available at the store is a real blessing. Two of my neighbors also have hens, and none of us has ever had a complaint. We all keep up with the sanitary conditions, all hens are in good health and I believe that in some small ways our street has become more of a community because of them, both in the interest the surrounding kids have and in sharing the eggs with each other. We all have predator-proof enclosures for our hens at night, so we are not inviting coyotes in for a snack. Thank you in advance for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Rachael Colley

Daniel Bursuck - RE: Urban Agriculture Rules

From: "Rodney @ Ace" <ace22chicks@gmail.com>
To: Daniel Bursuck <Daniel.Bursuck@tucsonaz.gov>, "beautiful4freedom@gmail.c...
Date: 10/03/2017 9:46 PM
Subject: RE: Urban Agriculture Rules

Dear Mr. Bursuck,

I am the keeper of the baby chick program at Ace Hardware at 22nd and Kolb here in Tucson. The program provides chicks, supplies and information to customers who intend to do back yard egg production. The Urban Agriculture Rules as adopted by the City Council have made it much clearer as to how to do this legally, which before was at times very confusing. Good fences make good neighbors, and the Rules make it so much easier to understand what is allowed and what is not. I hope that the Planning Commission will recommend that the sunset clause now included in the Rules will be removed. Ace stands behind the backyard chicken community to help any way we can. Please call on us if we can provide any additional information.

Thank you,
 Rodney Boudreaux
 Ace Hardware Customer Service
[520-747-9473](tel:520-747-9473)

Sent from my Windows 10 phone

From: [Daniel Bursuck](#)
Sent: Monday, October 2, 2017 8:22 AM
To: [Rodney Boudreaux](#)
Subject: Re: Urban Agriculture Rules

Hi Rodney,

Thanks for reaching out. Sorry for the delay in the response, I was out of the office last week for training.

The Urban Agriculture sunset date item is scheduled for a public hearing in front of the Planning Commission on October 11th. I had sent out a notification related to a few weeks ago, but perhaps I have the wrong email address for you. Additionally, we still have the Mayor and Council Public Hearing once we make it through the Planning Commission. If you would like to send in letters of support you can just send them to me, and I will document them and distribute them to the Planning Commission, and eventually to the Mayor and Council.

If you have any additional questions, feel free to email me or give me a call at 837-4984.

Thank you,

Dan

>>> Rodney Boudreaux <ace22chicks@gmail.com> 09/27/2017 11:29 AM >>>
 Hello Daniel,

Rodney Boudreaux from Tucson CLUCKS, just following up on our July conversation about the sunset clause in the Urban Agriculture Rules. Any idea when this might be coming up for approval? You mentioned letters of support; is there an email address we can send them to?
Thanks!

On Fri, Jul 7, 2017 at 3:19 PM, Daniel Bursuck <Daniel.Bursuck@tucsonaz.gov> wrote:

Hi Rodney,

We are currently getting ready to bring this back for a code amendment to remove the following portion with the sunset clause and to seek permanent adoption of the rules:

"SECTION 11 . The amendments to the Unified Development Code and Tucson Code, Animals and Fowl, hereby adopted pursuant to Sections 1 through 10 of this Ordinance, shall expire and cease to be effective on January 9, 2018; unless extended by the Mayor and Council by a separate ordinance. If not extended, the sections shall revert to the language as it existed prior to the adoption of this Ordinance. The purpose of this sunset clause is to give the City the opportunity to decide whether to continue to implement the amended and added requirements or to revert to those existing prior to this Ordinance."

Since adoption, PDSD has had only positive interactions with Code Enforcement on this and has helped families to keep their fowl.

It is our plan to have this back in front of the Planning Commission in the Fall for the removal of the sunset date. Additionally, as Carolyn has stated, if you would like to provide a letter of support for the removal of the sunset clause and the urban agriculture ordinance in general, it would be helpful.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you,

Dan Bursuck
Lead Planner
Planning & Development Services
City of Tucson
[520.837.4984](tel:520.837.4984)
Daniel.Bursuck@tucsonaz.gov

>>> Carolyn Laurie 07/07/2017 11:33 AM >>>
Hi, Rodney.

Thank you for follow up with us on this item. Dan Bursuck will respond to you on this item as he is currently working on the UDC text amendments.

I can tell you that the ordinance has been positive for the community and we have had very few concerns. The ordinance has absolutely helped property owners.

Once the item is moved forward for reconsideration, it maybe helpful to send a letter of support as Clucks did during the lengthy public process in 2015.

