

June 5, 2020

Ms. Jessica Schuller, Planner jmschuller@olatheks.org
Olathe City Hall
100 East Santa Fe Street
Olathe, KS 66061

RE: Backyard Chicken Coop – (Brittany Place Subdivision)

Requestor: Mr. Eyasu Lemma
1282 East Sheridan Bridge Lane
Olathe, KS 66062
913.526.7231

Dear Ms. Schuller,

Thank you for taking the time to visit with me last week regarding my concerns regarding the above noted proposed Backyard Chicken Coop. After our discussion, I did as you suggested. I attended the neighborhood Zoom Meeting, which was held on Friday, May 29, 2020. I did voice my many objections.

I strongly **OBJECT** to the proposed Backyard Chicken Coop which Mr. Lemma is proposing in my neighborhood (Brittany Place). Please see below my key concerns:

My Health Issues - I have a compromised respiratory condition, and I am highly concerned for my safety. I have had severe asthma since I was a child. My sister suffers with COPD, I will not be allowed to have her visit me if there are chickens in the area.

The dander and dust created by the birds is an allergen and can cause reactions in people. The amount of dust created by one chicken let alone several is HUGE, and I fear that since my sister and I both suffer from these ailments, these animals should not be allowed in my neighborhood. With the recent COVID19 issues, my concern with my health is even more heightened and should not be compromised.

Diseases from Chickens – “Zoonotic **diseases** that backyard **poultry** may spread to **humans** include salmonellosis, campylobacteriosis, and avian influenza viruses. Since the 1990s, numerous widespread outbreaks of **human Salmonella** spp **infections** linked to contact with backyard **chickens** have been documented in the United States. *(from cliniciansbrief.com) Mar 2, 2018*

Noise – I am concerned with the noise that will be created by the chickens/hens. At the Zoom Meeting, we were told that the enclosure that is proposed can house up to 12 hens. I do not want to spend my time listening to the sounds of hens in my yard. The noise, in my opinion, is not acceptable within the City limits. Country/Farm, yes, the noise is acceptable...but, not within the City.

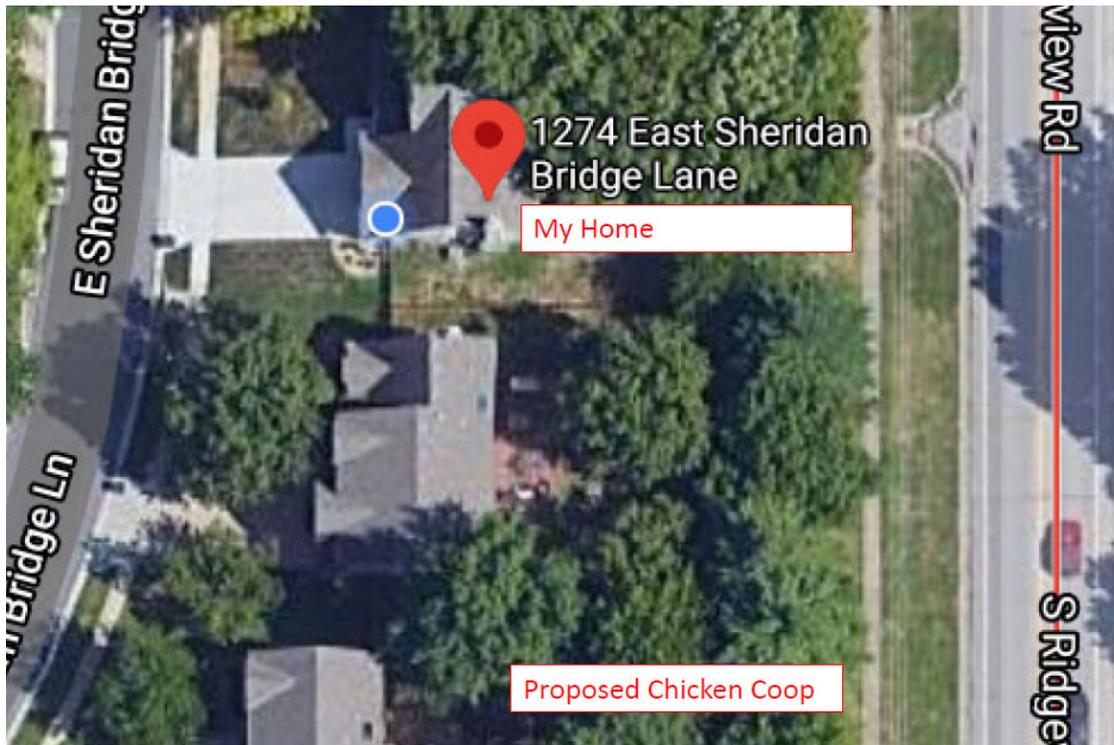
Smell – Chickens are dirty animals. The ammonia smell from the chicken’s urine will be a constant in the air. If they do as they propose to keep the coop clean, then I’ll be smelling the cleaning supplies.

