

**ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF DEPTFORD AMENDING ARTICLE V  
OF THE UNIFIED DEVELOPMENT ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF DEPTFORD  
TO ESTABLISH A PILOT PROGRAM FOR THE KEEPING OF BACKYARD CHICKENS**

**WHEREAS**, the Township Council of the Township of Deptford, a municipal corporation in the County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey, finds that an amendment to the Unified Development Ordinance of the Township of Deptford to establish a Pilot Program for the Keeping of Backyard Chickens is appropriate.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED**, by the Mayor and Township Council of the Township of Deptford, in the County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey, as follows:

**Section 1.** Article V of the Unified Development Ordinance of the Township of Deptford shall be amended as follows:

A. A pilot program for the keeping of backyard chickens is hereby authorized. Keeping of backyard chickens shall be permitted in the Township of Deptford subject to the rules and regulations as specified in this section. The pilot program shall terminate two years from the effective date of the pilot program unless the Township Council of the Township of Deptford acts to continue prior to that date. In the event the Township Council does not act to continue the program prior to said termination date, all persons with backyard chickens shall be grandfathered and be able to keep their chickens so long as no new ones are added and the guidelines of the pilot are maintained.

B. The following shall be eligible to participate in the pilot program: residents of single-family homes or residents of "twin" homes which meet the criteria set forth in this section. If the property is located within a Homeowners Association's (HOA) jurisdiction, the property owner must submit written permission from the HOA for the Township of Deptford to issue any license set forth in this section.

C. For purposes of this pilot program, no more than 25 licenses may be issued at any one time.

D. There shall be a limit of six (6) chickens per license, with no more than four (4) in the first year. No roosters are permitted.

E. The coop and enclosed run shall be kept at least 20 feet from the habitable portion of the neighboring residential dwelling and 10 feet from the property line. Garages, attached or otherwise, and accessory buildings shall not be considered a "residential dwelling" for purposes of calculating the required distance. Chickens may roam outside of the coop area in a backyard suitably fenced to keep them contained provided that a responsible resident is present the entire time.

F. No person shall keep chickens on his or her property without first obtaining a license from the Municipal Clerk's office and paying the required fee therefor. No license shall be issued unless the applicant therefor has demonstrated compliance with all criteria set forth in this section. Every license issued pursuant to this section shall expire on December 31 of each year, excluding the December which occurs after the pilot program begins. A license shall not be granted unless the applicant certifies that there are no deed restrictions, which prevent chickens from being kept on the property.

G. A license fee of \$25.00 shall be paid for each license issued pursuant to this section.

H. Applicants agree to allow code enforcement to inspect the property for violations pursuant to the provisions of this section.

I. The following regulations and conditions for the keeping and housing of chickens shall be complied with:

- 1) The coop shall be the appropriate size for the number of chickens, which shall be at least three feet by three feet of space for chickens, or 2 square foot pet bird, whichever is bigger. The coop shall be inspected by the Township prior to the granting of a license.
- 2) The coop shall be dry and well ventilated with windows to admit sunlight.
- 3) The coop must be kept clean.
- 4) The coop and enclosed run must be made predator-proof.
- 5) Clean water must be provided, and food must be kept tightly closed in a metal container away from the coop and run at night.
- 6) The yard in the area where the coop is located shall be clean and free from odors.
- 7) There shall be no slaughter of chickens on site under this pilot program.
- 8) Waste will be handled in such a way as proper composting to prevent offensive odors or disposed in an environmentally friendly manner.
- 9) There shall be no selling of eggs.

**Section 2. Repealer.** All Ordinances or parts of Ordinances inconsistent with this Ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent of such inconsistency.

**Section 3. Interpretation.** If the terms of this Ordinance shall be in conflict with those of another Ordinance, the provision which imposes the greater restriction or limitation shall control.

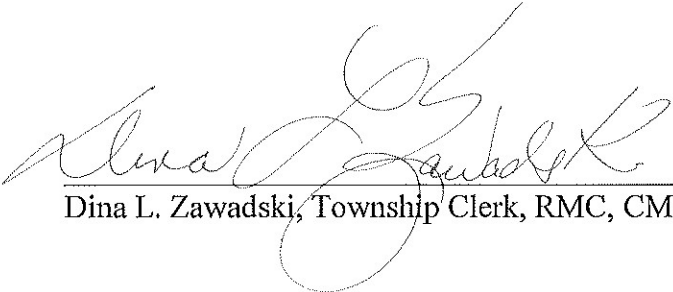
**Section 4. Severability.** If any section, part of any section, or clause or phrase of this Ordinance is for any reason held to be invalid or unconstitutional, such decision shall not affect the remaining

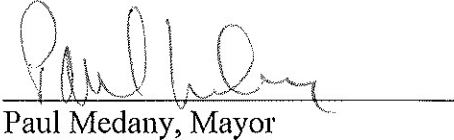
provisions of this Ordinance. The governing body of the Township of Deptford declares that it would have passed the Ordinance and each section and subsection thereof, irrespective of the fact that any one or more of the subsections, sentences, clauses or phrases may be declared unconstitutional or invalid.

**Section 5. Effective Date.** This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon passage and publication according to law.

ATTEST:

Township of Deptford

  
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 Dina L. Zawadski, Township Clerk, RMC, CMC

  
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 Paul Medany, Mayor

**CERTIFICATION**

The foregoing Ordinance was introduced at a Council Meeting of Township Council of the Township of Deptford held on the 14<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2020 and will be considered for final passage and adoption at a Work Session Meeting at which time any person interested therein will be given an opportunity to be heard. Said meeting to be held on the 19<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2020 at the Municipal Building, 1011 Cooper Street, Deptford, New Jersey.

  
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 Dina L. Zawadski, Township Clerk, RMC, CMC

RECORD OF VOTE – Introduction O.14.20					RECORD OF VOTE – Adoption O.14.20				
Council Member	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	Council Member	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Medany	✓				Medany	✓			
Hufnell	✓				Hufnell	✓			
Barnshaw	✓				Barnshaw	✓			
Belling	✓				Belling	✓			
Lamb	✓				Lamb	✓			
Love	✓				Love	✓			
Schocklin	✓				Schocklin				✓