

MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Alderman Robert Donovan, Public Safety Committee Chair

FROM: Don Schaewe, DNS Residential Code Division Manager

DATE: February 28, 2012

RE: Chicken-keeping ordinance

The purpose of this correspondence is to meet the Department's requirement under Milwaukee Code of Ordinances 78-6.5 to report to the Common Council regarding the results and effectiveness and potential for improvement of the ordinance.

The Department has issued fourteen chicken-keeping permits since the inception of the ordinance at the following locations:

1924 E. Trowbridge St.

6157 N. 112th St.

6040 N. 36th St.

6044 N. 119th St.

1656 S. 36th St.

127 E. Orchard St.

6930 N. 100th St.

6735 W. Moltke Ave.

3052 S. 46th St.

3229 W. Parnell Ave.

2377 N. 48th St.

2755 N. 69th St.

4951 W. Tesch Ave.

1129 N. 21st St.

There have been twenty one chicken complaints from the inception of the ordinance. To this date, none of the complaints have been for any of the permitted sites. One rodent complaint was made at a location near one of the permitted sites where the complainant thought the chickens might be a contributing factor to the rodent infestation. Staff investigation, however, determined that not to be the case.

From an administrative perspective, the most successful part of the ordinance seems to be the requirement for persons seeking a permit to obtain the written consent of all abutting property owners. It is unknown how many persons desiring permits were unable to meet this requirement.

The department does not, at this time, have any specific recommendations for improvements to the ordinance.

Please contact me at (414) 286-5569 if you have questions or would like additional clarification.