

City of Long Beach
Animal Care Services



City Council Meeting

Proposed Amendment to Title 6 – Animals

The Keeping of Chickens, Goats and Bees

July 16, 2013



Background

On November 27, 2012 the City Council's Environmental Committee gave direction to staff to develop proposed changes to the City's existing rules (contained in Title 6 of the Municipal Code) governing the keeping of chickens, goats and bees and present them at their next meeting.

- Researched policies of other large cities in California and beyond.
- Feedback from the public
 - Mostly in favor of relaxing the restrictions
 - Several residents concerned with public safety and the humane treatment and welfare of keeping these types of animals in an urban environment.
- The proposed municipal code changes reflect a balance



Chickens

Current

- Up to 20 may be kept at least 50 feet from 1 and 2 family residences or 100 feet from multi-family (3+) residences or hotels
- 1 chicken may be kept as pet at least 20 feet from any dwelling
- No Permit or inspection required





Chickens

Proposed

- Up to 4 may be kept 10 feet from neighboring residences, no inspection or permit required.
- 5 to 10 may be kept at least 35 feet from neighboring residences, requires permit and pre-inspection.
- 11 to 20 may be kept at least 50 feet from neighboring residences, requires permit and pre-inspection.
- Proposed permit fee \$20, One time pre-inspection cost would be approximately \$63 (1 hour officer time)
- The chickens shall be adequately fenced within an outdoor enclosure to contain the chickens on the property to prevent escape, and provided with a shelter to protect from weather and predators.
- Outdoor enclosure must be a minimum of 10 square feet of permeable land per chicken.

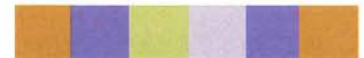




Goats

Current

- No more than 1 may be kept at least 100 feet from neighboring residences
- May not be kept south of Anaheim Street
- No Permit required





Goats

Proposed

- 2 goats (only) may be kept 10 feet from neighboring residences
- Must be permitted annually by Animal Care Services and must be micro-chipped.
- Food products are for personal consumption only
- Male goats must be neutered/de-scented
- All goats must be de-horned
- Enclosure must be a minimum size of 250 square feet of permeable land for 2 miniature goats, or 500 square feet of permeable land for any other combination of miniature and non-miniature goats.
- Adequate shelter must be provided within the enclosure to protect the goats from predators and the elements.
- Remove all location restrictions.



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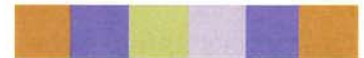
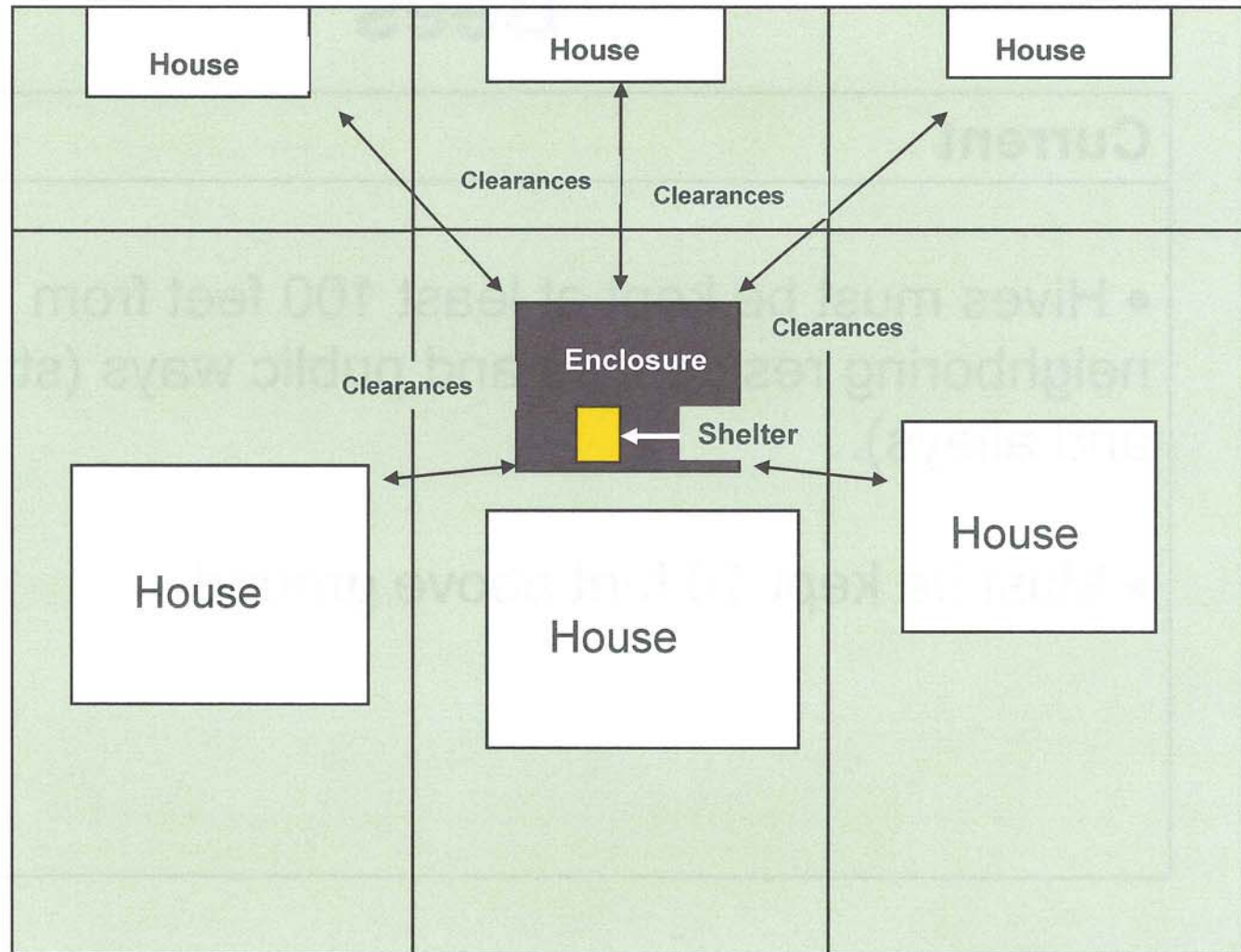