Best regards,

Carolyn Laurie

>>> Rodney Boudreaux <ace22chicks@gmail.com> 07/07/2017 9:02 AM >>>

Hello Carolyn, Merrill Eisenberg suggested I contact you. I am a member of Tucson Clucks on fb, and we are aware that the Urban Ag rules have some sort of sunset clause that is due to end at the close of this year. Do you all propose to seek permanent adoption of the rules? Have there been any complaints or problems with regard to poultry? Is there anything we can do to help?

Thank you.

Rodney Boudreaux

[520-499-9898](tel:520-499-9898)

ace22chicks@gmail.com

From: Stefanie Lischer Liers <stefanie@insight-healing.com>
To: <daniel.bursuck@tucsonaz.gov>
Date: 10/03/2017 11:21 PM
Subject: Planning Commission/Council meeting

Dear Mr. Bursuck,

I am writing to you regarding the upcoming meeting(s) on keeping chickens in the city limits. I lived in midtown for many years and owned chickens for the last 3 years. I never had any issue with noise, health or other concerns for myself or from neighbors. In fact two or three other neighbors went on to get some chickens of their own.

Chickens help control insects, even mosquitos, help the soil by adding nitrogen and are friendly little pets. My garden and family have benefitted over the years from our chickens. And neighbors occasionally get eggs~

Please consider keeping the rules such that allows us to continue to keep chickens in our yards in Tucson.

Thank you!
Sincerely,
Stefanie Lischer Liers

Sent from my iPhone

Daniel Bursuck - Urban Agriculture Rules

From: Stephen Whetherhult <skwhetherhult@gmail.com>
To: <Daniel.Bursuck@tucsonaz.gov>
Date: 10/03/2017 9:34 PM
Subject: Urban Agriculture Rules

Dear Mr. Bursuck,

My name is Stephen Whetherhult and I live at 6802 E 12th St. Tucson, AZ, 85710. It is has been brought to my attention that the planning commission and the city council will soon be holding hearings about whether or not to make the current incarnation of the Urban Agriculture Rules permanent. Here is my story;

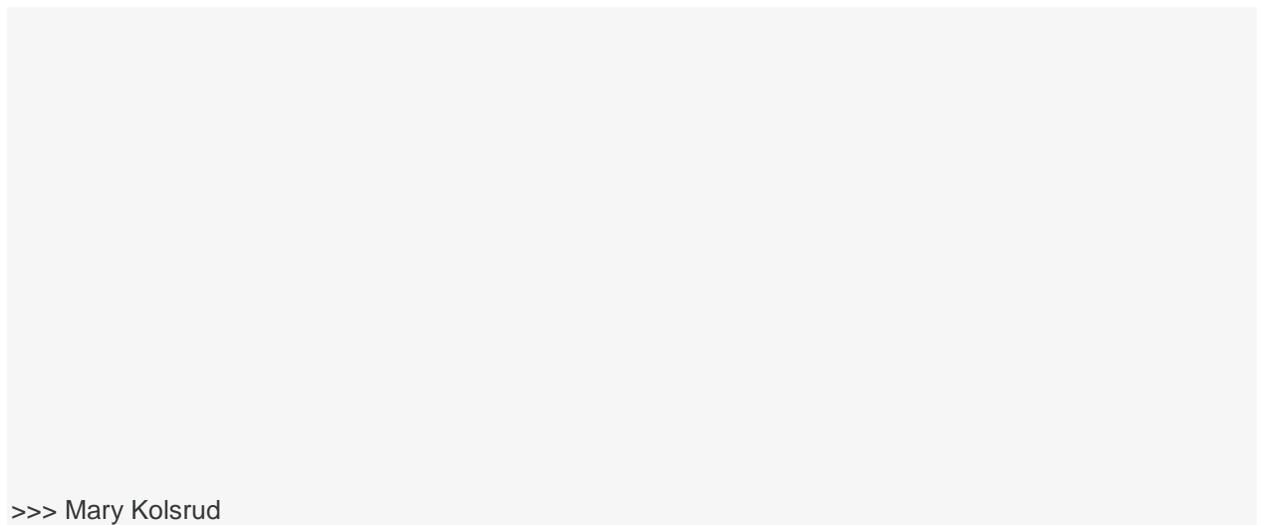
For the last year I have been raising backyard chickens in accordance with the Urban Agriculture Rules. We currently have 4 chickens. These animals are every bit a part of our family as our dog and cats. We have found them to enrich our lives greatly. In addition to being wonderful pets they have proven a useful learning tool in our daughters life, in fact she is planning a science project based on the chickens for her schools science fair. Furthermore our chickens provide our family and friends with a reliable healthy protein source, a nitrogen high balanced fertilizer (for use in our vegetable and herb gardens), an additional way to recycle our green kitchen waste, and an efficient means of pest control. These are nature's wunderkinds and have replaced, in our household, many store bought, artificial products. The chickens are our family and they have changed our lives for the better, I couldn't imagine life without them now. We sincerely hope the planning commission will recommend to keep the new rules permanent.

