

110 Cynthia Dr.
Chapel Hill, NC 27514
May 17, 2007

RECEIVED MAY 21 2007 *yo*

Mr. Roger Stancil
Town Manager
Town of Chapel Hill
405 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Chapel Hill, NC 27514-5705

Dear Mr. Stancil:

I live with my husband and 6 year old son in a very nice neighborhood in Chapel Hill. It is one of our older neighborhoods with larger lots and smaller homes. About six months ago, I started to think how nice having a couple of chickens would be. I grew up with chickens in my back yard, my son loves animals, I practice organic gardening.

My chicken research began on the Town of Chapel Hill website. I searched on chickens/poultry - found nothing of value and then reviewed the Code of Ordinances. I learned there that I could have 20 chickens, 30 feet from my neighbor's homes. I called the number listed to see if there had been changes since the posting and was assured I could have chickens. I imagine you can see where this is going. I did more chicken research - housing, types of chickens, hatcheries, etc. A month ago, I got 2, week old baby chicks to raise and keep in my backyard as much for pets as anything.

On May 14th, I had a visit from Maggie Bowers, Senior Code Enforcement Officer, informing me I was in violation of a zoning rule. On that same day, another phone call to Town Hall got me again assurances from the person who answered the phone that I could have chickens. Two days later I met with Maggie Bowers and Kaye Pearlstein to again be informed I was in violation. They were both extremely professional and at the same time sympathetic. I will remove the two chickens from my property that eat out of my hand and rest in my lap while I type.

I am writing now to let you know that I will be petitioning the Board at the next business meeting to amend the zoning rules that contradict the Code of Ordinances for about 95% of the residents of Chapel Hill. I will ask that 3 or less chickens be permitted in low density residential areas. I have still not found the zoning rules on the website. I did everything I could to learn and follow the regulations. I am very disappointed that in this case, the Town of Chapel Hill's duty to inform its citizens was terribly lacking.

I would be happy to meet with you to discuss and again want to let you know how much I appreciate the professional way that Maggie Bowers and Kaye Pearlstein talked to me when I was, at moments, emotional and upset. I also appreciate your time and attention.

Sincerely,


Celeste Mayer

cc: Kaye Pearlstein