Clearance from adjacent dwellings

Up to 4 Chickens or Goats (10')

5-10 Chickens (35')

11-20 Chickens (50')





Bees

Current

- Hives must be kept at least 100 feet from neighboring residences and public ways (streets and alleys).
- Must be kept 10 feet above ground





Bees

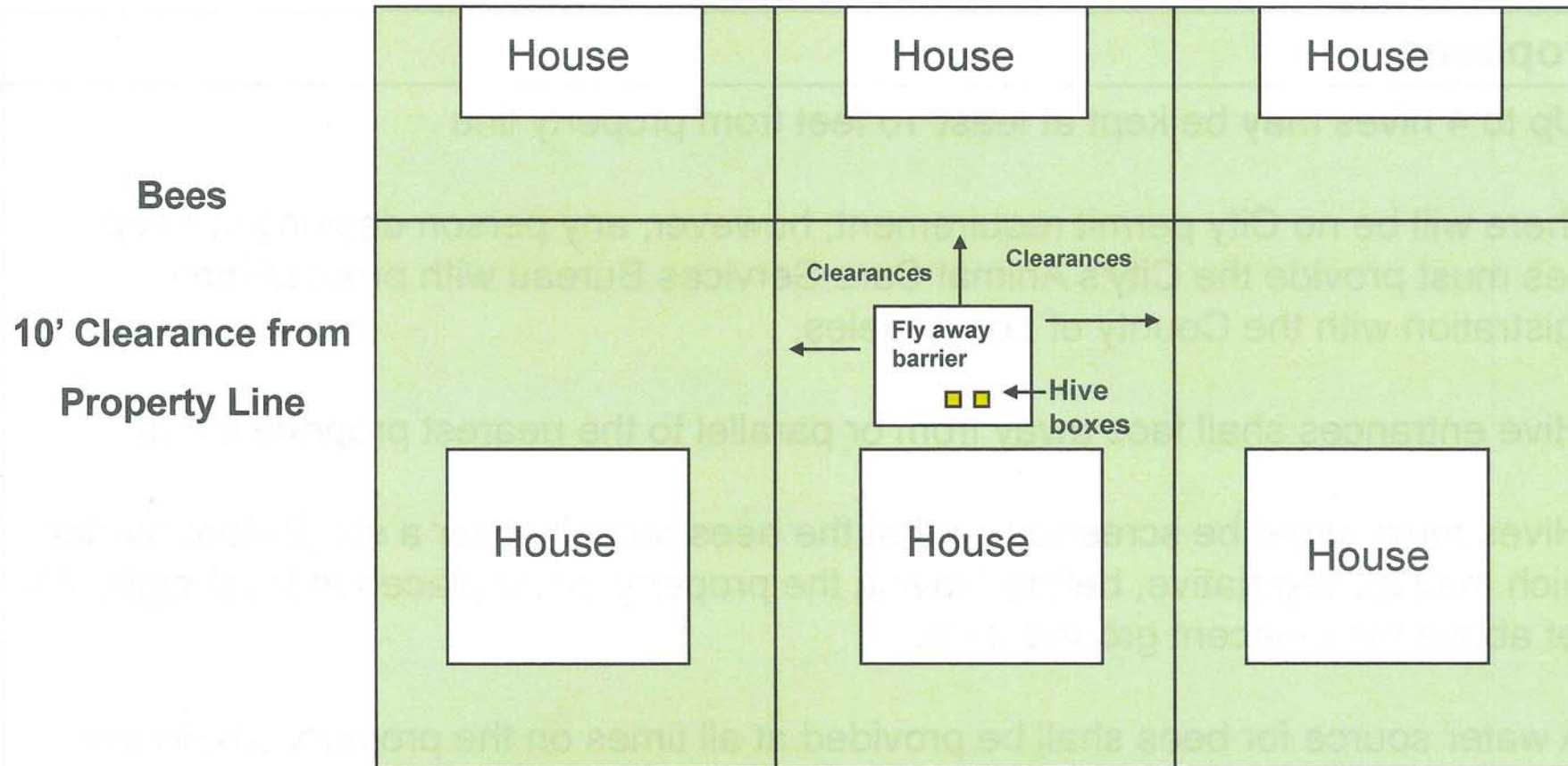
Proposed

- Up to 4 hives may be kept at least 10 feet from property line
- There will be no City permit requirement; however, any person desiring to keep bees must provide the City's Animal Care Services Bureau with proof of their registration with the County of Los Angeles.
- Hive entrances shall face away from or parallel to the nearest property line(s).
