

Hyattsville Code Compliance Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes 10.16.2024

Members:

- Thoa Hoang (Chair) - Present
- Ian Fay (Vice Chair) - Present
- Stacy Dennery (Recorder) - Present
- Arinee Flurry (Member) – Present
- Kareem Redmond (Council Member Liaison Ward 3) - Absent
- Supervisor Reading (Staff Liaison) - Present
- Jamie Been (Member) - Present
- Susan Zahran (Member) - Absent
- Lena Bradley (Member) - Absent
- Gloria Felix-Thompson (Member) - Present
- Jimmy McClellan (Council Member Liaison Ward 3) – Present

Topics Discussed:

- Approval of September meeting minutes
- 2 Guests Acknowledged: Joseph Clements Jr and Maximiliano Vazquez
 - Public comments from Josepha Clements Jr: He addresses the proposed amendment to moving the grass cutting warnings/violations to 7 days instead of 14 days. He is in the armed forces and can be away for over 7 days. Prefers a way to digitally notify the owner of the grass cutting warning. Is there an appeals process?
 - Code Committee: No known way of digitally notifying an owner unless it has already been given to the City, which is usually for rental companies. Yes, there is an appeals process. Every warning notice has a number you can call to speak to the Code Compliance team. This is not the only opportunity to comment on this issue. The actual City Council has yet to vote.
- Move to vote that this Advisory Committee recommend that the City Council change the number of days to remedy a violation under Code 65-5 (grass length violations) from 14 days to 7 days. **The recommendation passes.**
 - Current code: [City of Hyattsville, MD Brush, Grass and Weeds \(ecode360.com\)](http://www.cityofhyattsville.com/Code360)
 - Suggested Change: Ch. 65-26 section A - The number "14" is suggested to be changed to "7" days.
- Code Issue Updates (Supervisor Reading):
 - New inspector hired (mentioned last meeting), who focuses on apartment complexes.
- Updates from Council Member McClellan:
 - Nothing to share on code.
- Fowl FAQ:
 - This committee is working on recommending a change to the City's code for raising fowl/chickens, to align with the County code on fowl/chickens.
 - Ian Fey populated the FAQ with previously researched information.
 - Memo is to recommend the council have a public discussion to revise the ordinance on owning fowl. Make the message and justification very clear in the first paragraph. If the

County has an FAQ document like the one, we're developing, include that in the memo. Could also mention that the advisory committee would like this to be brought before the Council before June 2025, when the elections take place.

- FAQ lists anticipatory questions that the public or Council members may have when discussing the ordinance change.
- Agenda item for the next meeting (November 20, 2024): The Advisory Committee will vote on whether to recommend to the City Council the following strike through of the language on domestic fowl:
 - § 52-10 Prohibited animals.
[Amended 4-5-2004 by HO-2004-09]
Keeping livestock, domestic fowl and/or wild exotic rare animals is prohibited within the City. This includes but is not limited to: cattle, horses, swine, sheep, pigs, goats, turkeys, roosters and other poultry and game birds, or wild exotic cats, monkeys, venomous snakes and any endangered species.
 - [Backyard Chicken Act HCC-192-FY20](#)
 - Proposed language: The Code Compliance Advisory Committee recommends that the Mayor and Council direct the City Attorney to draft an ordinance amending Chapter 52 of the Hyattsville Charter and Code to amend section §52-10 by striking the inclusion of “domestic fowl”, and “poultry and game birds” from the list of prohibited animals. Roosters will remain on the list of prohibited animals in the Code. We recommend that the Council bring this up for discussion before June 2025 (i.e., before FY 25).
- Thoa will update the memo to make it super simple.
- Thoa and Stacy will update the Q&A/FAQ to make sure it speaks to the intended audience.
- Jamie will update the Urban Farming Research Document.
- Next Meeting will be November 20, 2024
- Meeting adjourned.