ORDINANCE C-15-26

AN ORDINANCE TO ENACT SECTION 505.19 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES TITLED CHICKENS AND AMEND SECTION 505.14 TITLED ANIMALS PROHIBITED IN THE CITY; EXCEPTIONS

WHEREAS, many residents desire to raise backyard chickens for fresh eggs, sustainability, and as pets; and

WHEREAS, backyard chickens can help reduce food waste by consuming food scraps and contribute to local food security during egg shortages, while also providing residents with a self-sustaining source of fresh eggs and protein; and

WHEREAS, surrounding municipalities have successfully implemented backyard chicken programs with reasonable regulations to protect public health and safety.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GROVE CITY, COUNTY OF FRANKLIN, AND STATE OF OHIO, THAT:

SECTION 1. Section 505.19 is hereby enacted as follows:

505.19 CHICKENS.

(A) Notwithstanding other provisions in the City Code, chickens may be kept within the City in any residential district subject to the following rules and conditions.

(B) Restrictions

(1) Chickens are only permitted on residential lots that exceed 21,780 square feet (0.5 acres).

(a) Each household in the City may keep up to a total of six (6) chickens on a residential lot at any one time.

(b) Only female chickens, aka hens, may be kept in the City. Males, aka roosters, are not allowed at any time.

(c) A "cockerel" (young male domestic chicken, typically under one year old) is permitted for the purpose of 4H and FFA county/state fair shows and meat production, until the Cockerel's reaches 17 weeks old. The purpose of this provision is to prevent crowing resulting in neighbor disturbance.

(2) No chickens may be slaughtered on any residential property in the City.

(3) Chicken feed must be kept in a rodent- and predator-proof container. Property must be kept free and clear of feed, so as not to attract rodents.

(4) For purposes of this section, chickens must be kept, raised, or used in any manner related to personal or household use, such as for personal consumption, education, or to maintain such animals as pets. Chickens may not be kept, raised or used for commercial purposes, including but not limited to the sale of chicken or eggs or to convey the same for profit.

(C) Habitat

(1) Chickens may only be maintained outdoors in a predator-proof house, coop, or other

structure that is thoroughly ventilated, of sufficient size to permit free movement of the fowl, designed to be easily accessed, cleaned, and maintained by the owner, and be at least two square feet in size for each chicken **with up to a maximum size of 50 sq. ft of indoor space and 60 square feet of containment area**.

(2) All such structures are herein defined as "habitat" or "habitat structure" and shall be considered accessory structures as defined elsewhere in this Code. A permit for this and all other accessory structures shall be required as set for in Section 1137.08(g).

(3) In addition to the other conditions and restrictions applicable to accessory structures, any structure housing chickens must not be visible from the street or any public place and must be screened from abutting properties by either a privacy fence, wall, or opaque landscaping as permitted in the City to provide reasonable and appropriate cover to reduce, lessen, or obscure the visual impact of the structure.

(4) Any habitat structure must be located a minimum of 20 feet from any property line and must be located at least 100 feet from a dwelling on another parcel.

(5) Chickens shall be enclosed within the habitat structure at night from sunset to sunrise. If chickens are allowed by the owner to be outside of the structure from sunrise to sunset, the chickens must be contained within an area that is fenced or surrounded by other barriers ("containment area") so as to prevent access to the chickens by dogs or other predators, and to prevent chickens from traveling outside of the containment area.

(6) All areas in and around the habitat structure must be maintained in a clean, safe, sanitary and orderly manner for the health and welfare of the chickens as well as all other animals and persons. No part of the structure or surrounding area shall constitute a nuisance. In addition to the provisions and remedies set forth in the Property Maintenance Code, no person shall allow the chickens or the habitat to be a nuisance, including but not limited to allowing noxious odors or any noise of a loud or persistent and habitual nature.

(D) Permits

(1) No person shall keep a chicken without a permit issued by the City. The Chief Building and Zoning Official has the authority to consider all such permit applications, as well as revocations of any such permit. Applications for a permit shall be made in writing and submitted to the Chief Building and Zoning Official for approval.

(2) Any person submitting an application for a permit under this section shall consent to an inspection by the City of the property where the chickens will be kept.

(3) If the City becomes aware of a possible violation on the property subject to a permit under this section, the Chief Building and Zoning Official shall be permitted to inspect the property at any reasonable time after written notice to the occupants of the subject property is given, to determine whether or not a violation exists. If the Chief Building and Zoning Official determines that a violation of the City Ordinances exists, the property owner shall be notified to bring the property into compliance within a reasonable amount of time as determined by the Chief Building and Zoning Official. If the property is not brought into compliance within the time allotted, the permit shall be automatically revoked.

(E) Fee. A fee of $23.00 shall be due with the application and shall be effective for one (1) year. Renewal of said permit is required each year with a fee of $25.00.

(F) Penalty.

(1) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor for the first offense; guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree for any subsequent offense. Upon conviction of any provisions of this Section, the permit shall be revoked and the chickens and/or ducks shall be removed from the premises. Each day the violation exists constitutes a separate violation.

(2) A new permit may not be issued for a residence where a permit has been revoked for two (2) years from the date of the last offense.

SECTION 2. Section 505.14(a) is hereby amended as follows:

505.14 ANIMALS PROHIBITED IN THE CITY; EXCEPTIONS.

(a) No person shall keep any hog, pig, horse, mule, cow, goat, sheep or any member of the equidae family, the bovidae family, or the suidae family, or any fowl or poultry **unless permitted under Section 505.19,** in any pen, yard, lot or other enclosure situated within the City.

SECTION 3. This ordinance shall take effect at the earliest opportunity allowed by law.

Ted. A. Berry, President of Council

Passed: 05-18-26
Effective: 06-18-26

Richard L. Stage, Mayor

Attest:

Tami K. Kelly, MMC, Clerk of Council

I Certify that this ordinance is correct as to form.

Stephen J. Smith, Director of Law