Thank you for your time and consideration,
Stephen

>>> Sherry <saletson@aol.com> 10/04/17 15:31 >>>

Mr. Bursuck, I am writing to you in support of the new, more lax rules concerning keeping chickens inside Tucson city limits. I am a new urban chicken "farmer" and love having fresh eggs every day for myself and friends. I have 6 chickens in my enclosed coop and run. I clean up the poop twice daily...no flies, no stink. I told both of my adjoining neighbors that I have chickens. They had no idea because they haven't ever been bothered by their presence. Also, I found it interesting that both neighbors said that they had grown up with chickens which I am finding to be true of many city dwellers. I just want to add my voice in support of keeping the new, more lax rules concerning urban agriculture here in Tucson. Thanks for your time. Sheryl Letson

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone



>>> Mary Kolsrud
10/05/17 05:21 >>>

Dear City Council,

I am a public school educator, mom, and hobby farmer living within city limits at 8605 E. Tanque Verde Road. My pet chickens continue to be source of delight and relaxation for myself and my family. My students and my own children have learned important lessons about where their food comes from, respecting animals, and responsibility in caring for them. My neighbors and coworkers love the beautiful, multicolored eggs my hens provide, and knowing they are humanely kept makes them taste even better! Please keep the current zoning ordinance in place, so more folks can enjoy the privilege of keeping urban chickens.

Thank you,
Mary Kolsrud
Principal
Cragin Elementary School

Sent from my iPhone

>>> "Marjolaine Deslauriers" <HometeamTucson@cox.net> 10/04/17 12:58 >>>

Dan,

I am 100% in favor to make the current backyard chicken keeping rules stay in affect. We are not affected if the rules change even though we are in the city we are on enough land to continue to keep our chickens. However I feel that these rules and guidelines have allowed many others that are not in my situation to have chickens. Chicken keeping is much more then a few pets for us, keeping our own chickens allows our daughter with allergies to be able to consume eggs since we can control what the chickens are fed. Do you realize everything that requires an egg to make? Have you ever had a birthday cake made with no eggs, it's terrible and we can tell you that first hand. They have allowed us to eliminate pest control with pesticides as they handle most of the bugs around our home, we keep more items out of the landfill since our food waste is fed to the chickens first and the remains are composted for the fruits and vegetables we grow. We have been able to become our own sustainable backyard garden/chicken home right in the middle of the city without bothering a single soul. Chicken keeping is so much more then many people are aware of. This is a way of life for people with and without allergies. raising our chickens has made a better quality of life for all of us. We have 6 kids and I have to admit we are fortunate and have great kids, and the chickens have even become an excitement to their friends. We have kids at school taht want to come over and see the chickens, collect eggs, hold a chicken, etc., and I am talking kids in high school not little kids. My 16 year old has kids that have never seen a brown egg, much less a blue or green. Backyard chicken keeping is healthy, beneficial, teaches responsibility, accountability, and humility. Have you ever watched a chicken hatch and watch it from birth until adulthood? It is honestly like watching a kid grow up in fast forward, from barely being able to move to walk, run, fly, through the age of puberty into a grouchy old lady that wants her meal at the same time every morning. I hope the city does what is right and allows the rules to be permanent

Thank you in advance
Marjolaine Deslauriers
[520-331-0273](tel:520-331-0273)

>>> Jennifer Peters <jenniferpeters@mac.com> 10/04/17 16:25 >>>

Dear Mr. Bursuck,

I am writing in support of the current rules that allow chicken keeping in the City of Tucson. We are homeowners of 13 years in the City of Tucson, Mitman Neighborhood. We have had backyard chickens since early 2017. I would like to convey my strong feeling that being able to keep chickens is a healthy, community-building, and positive activity for our family and our neighborhood. My immediate neighbors have no issues with our chickens, and in fact they are a source of mild curiosity and interesting conversation, and of course an opportunity to share healthy, humane, organic eggs!

Keeping backyard chickens is also an excellent activity for our nine-year old son. We actually became interested in chickens after helping to take care of them at our son's TUSD elementary school. Chickens have been a lovely after school and weekend activity for enjoyment and learning the value of taking care of animals in a conscious and sustainable way.