Clara E. Dutoit
June 5, 2020

OBJECTION to Backyard Chicken Coop (Brittany Place) Proposal

Location of Coop to my Home – Please find below a picture taken outside on my back porch showing how close the homes are in my neighborhood. Also below is an aerial view of our homes.

There will only be one (1) yard between my home and the chicken coop. I will hear the noises and smells daily. In my opinion, this is far too close for farm animals to be living next to me.



Property Value – I have spoken with my realtor, and she has advised that having a chicken coop in my neighborhood, especially so close, would lower the value of my home. In 1994, with the help of my Dad and family, I had this home custom built where I have lived for the past twenty-six (26) years. If I thought that my neighborhood would be home to chickens, I would have not purchased my home in the city limits.

Residential Taxes - I pay taxes for a residential property not a farm property

Farm Animals - There is a place for farm animals (i.e. chickens), and it is not within the city limits of Olathe or in a residential area. While I respect my neighbor's intent/desire to have farm animals, I strongly oppose the idea. Farm animals should be kept on a farm, if I wanted to be on a farm, I would live on a farm.

Attracts Wildlife – chicken coops will be a magnet for rodents, predatory animals and pests, such as, but not limited to, insects, roaches, lice, mice, rats, snakes, foxes and coyotes. While these chickens are 'free ranging,' the rodents/wildlife will want to prey on the chickens and/or the grain which definitely be in the yard.

I believe that adding a chicken coop to a neighborhood is changing the eco-system from residential to farm. We are in a residential neighborhood, not a farm; we were zoned residential, not as farm property, for a reason.

My Companion Dogs/Predators - I have two (2) small Toy Manchester Terriers. They both weigh under 9 lbs. I am absolutely concerned with the predators that will be invading our area with the chickens practically next door.

In the evenings when the chickens are locked up, I let my dogs out. They can be prey for the wildlife. While I understand that we may already have wildlife in the neighborhood, the chicken coop and its many scents it will attract many more predators.

Cruelty - After researching chickens, I noted that there is a belief, which I agree, that chickens are in pain while they are laying their eggs, especially small chickens laying extra large eggs. That is why they make loud noises while they are laying their eggs. I love animals and when I will hear their noises I will feel that they are in pain.

"Free Range" / Chicken(s) can fly / Disease – At the Zoom Meeting, I learned that the chickens will be allowed to 'free range' while the Father is in the backyard with them. Chickens can fly...can I be assured that they will not fly into my yard and perch on my tall trees? That they will not attack my dogs or me?

Histoplasmosis is a disease caused from the droppings of chicken. They populate the air as spores and enter the human body through the respiratory system. This fungus usually affects the lungs, but symptoms can also occur in other parts of the body. Vulnerable parts include the eyes, skin, adrenal glands, nervous system, and liver. It is likely to be present in environments where poultry animals are kept, particularly their coops. At first, the symptoms it causes are not severe but, histoplasmosis is acute. To give you an idea of how bad it is, histoplasmosis is very similar to tuberculosis. I have a friend who, has this disease. She did not raise chickens.

While these chickens are free ranging, can I be assured that they will not leave waste in my yard? Or be transmitted from the keepers' shoes as they retrieve their mail from the mailbox, which is located in my front yard?

Dangerous to Drivers - Our homes back up to Ridgeview. Ridgeview can be a very busy street at rush hour, or when the schools let out. What happens when one of the chickens gets on Ridgeview, or if they fly into a car?

Miscellaneous – I have so many more concerns, such as what happens when they go on vacation? What about the winter or hot summer? What about the chickens' waste? However, I do not wish to take up more of your time.

I attended and graduated Kindergarten through MidAmerica Nazarene University in Olathe. In 1994, with the help of my Dad and family, I had my home custom-built in Brittany Place where I lived for the past twenty-six (26) years. I currently work at Garmin International for the past twenty-two (22) years. I plan on retiring in Olathe. Olathe is my home.

Thank you for this opportunity to send you my objections to Mr. Lemma's request for a Backyard Chicken Coop.

I will be at the Public Planning Meeting on Monday, June 29, 2020 at 6:00p at the Olathe City Hall to voice my objections. I will be grateful to address the Council and ask them to hear my pleas to **NOT** approve this request.

If you have any questions/comments for me, please be kind enough to reach out to me. I would be happy to visit with you or anyone on your team.

All the best,



Clara E. Dutoit
1274 East Sheridan Bridge Lane
Olathe, KS 66062

Property ID: DP05400001 0004
Home Built: 1994 (26 Years)

913.687.7440 (Cell #)
913.397.8200 (Work #)

/cd