

To: **Mayor and City Council**
 Through: **Ryan Schroeder, City Manager**
 From: **Brian Sturgeon, Chief of Police**
 Date: **July 13, 2020**

Farm and Other Small Domestic Animal Ordinance Modification

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

There has been a dramatic increase in urban farming throughout the country including here in Minnesota which includes the keeping of chickens for egg production and tick management.

There are many residential lots in town that are 40 feet wide by 100 feet long which would automatically prohibit the keeping of chickens pursuant to our ordinance.

West St Paul ordinance 90.08(D) states, “A chicken coop, dove cote, dog kennel facility (which is a facility designed to contain more than three dogs), rabbit warren or other yard or establishment where small animals or fowls are kept, must not be maintained closer than 100 feet from any apartment, hotel, restaurant, boarding house, retail food store, building used for school, religious, or hospital purposes, or residence other than occupied by the owner or occupant of the premises where the creatures are kept.”.

Staff has been asked to bring this topic to Council to see if there is interest in a change to the ordinance to allow the keeping of chickens in areas that are not able to maintain the 100 foot requirement from a residence or other structure. Some options include:

- Reducing the 100 foot requirement.
- Eliminating the 100 foot requirement.
- Implement an exception to the 100 foot requirement with written or verbal permission from the neighboring property or properties.

FISCAL IMPACT:

		Amount
Fund:		None
Department:		
Account:		

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Discuss this topic and provide staff with direction to either develop an ordinance amendment or stay status quo.