I am very happy to be able to have a natural routine in taking care of our chickens. We invested about \$1000 into building our own coop for the backyard, and it is structurally sound, attractive, and clean. The gentle clucking of the chickens is far preferable to my ears than the barking of neighborhood dogs sometimes! Having the benefit of fresh, healthy, humane eggs makes me proud of my family's endeavors to care for these small animals that give us so much.

I truly hope that the City of Tucson Council members take into consideration the investment, enjoyment, and community connections that responsible chicken keeping has allowed to flourish in our neighborhoods. Please make the more permissive rules PERMANENT and keep Tucson moving forward in being a sustainable, responsible, and conscious city.

Thank you very much for your time and attention.

Jennifer Peters
5511 E, Rosewood Street
Tucson, AZ 85711

10/04/17 18:20 >>>

I'm writing to you sitting in our home, an up and coming urban farm near Tucson Blvd and Grant across from the Kingfisher restaurant called AquaGreenGoUrban Farm. My dream for years to provide fresh local food and eggs finally came to fruition when the urban ag rules were passed. We fought diligently to be able to get to this point and our dreams have come true. Attached are pictures of our greatest project to date, zoning gave us the go ahead to continue to the next step, and even Clayton is beyond excited to help our project reach it's goal Due to the rules in place now we actually have a fighting chance to achieve our dreams, otherwise shot down due to it being "commercial" . We have chickens, fruit trees, fresh tilapia and much more on our almost 3/4's of an acre. The rules in place help all of us in Tucson be more resilient, and less of a food desert. Please consider continuing the rules in place to help many of us provide food and make it easier to do so for our communities. We have the capability of being self sufficient if given the proper rules to do so. I hope you will consider extending these to the future and beyond for our wonderful town. Together we can do THIS!

Thank you,

Jake Ginburg and Rebecca Graham Aqua Green Go Urban Farm [520-991-8795](tel:520-991-8795)
Sent from my Sprint Samsung Galaxy Note8.



Jake Ginsburg

Rebecca Graham

AquaGreenGoFarm

Mission Statement

Aqua Green Go farm will provide fresh vegetables, fruit, eggs, and fish for our neighborhood and beyond. To ensure Urban Agriculture guidelines, Arizona Game and Fish, FDA, and USDA regulations are met we have been doing research and development for the past 5 years with aquaponics and gardening at a small scale on our property. We are feeling confident in our knowledge & experience and are ready to grow more food. To do this we are proposing a medium size aquaponic sunken greenhouse on the eastern portion of our lot.

Aquaponics use 90 percent less water than traditional soil methods of growing and make sense for our arid region. We will also be creating an edible food forest and gardens throughout since the back lot is currently undeveloped. We currently have 4 hens, and 19 chicks, many gardens and fruit trees. Our neighbors/family/friends have been enjoying the eggs/produce we share with them. We would love for you to consider having this Urban Farm within city limits and allowing our dream to come to fruition. We are looking at sustainable construction methods as a showcase to our community of what can be achieved. We would like to share the methods with others during this process by being a demonstration site. We would love our area to become more resilient instead of a food desert. If we can all agree on this becoming an Urban Farm we will be getting registered with Arizona Dept of Revenue, and City of Tucson for business licenses.

Thank you for your consideration,

AquaGreenGoFarm



REBECCA GRAHAM
Owner - Chicken Wrangler - Farm Mother

BUILDING COMMUNITY THROUGH TEAM EFFORTS

Community involvement from the beginning is a top priority. Barn raising efforts & workshops will bring the neighborhood together teaching new skills, sharing the surplus and making new friends.

JAKE GINSBURG trailbus1@yahoo.com
Builder - Aquaponics Expert - Gardener - Visionary/owner

RAY CLAMONS rayclamons@gmail.com
Architecture & Landscape Designer - Builder - Sustainability