- Hives must either be screened so that the bees must fly over a six (6)-foot barrier, which may be vegetative, before leaving the property, or be placed at least eight (8)-feet above the adjacent ground level.
- A water source for bees shall be provided at all times on the property where the bees are kept to discourage bee visitation at swimming pools, hose bibs and other water sources on adjacent public or private property.



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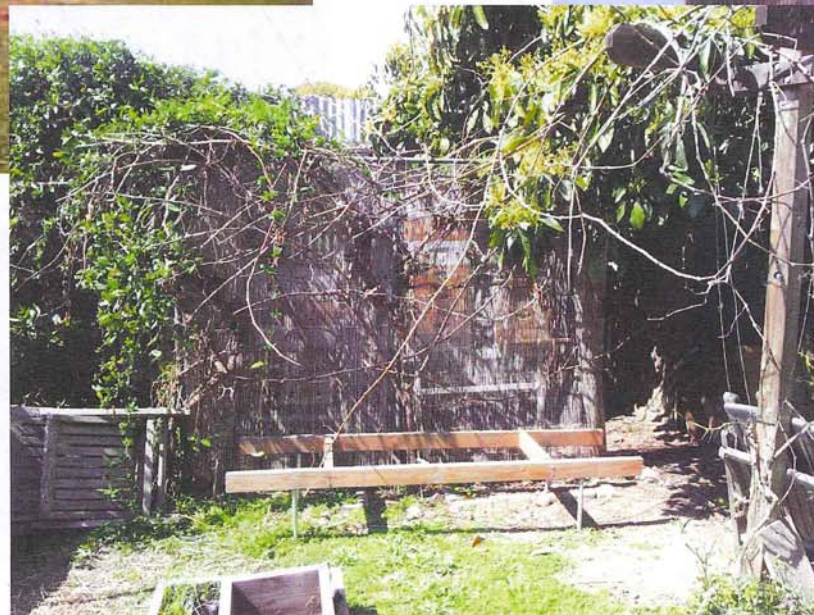
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Staff Recommendation

Council to approve the proposed changes amending Section 6.16.010, Chapter 6.20, and Section 6.24.010 of the Long Beach Municipal Code, all relating to livestock and other animals.

Additionally, staff recommends the removal of the requirement for goats to be de-horned.

