

RESOLUTION 2014-11

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF LAKE WALES, POLK COUNTY, FLORIDA, ESTABLISHING AN URBAN CHICKEN PILOT PROGRAM FOR A ONE-YEAR PERIOD.**

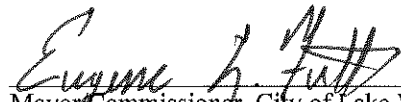
**WHEREAS** the Lake Wales Chicken Council, a group of community members, have expressed their interest in allowing chickens to be kept at residences within the City Limits and have proposed a pilot program to evaluate whether allowing chickens on a permanent basis is in the best interest of the community, and

**WHEREAS** The Lake Wales City Commission enacted Ordinance 2014-09 amending the Code of Ordinances, Chapter 6 - *Animals* to allow an Urban Chicken Pilot Program to be established by and governed by a Resolution as may be approved by the City Commission,

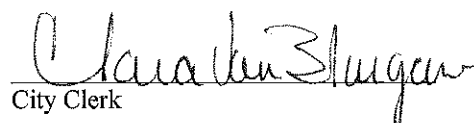
**NOW THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED**, that the Lake Wales City Commission hereby establishes The Urban Chicken Pilot Program to be conducted as follows:

1. The program will be a one-year trial period from September 5, 2014 to August 31, 2015.
2. Subject to the approval of the City Manager, the Lake Wales Chicken Council may select and permit up to eight households to participate in the pilot program based on written applications and review by members of the Council of the applicant's site and plans for housing and caring for the animals.
3. The requirements of the permit shall be provided in writing to each participant. They shall include a limit on the number of chickens a participant may keep as well as conditions for restricting the chickens to the approved site and for housing and maintaining the animals.
4. Participants may keep domestic hens only; roosters and other fowl are prohibited.
5. The Lake Wales Chicken Council shall monitor participants for compliance with requirements through the duration of the pilot program. The Council shall request participants to correct problems as they arise and report any unresolved issues or neighborhood complaints to the City promptly.
6. At the discretion of the City Manager, any and all permits may be revoked by written notice at any time during the program for violation of program requirements or issues of compatibility with the neighborhood.

**APPROVED AND ADOPTED** this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of September, 2014.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor/Commissioner, City of Lake Wales

**ATTEST:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk



## URBAN CHICKEN PILOT PROGRAM

The program is designed to demonstrate (on a small scale) the benefits of allowing the citizens of Lake Wales to raise a limited number of backyard chickens and demonstrate that the impact on the City and the citizenry will be negligible and manageable with minimum demand on City resources.

The Lake Wales Chicken Council will be created by persons participating in the program in order that the program be effectively monitored. A minimum of three (3) participants must serve on the Chicken Council during the life of the Pilot Program.

The program will include up to eight (8) participants and last for one year, commencing September 5, 2014, and ending August 31, 2015. At the end of one year, the Lake Wales City Commission will revisit the issue and determine if an extension of the pilot program, a permanent amendment to the ordinance or the termination of the program is appropriate. Should the program be terminated, the chickens shall be removed from the City within the time designated by the City Commission.

The limited keeping of chickens may be permitted in a single-family residential backyard subject to the following conditions:

1. Subject properties must contain only one single-family dwelling unit.
2. Property owners must sign the application in the case of a leased property in addition to the applicant.
3. Chickens are limited to domestic hens (females). ROOSTERS ARE PROHIBITED.
4. No more than four (4) chickens are allowed per participating household.
5. Adequate shelter, care and control of the chickens are required. This must include arrangements for times when the participant may be out of town for extended periods of time.
6. Chickens must be contained within a covered chicken coop and fenced pen area. These shall be located in the rear half of the residential lot behind the principal structure. Specifically, the coop and fenced pen area shall be set back twenty (20) feet from any residential structure that is not located on the participating premises. A minimum setback of five (5) feet is required from the side and rear property lines of the participating premises.



7. Materials used for coops and pens shall be uniform and kept in good condition to protect the safety of the chickens. Pens shall include a coop (enclosed structure) containing a minimum of 1.5 square feet per hen and an open run area containing a minimum of 8 square feet per hen. Pens may be portable.
8. All pens shall be constructed and maintained so as to be impermeable to rodents, wild birds, and predators, including dogs and cats, and to prevent such animals or other pests from being harbored underneath, inside, or within the walls of the enclosure. All pens must be kept dry, well-ventilated, and in sanitary condition at all times, and must be cleaned on a regular basis to prevent offensive odors. All manure not used for composting or fertilizing shall be removed promptly. Odors from chickens, manure, or other chicken-related substances shall not be detectable at the property boundaries.
9. All feed or other material intended for consumption by the chickens shall be kept in containers impenetrable by rats or other rodents, and such containers shall be equipped with tightly fitting caps or lids. All feeding shall be conducted in a manner so as to prevent unconsumed food from being accessible to other animals or rodents. The presence of rodents in an area for the keeping of chickens may result in the termination of participation in the pilot program.
10. Slaughtering of chickens is prohibited.
11. If the program is discontinued, or a household voluntarily terminates its participation or has its participation revoked, the applicant is responsible for finding new homes for the chickens outside the city limits.
12. A member shall be designated by the Lake Wales Chicken Council to act as a liaison to the City for the purpose of checking compliance and working with participants on correcting any violations of the program requirements. Any complaints received by the City regarding alleged violations of the program requirements will be referred to the liaison. Within 24 hours of notification, the liaison will contact the participant and if necessary make a site visit to determine whether a violation exists. The liaison shall request that the participant take corrective action if a violation exists and shall report back to the City's Code Enforcement Department in writing with a finding and the nature of any action requested or taken. If necessary, a City Code Enforcement Officer will conduct an independent site visit and will take action as appropriate.



**CITY OF LAKE WALES, POLK COUNTY, FLORIDA  
URBAN CHICKEN PILOT PROGRAM APPLICATION**

**DATE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**APPLICANT:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Property Owner (if different from applicant):** \_\_\_\_\_

**PREMISES ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_

**PRIMARY CONTACT NUMBER:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Secondary contact person and phone number:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Number of chickens on premises:** \_\_\_\_\_ (up to 4 chickens allowed)

**Size of pen: length:** \_\_\_\_\_ **width:** \_\_\_\_\_ **height:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Total square footage of coop:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Total square footage of open run:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Distance of pen from adjacent principal structures:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Distance of pen from property lines:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Agreement:**

By signing this statement, the applicant agrees that the premises may be inspected at all reasonable times so as to assure compliance with the conditions outlined in the documents governing the Pilot Program and the *Lake Wales Code of Ordinances, Chapter 6*, as they may be amended from time to time.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Applicant

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Property Owner (if different from applicant)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**Official Use Only**

**Date Received:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date Reviewed:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date of site inspection:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Pass** \_\_\_\_\_ **Fail** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
LW Chicken Council Representative

\_\_\_\_\_  
Authorization by the City of Lake Wales