SUSTAINABLE MATERIALS

A
Q
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N

POLYCARBONATE

WOOD JOISTS

STRAW BALES

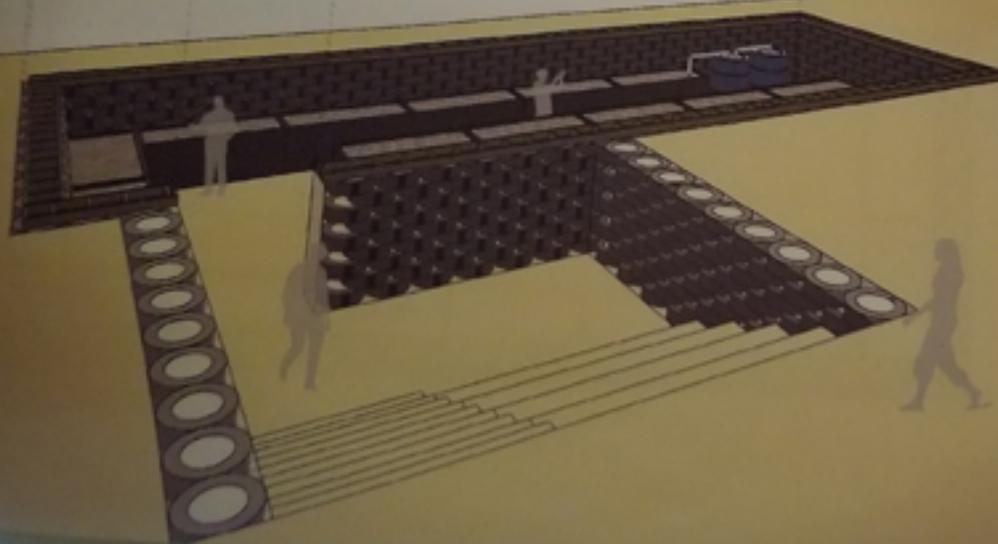
TIRES

EARTH

100 sf
CHICKEN
HOUSE

G
O

F
A
R
M



Above board all the way

URBAN AGRICULTURE

- Complies with distance to neighbors
- Complies with number of Animals per lot - Chickens only
- Complies with sales, packaging & distribution regulations



SUBTERRANEAN AQUAPONIC GREENHOUSE

1

Designed to meet
prescriptive codes for
New Mexico Tire Code and
IRC 2012 Strawbale Appendix

2

Aquaponics greenhouse
produces vegetables
and fish to sustain the
family and sell surplus
at market

3

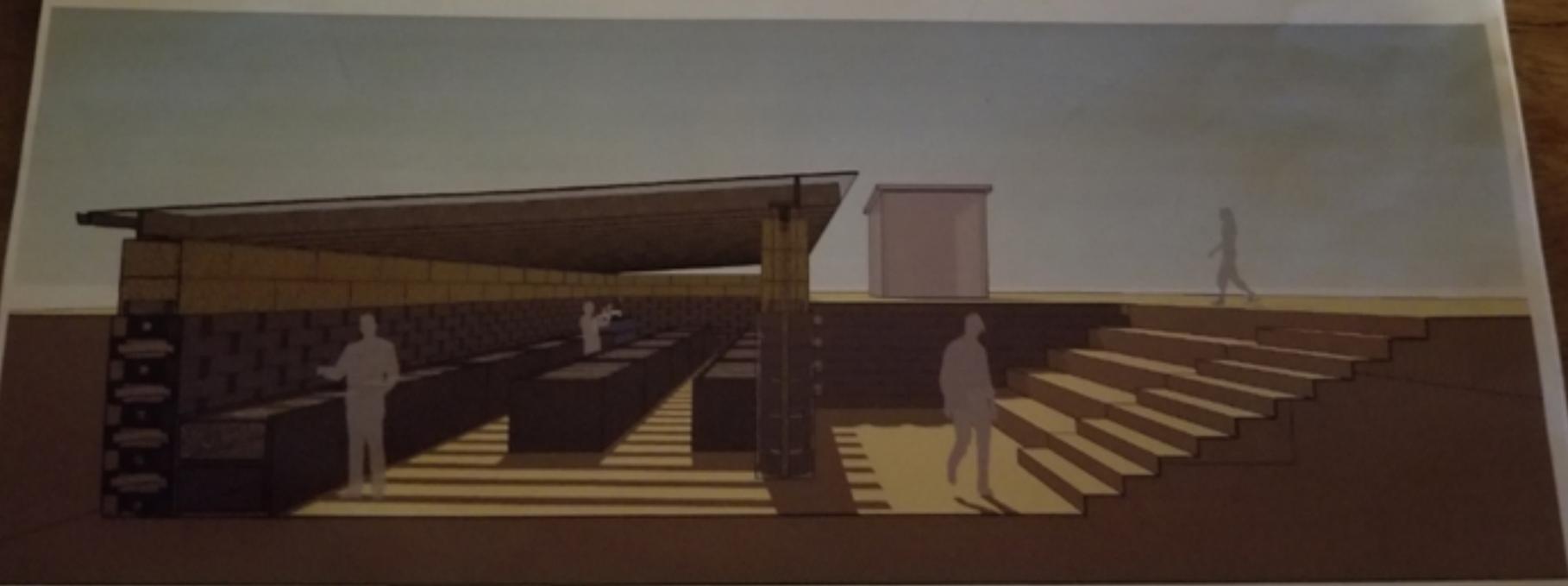
Being 6' below ground
minimizes mechanical
heating & cooling



