

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, The regulation of livestock and other non-pet animals has been a foundational part of municipal governance in the United States, stretching as far back as 1705, when Philadelphia banned cattle and swine from running at large; and,

WHEREAS, From Philadelphia's 1705 law, the creation of boards of health in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries first and foremost to regulate animal agriculture, and early land use regulations, to establishing sanitation agencies to control animal waste and runoff, the emergence of laws prohibiting certain species within city limits in the mid-nineteenth century, and the emergence of modern zoning regulations – including New York's pioneering 1916 zoning ordinance and the Euclid, OH zoning regulations at issue in the seminal Supreme Court case upholding zoning as a valid use of the police power – the regulation of livestock and other animals is deeply intertwined with the development of municipal governments' regulatory and administrative functions and laid the ground work for modern city planning; and,

WHEREAS, To date, the City has never comprehensively regulated the keeping of livestock and other non-pet animals within the City limits, other than prohibiting residents from keeping animals for slaughter, making it an outlier among large municipalities both within the State and across the country; and,

WHEREAS, Of the five largest cities in the United States, Chicago is unique in its lack of regulation of livestock – and of hens and roosters in particular; New York, Los Angeles, Houston, and Philadelphia all regulate the keeping of such animals, including permitting requirements and limits on the number and types of animals that may be kept, even banning particular genera and species; and,

WHEREAS, Similarly, of the five largest municipalities in the State, only Rockford has a comparably lax regulatory approach; Aurora, Joliet, and Naperville all regulate the keeping of livestock and other non-pet animals, including limits on the number and types of such animals, and where such animals may be kept; and,

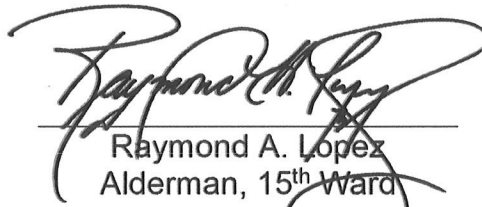
WHEREAS, As municipal governments and urban planners recognized over a century ago – or indeed over three centuries ago in Philadelphia's case – keeping livestock and other non-pet animals in dense urban environments leads to numerous negative effects for both urban residents and the animals themselves, including noise issues, foul odors and toxic runoff from animal waste, and even the transmission of zoonotic and other infectious diseases between and among the human and animal populations; and,

WHEREAS, Taking just one example, the average rooster crow is 130 decibels, with the loudest crows reaching 143 decibels – comparable to standing on the deck of an active aircraft carrier – which can cause instant hearing loss and by definition would violate the City’s current animal noise ordinance, as opposed to the *loudest ever recorded* dog bark at a relatively quiet 113.1 decibels – comparable to a car horn or concert; and,

WHEREAS, As a city, we owe it to our residents – and the animals themselves – to ensure that livestock and other non-pet animals are regulated to the extent necessary to mitigate the negative effects of inserting these animals into a densely populated urban environment; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CHICAGO, That the Committee on Environmental Protection and Energy hold a subject matter hearing on the laws and regulations of other, comparable municipalities regulating or prohibiting livestock and other non-pet animals and potential regulations the City Council could adopt, including that ordinance introduced concurrently with this resolution and attached hereto as Exhibit A; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CHICAGO, That the Executive Director of Chicago Animal Care and Control and representatives of various urban farming, animal advocates and subject matter experts be invited to provide relevant testimony at such hearing.



Raymond A. Lopez
Alderman, 15th Ward