MOTION ON NOTICE

3.   Legalizing Backyard Hens

MOVER: Councillor Andrea Reimer
SECONDER: Councillor Heather Deal

WHEREAS Vancouver's current Animal Control By-law (#9433 section 7.2) forbids the keeping of chickens in our City;

AND WHEREAS on July 8, 2003, Council approved a motion supporting the development of a just and sustainable food system for the City of Vancouver that fosters equitable food production, distribution and consumption; nutrition; community development and environmental health;

AND WHEREAS in April 2002 the City adopted a formal position, definition and principles on sustainability;

AND WHEREAS in January 2007, Council adopted the Vancouver Food Charter which sets out the City's commitment to the development of a coordinated municipal food policy that recognizes access to safe, sufficient, culturally appropriate and nutritious food as a basic human right for all Vancouver residents;

AND WHEREAS many cities in North America such as Victoria, BC, Seattle, Washington, and New York City already permit households to keep chickens;

AND WHEREAS urban chicken-keeping can contribute to our City's improved food security, decrease greenhouse gas emissions related to the transportation of food, and the goal of creating a just and sustainable food system for our City;

BE IT RESOLVED

> A.   THAT Council instruct the Director of Legal Services to bring forward for enactment an amendment to the Animal Control By-law in order to repeal the prohibition against keeping of backyard hens in the City of Vancouver.
>
> B.   THAT Council direct staff to develop policy guidelines for the keeping of backyard hens in the City of Vancouver that both protects the health and welfare of citizens, and ensures the humane treatment of backyard hens.
>
> C.   THAT Council thanks the City's Food Policy Council for their significant investigations into the feasibility of repealing the prohibition on the keeping of backyard hens and advocacy for improved food security in the City of Vancouver.

* * * * *