

April 5, 2022

Marilyn Toft, City Council Secretariat, via email: councilmeeting@toronto.ca
Toronto City Hall, 100 Queen Street West, Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

Dear Councillors and Mayor Tory,

RE: [EC28.10](#) “Final Recommendations on the UrbanHensTO Backyard Hens Pilot Program” (City Council [April 6, 2022](#), meeting) -

I write as an individual Toronto resident to ask you to please amend and adopt this item.

Reason: After the November 2021 BC floods, part of my uncle (a senior citizen living with disabilities in Victoria, BC)’s reply to me, that he mentioned when I asked how they were doing, was, “Farmers lost up to 25,000 chickens, so egg supply is challenged.”

Toronto residents deserve to have access to decentralized local eggs: in case of climate emergency, challenged funds, and/or avian flu on industrial overcrowded farms; and on any day, decreasing Toronto’s embedded emissions, air pollution, heat island effect and suburban sprawl, and increasing freshness, public health and people’s resiliency.

Recommendations: I ask you - for local food security, food sovereignty, ResilienceTO, poverty reduction, equity¹, TransformTO², and packaging waste reduction - please now:

1. adopt the City staff report recommendations to approve creating a permanent city-wide UrbanHensTO program right now; and,
2. amend the City staff report recommendations to:
 - a) put emergency measures, and funding, in place for the bylaw to take effect May 2022 to decentralize more Ontario hens to more local Toronto people in light of the avian flu;
 - b) subsidize or waive registration fees for people over 18 years of age with an income of less than \$50K, in line with City of Toronto’s pet licensing program; and,
 - c) mandate support for community chicken projects with permanently adequate funding.

Needs work: pre-inspection is not a common requirement in cities that allow hens, and adds to the cost of the program.

Thank you for your support and doing the right thing for people in Toronto.

Sincerely,

A. Pope, Toronto, ON M6J 0A8 (P.S. I give permission to share this publicly.)

¹ Learn more via: [Toronto Urban Growers](#); and, [Lorraine Johnson](#), author and city farmer.

² [2021.IE26.16](#), #17 “community food-related emissions” [...] “maximize local, organic and fair trade food”