

Dear Members of the County Commission and Planning Commission,

I am writing to formally request a clear status update and defined path forward regarding the allowance of backyard chickens in permitted use zones.

This issue was first brought to my attention in October 2024. Since that time, I have been told on multiple occasions that the matter was “being worked on.” The most recent instance was in October 2025—one full year after the issue was initially identified. As of today, more than a year later, there has been no observable action: no public discussion, no draft language, no agenda items, and no stated timeline.

While I understand the County is undertaking a broader zoning update through a Unified Development Ordinance (UDO), there is currently no assurance that backyard poultry will be addressed as part of that process. The continued lack of clarity places residents in an untenable position. Many households in my zoning district already keep a small number of hens, enforcement appears inconsistent, and citizens are left without a clear understanding of what is permitted and what is not.

At this point, I am requesting the following, in writing:

1. Confirmation of whether backyard chickens are actively included within the scope of the UDO update;
2. A specific timeline for when this issue will be reviewed by staff, the Planning Commission, or the County Commission; and
3. Direction on what formal mechanism is required—such as a text amendment, citizen petition, or commission referral—if this matter is not currently scheduled for consideration.

This request is not about avoiding compliance. It is about ensuring that County regulations are clear, consistently applied, and reflective of current community practices. After more than a year of informal assurances without progress, I believe it is reasonable to ask for transparency and a defined process.

I appreciate the work involved in updating zoning regulations and ask that this issue either be scheduled for formal consideration or that residents be clearly informed of the steps required to move it forward. I look forward to a substantive response.