

**From:** [Paul Taylor](#)  
**To:** [Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** SUPPORT FOR BACKYARD HENS IN TORONTO  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 5, 2017 9:51:44 PM

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To the Mayor and all City Council,

I am writing to express FoodShare Toronto's keen support for a pilot proposal to allow the rearing of backyard hens in Toronto.

A number of progressive and innovative cities support and currently have success in permitting backyard hens in urban cities. Located across Canada and in North America, these jurisdictions have recognized the significant benefit that allowing backyard hens can provide, including providing a local and sustainable source of eggs to urban households, increasing Torontonians awareness of food production and encouraging shorter links in the food chain.

In addition to these benefits there are associated risks with permitting backyard hens, however evidence has shown that all of these risks can be safely mitigated by sound legislation, policies and good hygiene practices. The proposed approach for Toronto addresses any concerns regarding public health, noise and nuisance. Urban hen keeping can promote increased access to local food and can serve to increase public awareness of the benefits of local food production. The practice itself can reduce household food waste through recycling of food scraps and provides a ready supply of nutritious food through fresh eggs.

Please feel free to follow up should you have any questions.

best,

**Paul M. Taylor** (*he/him/his pronouns*)  
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FoodShare Toronto  
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**For 15 years, FoodShare has run a therapeutic garden in partnership with the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health. This summer, we need your support to keep the [Sunshine Garden](#) growing so [donate](#) before July 21st! [#PlantingHope](#)**



For over 30 years, you've helped us deliver good healthy food and food education in Toronto. [Donate today](#) to continue making an impact.

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