

College Gardens Civic Association

6 Duke Court

Rockville MD, 20850

June 11, 2015

Mayor and Council
City of Rockville
111 Maryland Avenue
Rockville, MD 20850

Mayor Newton and Councilmembers:

Recently, at the spring meeting of the College Gardens Civic Association, we discussed the proposed revisions to the Animal Control Ordinance, specifically the keeping of hens in the yards of single-family homes. While this was a new topic for some, many of our neighbors were aware of the proposed changes and voiced very strong concerns about the effect this change could have on our community.

The main concerns were related to the mechanics of keeping poultry or any livestock in a residential area. People were worried about odor and noise issues, disposal of chicken manure and other barnyard waste, predators and vermin (fox, raccoons, rats), fencing requirements, and ultimately the impact this farm-like environment would have on the perception of our neighborhood and our real-estate values.

After a very lively discussion, a show-of-hands vote was taken on whether we should support this change. The overwhelming opinion was that we as a community do not support it and we feel it should be completely removed from any changes to the Animal Control Ordinance.

We are a very progressive and environmentally-conscious neighborhood, and generally we are supportive of actions that better connect our community to nature. In the case of these proposed changes, however, we feel that this connection is best left to farms or more rural areas.

We urge you to please defeat this revision to the Animal Control Ordinance.

Jerry Callistein
President, College Gardens Civic Association

Serving the residents of the College Gardens neighborhood in Rockville, MD