SUBTERRANEAN AQUAPONIC GREENHOUSE

AQUAgreenGO FARM

A RESILIENT COMMUNITY FOOD SOURCE



>>> Sara Hammond <sarahammondpr@msn.com> 10/05/17 13:09 >>>

Dear Mr. Bursuck,

I received written notification about the upcoming sunset date review of the Urban Agriculture Ordinance because I'm secretary of my Neighborhood Association. I went to the website and looked at the data and was pleased to see that complaints since the ordinance was adopted by Mayor and Council have declined considerably.

We are chicken keepers and we are very supportive of the updated ordinance. We want to encourage the Planning Commission to remove the sunset clause and allow the ordinance to remain in force and in effect.

Clearly the ordinance update was needed to encourage healthy eating and all of the other benefits that chickens and other small animals provide. Our chickens -- fed only organic feed -- provide healthy eggs, eat kitchen scraps that are not so spoiled to be composted, delight in the grubs and other bugs that my husband unearths when he tills our garden and are beloved by our neighbors who love hearing their clucks. And we love having our neighborhood children visit our girls.

So here are two voices in support of allowing the City of Tucson's Urban Agriculture Ordinance to remain in force without a sunset provision.

Sincerely,
Sara Hammond
David Fales
Ward 3

>>> Merrill Eisenberg <eisenberg.merrill@gmail.com> 10/09/17 09:53 >>>

October 9, 2017

Dear Mr. Bursuck,

We are former members of the Urban Agriculture Task Force, who toiled for many hours back in 2013/14 to help craft the Urban Agriculture UDC amendments that are currently up for sunset review. We are writing today to support the staff recommendation to remove the sunset date of January 9, 2018 and keep the rules in place.

The Urban Agriculture Task Force was created to address neighborhood concerns about a draft code that was created as part of the Sustainable Code Project. Unfortunately, some Task Force members were adamant that allowing small food producing animals in Tucson backyards would create a plethora of problems at the neighborhood level that would require code enforcement. The two-year sunset clause was added as a compromise to allow time to determine if these dire outcomes would actually occur. We are pleased to hear that none of the concerns have come to pass – code enforcement complaints have decreased rather than increased as had been predicted by some Task Force members.

The ordinance has had many positive outcomes that are difficult to quantify but are evident. Urban food production appears to be on the rise, with many restaurants now featuring locally grown ingredients, and the growth of Tucson City Living Urban Chicken Keeping Society (CLUCKS - the backyard animal keeping Facebook group for Tucson area backyard chicken enthusiasts) to over 4000 members. Farmers markets and community gardens have proliferated as well. Best of all, there have been no instances of a chicken keeper being required to stop backyard egg production since the ordinance was passed. Previously one or two families per year were required to dismantle their egg operations after investing considerable resources to support it.

With no negative consequences and many positive ones, we are happy to support the staff's recommendation to remove the sunset date and let the ordinance stand.

Thank you for all of the hard work you and your colleagues have put in on the urban agriculture code amendments.

Sincerely,

Merrill Eisenberg
3001 E Drachman Street
Tucson AZ 85716

Alice Roe
2318 E Elm St
Tucson AZ 85719

Cathy Blough
1835 S Ceylon
Tucson AZ 85748

Lorien Tersey
3227 E Glenn
Tucson AZ 85716

>>> Laney I Ziegler <laneyziegler@gmail.com> 10/09/17 16:35 >>>

Good afternoon,

I wanted to take a minute to tell you about how having chickens has helped my family. But first some background information to help you understand the significance of our situation. My son is on the autism spectrum and bipolar; he was socially inept, was unable to remember to take care of his own daily needs, and had violent outbursts that made school difficult and as puberty approached we worried about how to help him understand the changes that were coming. As parents we planned for the eventual time when we would not be there to care for him, we bought a home within walking distance to grocery stores close to bus stops and hoped to find a way to help him fit into societies expectations. I stumbled across an article about chickens as therapy animals thus beginning the chicken ownership we now enjoy.

