

PROPOSED CITY OF MILTON ORDINANCE

KEEPING OF CHICKENS IN THE CITY

1. **PERMIT REQUIRED.** No person shall keep chickens in the city without obtaining a valid permit issued by the City. The permit process requires:
 - A. Completed application accompanied with a \$25.00 fee.
 - B. An inspection that must meet all provisions of Section 3 and 4.
2. The permit application is also subject to a potential objection hearing. Before a permit is issued for the keeping of chickens, the following process must be followed:
 - A. Once a permit is applied for, the property owner, if someone other than the applicant, and owners of all directly or diagonally abutting properties, including those across an alley, shall be notified of THE PERMIT REQUEST. This shall be sent by the city via first-class U.S. mail.
 - B. Property owners shall have 14 working days to file a written objection and request for a hearing if they object to the granting of a permit.
 - C. If a timely written objection and request for a hearing has been submitted, the city shall hold a hearing within 14 days of receiving a written objection.
 - D. Within 10 days of completion of the hearing conducted, the city shall mail to the objector and permit applicant a written determination on the granting of the permit, taking into consideration factors listed under subs. 3 and 4.
3. **KEEPING OF CHICKENS ALLOWED.** The keeping of up to 4 chickens, with a permit, is allowed on a residential premise, provided the following:
 - A. No person shall keep any rooster.
 - B. No person shall slaughter any chickens on the permit premise.
 - C. Chickens shall be provided with fresh water at all times and adequate amounts of feed.
 - D. Chickens shall be provided with a sanitary and adequately-sized covered enclosure, or coop, and shall be kept in the covered enclosure or a sanitary and adequately-sized and accessible fenced enclosure, or yard, at all times.
 - E. Chicken coops shall be constructed in a workmanlike manner, be moisture-resistant and either raised up off the ground or placed on a hard surface such as concrete, patio block or gravel.
 - F. Chicken coops and yards shall be constructed and maintained to reasonably prevent the collection of standing water, and shall be cleaned of hen droppings, uneaten feed, feathers and other waste daily and as is necessary to ensure that the coop and yard do not become a health, odor or other nuisance.
 - G. Chicken coops and yards together shall be large enough to provide at least 16 square feet per chicken.
 - H. No enclosure shall be located closer than 25 feet to any residential structure on an adjacent lot.
 - JI. No enclosure shall be located in the front yard of a dwelling.
 - J. In addition to compliance with the requirements of this section, no one shall keep chickens that cause any nuisance, unhealthy condition, create a public health threat or otherwise interfere with the normal use of property or enjoyment of life by humans or animals.
 - K. A permit application that is denied because it does not meet the standards of Section 3 may be appealed to the city, which may waive or modify the requirements consistent with professional practice guidelines promulgated by the University of Wisconsin system, Rock County Extension or other similar professional or academic material.
4. **PUBLIC HEALTH REQUIREMENTS.**
 - A. Chickens shall be kept and handled in a sanitary manner to prevent the spread of communicable diseases among birds or to humans.
 - B. Any person keeping chickens shall immediately report any unusual illness or death of chickens to the City and Rock County Public Health Department.
 - C. The City or Rock County Public Health Department may order testing, quarantine, isolation, vaccination or humane euthanasia of ill chickens or chickens believed to be a carrier of a communicable disease.
5. **PERMIT REVOCATION.** A permit is subject to revocation upon failure to comply with any provisions of this ordinance. Once a permit is revoked, a permit shall not be reissued.