

## **CCE Statement Opposing Proposed Chicago Livestock Ordinance (O2023-0002993)**

July 19, 2023

Once again, Aldermen Lopez (15th ward) is pushing an ordinance to severely limit livestock in your backyards and neighborhood farms. This ordinance - **introduced AGAIN despite significant community opposition in 2019/2020** - hinders the ability of Chicago residents and urban farmers to grow and raise their own food through fees, fines, and unnecessary burdensome regulations. This version of the ordinance also puts animal welfare organizations at risk for caring for abused animals, if they shelter roosters or exceed the limit on livestock. Together as urban agriculture and animal welfare advocates, we oppose the Chicago Livestock Ordinance, O2023-0002993. **Contact your Alderman, as well as Ald. Lopez, to oppose this ordinance.**

**Current regulations protect Chicagoans' right to raise backyard livestock and practice urban farming that is humane to animals and respectful of neighbors.** Existing City of Chicago ordinances already address the potential public health, nuisance, and animal welfare concerns related to raising small farmed animals. The ordinance will create unnecessary regulation by banning roosters, capping the total number of hens at 6, and levying fines in excess of \$250 for ordinance violations.

**If enacted, this ordinance will threaten the ability of many of our city's residents and urban farmers to raise their own food and put them at financial risk with costly fees and fines.** In addition, the ordinance infringes on the rights of residents by unduly limiting what animals they can keep. These animals are critical community members, offer hands-on ways to learn about ecology and food (in homes, schools and daycare centers), and provide organic pest control and fertilizer, companionship, and other environmental benefits.

**We have worked for years to create a supportive system for Chicago's thriving home and community gardens, urban farms, and livestock keeping.** These activities are critical to healthy food access, ecological health, and workforce development in our city. Community education and networking is more effective than blanket regulation to prevent and solve potential problems. Chicago Chicken Enthusiasts supports and promotes equitable land access, affordable water access, ecological resilience, stronger animal protections, and clear business licensing for urban farms. Please contact your Alderman today to oppose the proposed ordinance O2023-0002993.

Signed,

[Chicago Chicken Enthusiasts](#)

[Discussion Group](#)

[Chicago Chicken Enthusiasts on Facebook](#)

**Use the letter below as a template and tell your Alderman to VOTE NO on these proposed changes and to support community-developed urban agriculture and animal welfare solutions.**

**TAKE ACTION:** Contact Alderman Lopez (15th) to Express Your Opposition

Ward Office: (773) 823-1539

City Hall: (312) 744-4321

Email: [Ward15@cityofchicago.org](mailto:Ward15@cityofchicago.org)

**TAKE ACTION:** Tell Your Alderman to Oppose Ordinance O2023-0002993

[FIND YOUR WARD AND ALDERMAN BY STREET ADDRESS](#)

Call Script:

Hello, my name is \_\_\_\_\_, and I am a resident of the \_\_\_\_ ward. I'm calling to ask that you oppose ordinance O2023-0002993, introduced by Aldermen Lopez. This ordinance, introduced despite significant community opposition, burdens residents who keep roosters, chickens and other livestock with fees, fines, and unnecessary regulations. I urge my alderman to vote no on this ordinance and to support community-led urban agriculture and animal welfare solutions. Thank you very much.

[FIND YOUR ALDERMAN'S EMAIL ADDRESS](#)

Email Script:

Dear Alderman \_\_\_\_\_,

My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I am a resident of the \_\_\_\_ ward. I am writing to ask that you oppose ordinance O2023-0002993, introduced by Aldermen Lopez. This ordinance, introduced AGAIN despite significant community opposition, hinders the ability of Chicago residents and urban farmers to grow and raise their own food through fees, fines, and unnecessary burdensome regulations. This ordinance also puts animal welfare organizations at risk for caring for abused animals, if they shelter roosters or exceed the limit on livestock. Current regulations protect Chicagoans' right to raise backyard livestock and practice urban farming that is humane to animals and respectful of neighbors. Existing City of Chicago ordinances already address the potential public health, nuisance, and animal welfare concerns related to raising small farm animals. There are better ways to address concerns around the treatment of these animals, as well as the communities that keep them. I respectfully request that you oppose the proposed legislation and meet with members of the animal rescue and urban farming community to consider alternatives to this regulation.

Sincerely, \_\_\_\_\_