Since we acquired the chickens our son has learned about daily care and that rewards are not instant, he learned that as living beings mature they go through changes and is making the connection between his own growth and the changes of the chickens as they reach an age to lay eggs. He has learned to speak to people he is not familiar with in daily life about his chickens and offers eggs to those who ask about the possibility of purchase. He has learned to moderate his emotions better because he would scare his favorite hen with erratic movements and as he learned to moderate his behavior he was better able to focus in school and has gone from grades of D's and F's to grades of A's and B's. He has learned about recycle and conservation as he uses the kitchen scraps to add to the diet of his hens and uses their waste to compost and donate to a local garden group that has many community gardens around town.

The end result is my son is excelling beyond our most hopeful expectations and this change happened because we were able to have chickens under the sunset clause, if this clause is removed we will no longer be able to have our hens and I am unsure of how to replace the benefits that we have experienced from our backyard flock.

All behaviors and changes have been documented by the professionals who provide support and services to my son.

Thank you for taking the time to read my story and know how important the sunset clause is in our lives.

Kathryn Test-Ziegler

>>> Amy <amy.beson@gmail.com> 10/09/17 14:13 >>>

I'm writing in support of the current rules regarding chicken keeping.

I've had a small backyard flock of five birds for one year now and I've received no complaints. The ability to keep chickens has enriched our lives and has been a learning experience for both myself and my kiddo. I urge you to maintain the current setback of 20 ft vs. 50 ft.

Thanks,
Amy Beson
[520.331.4552](tel:520.331.4552)
Ward 5

>>> Brittany Lockwood <bbl.designer@live.com> 10/10/17 13:47 >>>

Good Afternoon Daniel,

My name is Brittany Lockwood. My family and I reside in East Tucson in the Corbett Neighborhood. Zip 85711

I am aware the Urban Agriculture rules are up for evaluation at the end of the year. I am proud to say I am one of the local backyard chicken owners who has participated in helping change and grow our Urban agriculture opportunities here in Tucson and am here to share with you how having backyard chickens has continued to benefit our lives.

Our chickens are just as important to us as our other pets. They each have names, just like our dogs. Have their own personalities and provide endless amounts of joy to interact with them on a daily basis. Most of our chickens are very affectionate and love attention and even get along with our dogs. I can tell you that we have very busy and stressful jobs and it is a very therapeutic way to wind down when we come home. Sitting down and giving them their treats and listening to them chat is very relaxing and puts the biggest smile on our faces. My son is 16 and loves taking care of them as much as we do. They also provide more than just companionship. The eggs we receive daily are amazing and so much better for us than what we get at our store.. With all of the chemicals put in our food today, it is nice to know the actual source of one thing we put into our bodies on a regular basis.

Our chickens are low maintenance and are kept clean and are also loved by our neighbors. They tell us that they love hearing our chickens talk throughout the day because it reminds them of when they were little and growing up on their farms.

I have to include that we have numerous stray cats and neighbor owned cats in our neighborhood that roam freely all of the time. They constantly come into our yards and use our flower beds as litter boxes and urinate on our patio furniture and my husbands Jeep. Our dogs are constantly bringing in cat feces from the yard as we cannot keep the cats out. We do not have that problem with our chickens... they actually are not a nuisance but contribute to our lives and help in keeping our yard free of pests and bugs, and do not destroy our furniture - unlike the cats that roam our neighborhood.

Being a chicken owner has been amazing beyond what I ever expected it to be and we believe it is an essential element in the growth of environmentally friendly home practices.

I encourage every council member to try owning chickens and you will see just how amazing they really are!

We are hoping that the Urban Planning Commission makes the Urban Agricultural rules regarding chickens permanent.

I cannot thank you enough for your time and support.

Thank you,
Brittany Lockwood
Kitchen and Bath Designer
ProSource Wholesale Flooring

[520-401-0316](tel:520-401-0316)

Daniel Bursuck - Chicken Owner

From: "Bemiss, Tamara" <Tamara.Bemiss@tusdl.org>
To: "Daniel.Bursuck@tucsonaz.gov" <Daniel.Bursuck@tucsonaz.gov>
Date: 10/04/2017 9:39 AM
Subject: Chicken Owner

Hello. How are you? I am well. My name is Tamara Bemiss and I wanted to send you a letter just to say how owning backyard chickens has impacted my life. In April of 2016 I purchased 4 baby chicks from Ace Hardware. I had a custom coop made from the Tractor Supply Co. It has been so positive for my family and I to raise they girls since they were just little chicks. I enjoy getting up every morning and going to say good morning and feeding them and making sure they are happy and healthy. It has been very therapeutic for myself, my husband and our two daughters. it has taught them responsibility and compassion. There were so many things I did not know about chickens and raising them but once you own them all that changes. They have been very beneficial to my family's health by providing us their eggs. If I could not own chickens my family and I would be devastated. Some people may think chickens don't know much but yes, yes they do. They are just as excited to see me in the morning as I am to see them. I am hoping to always be able to raise chickens. Thanks for taking the time to read my quick letter.

