

**From:** lisa sichert <lsichert@outlook.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 22, 2025 6:55 PM  
**To:** Paone, Michael <MPaone@FrederickCountyMD.gov>  
**Subject:** Case No.B-25-15

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

I received your hand delivered letter today and am asking that you accept my concerns as outlined below.

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposal of keeping chickens on a 0.35-acre property within a residential area of Frederick County. While backyard chickens may be appropriate in rural zones with sufficient acreage, permitting them in small-lot residential neighborhoods raises serious concerns related to health, safety, sanitation, and land-use compatibility.

Chickens attract rodents like mice and rats, drawn by feed and shelter, which I've personally seen increase near my home, requiring exterminator intervention. These rodents carry diseases such as salmonella and E. coli, posing health risks in a densely populated area. Our neighborhood already has predators like groundhogs, hawks, foxes, and even a recent black bear sighting. Chickens would attract more predators, endangering pets and residents. Additionally, chicken manure can produce strong odors that are hard to control on small 0.35-acre lots where buffer space is limited.

It is my understanding that the residence in question may also operate as a licensed daycare facility. This raises additional health and safety concerns, as young children are particularly vulnerable to the types of bacteria associated with poultry and rodent contamination. It is unclear whether any oversight will be provided regarding veterinary health checks for the chickens or whether adequate biosecurity measures are in place. Introducing livestock near a daycare facility is a questionable decision and poses unnecessary risks.

Industry standards recommend 3 to 5 square feet per chicken inside the coop and 10 square feet per chicken in the outdoor run. For four chickens, this means at least 40 to 60 square feet of run space, which is difficult to accommodate on a 0.35-acre lot once the house, driveway, yard, and setbacks are considered. Additionally, Frederick County requires animal housing to be at least 50 feet from property lines—a requirement that is challenging to meet on such a small lot without violating code or encroaching on neighbors.

Allowing livestock in high-density residential areas risks undermining the character of the neighborhood and may discourage prospective homebuyers concerned about noise, odors, and sanitation. This could negatively impact local property values and strain neighborly relations.

In summary, a 0.35-acre residential lot is not an appropriate setting for the keeping of backyard chickens. The risks to public health, safety, neighborhood cohesion, and environmental standards are significant. I respectfully urge the Board of Appeals to deny or reconsider any approval for poultry on this property and maintain zoning standards that protect the health and integrity of our community.

Sincerely,

Lisa Sichert

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