Sincerely,
A Proud Chicken Owner

Tamara Bemiss

From: Sarah Gritis <spiritsherd@yahoo.com>
To: <daniel.bursuck@tucsonaz.gov>
Date: 10/04/2017 8:34 AM
Subject: Please keep the chickens

Dear Mr. Bursuck,

I'm a resident of Tucson and I have a backyard flock. I was only able to get chickens due to the new rules. Chickens have made a huge difference in my life that I had no idea would happen. They all have personalities that I love to be around. After a bad day I just hang out with mine in the run and watching them always brings a smile to my face. If someone had told me that I would enjoy having chickens this much, I wouldn't have believed them. But here I am, writing to you so that I can keep them! Please keep the current rules for Tucson to allow people to keep their backyard flock. It's made a difference to me and so many others to be able to keep a flock, not just for eggs and pest control (for chickens do an amazing job keeping all of the bugs down), but also for all the joy they give people. Thank you for your time to read this. It means so much to me that you took the time from your busy day to read about why I love my chickens.

Sincerely,
Sarah Gritis
Backyard chicken owner

Daniel Bursuck - Pro Chickens in the City

From: Rael Slick <raelslick@yahoo.com>
To: <Daniel.Bursuck@tucsonaz.gov>
Date: 10/04/2017 8:28 AM
Subject: Pro Chickens in the City

Dear Mr.Bursuck,

I do not keep chickens (yet) but the person who lives next door does. In the past few years, we have experienced zero bad effects of their chicken keeping and many positives. They don't smell bad, they are not noisy. The dogs in the neighborhood are by far louder than the chickens. Dogs, people, helicopters, buses, fire trucks, yes, noisy. Chickens, nope.

When we garden and find grubs, my three children save them to give the neighbor chickens. My three sons, two autistic, have become more outgoing and confident after getting to know the birds.

Please do what you can to make the laws permanent for people to keep chickens. They do no harm and a lot of good.

Thank you,
A resident of midtown,
Rael Slick

Sent from The Old Pueblo

<http://www..artofrachelslick.com/>

Daniel Bursuck - Urban Agriculture Rules

From: Laura Cerny-Ciaccio <mommacat.cares@gmail.com>
To: <Daniel.Bursuck@tucsonaz.gov>
Date: 10/04/2017 10:21 AM
Subject: Urban Agriculture Rules

Dear Mr. Bursuck,

I have a very small flock of hens in mid-town Tucson. They are such a joy to keep. They are less noisy than our neighbor's dogs. They don't smell, not only because I keep things very clean, but they just aren't smelly animals. I have never owned a goat, so I don't have personal experience, but I've visited many and they are very intelligent animals and I think it would be awesome to own one. My neighbors have never complained, they are usually enthusiastic and have learned a lot about my chickens because of the information I've shared about them. There is really no need to have such stringent rules when it comes to small urban animal raising. To me they are not much different than having a dog. Dogs defecate outside, so do these animals. If you pick up the poo or do a smart compost then there are no issues. Flies are no worse on chicken poo than dog poo. Please help us chicken keepers keep the new rules in place.

Thank you,
Laura

Laura Cerny-Ciaccio
mommacat.cares@gmail.com

Daniel Bursuck - In support of Urban Agriculture Rules

From: Elise Christmon <sechristmon@gmail.com>
To: <Daniel.Bursuck@tucsonaz.gov>
Date: 10/04/2017 9:07 AM
Subject: In support of Urban Agriculture Rules

Dear Mr. Bursuck,

I'm writing today to let you know I support Urban Agriculture Rules that allow people like me to keep chickens in our backyards. I currently live on the west side of Tucson and have had chickens for three years. Owning chickens has been a wonderful addition to my life. It is important to me and my family that we know where our food comes from and do our best to incorporate sustainable practices wherever we can. Our chickens play an important role in that - not only do they provide us with eggs, they also convert our food scraps to fertilizer for our garden, keep pests down, and provide endless comic relief for the whole household. The easier we make it for people to responsibly raise their own food, the more healthy and empowered our community and environment will be.

I want to thank you, the Planning Commission, and the City Council for your time and consideration in making our current, more permissive rules permanent.

Sincerely,
Elise Christmon