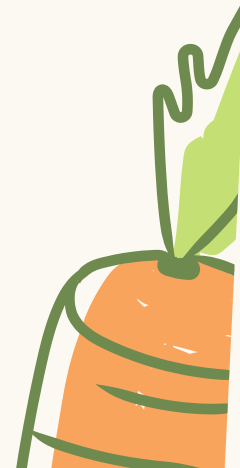
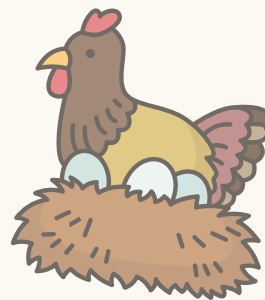
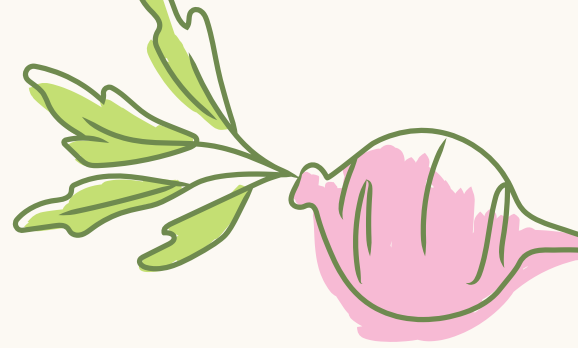


Revere
Urban
Farming
Guide





The purpose of this guide is to provide general guidance and information on official laws, regulations, and permits required for urban agriculture in the City of Revere, MA.

Urban agriculture in Revere is regulated by the Revere Urban Agriculture Zoning Ordinance and the Revere Board of Health Regulations. Residents should also follow state and federal regulations when they apply.

For the complete Revere Urban Agriculture Zoning Ordinance, visit:
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1oPVedww6Jz_Pk_75Verc5Wnb8VxdYIBL/view?usp=sharing

The complete Revere Board of Health regulations and application for beekeeping and chicken keeping are found in Citizen Serve. See guidance on using Citizen Serve in the Appendix.

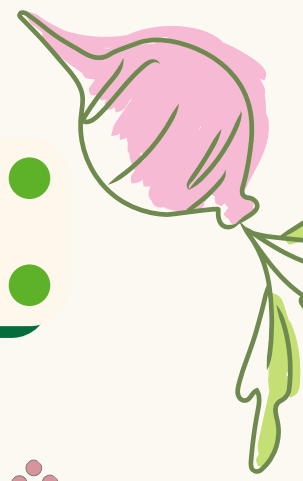
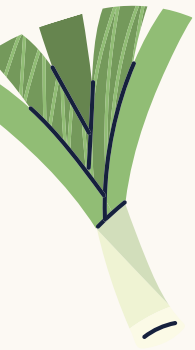
A special thanks to the City of Somerville for inspiring this guide and sharing some of the content from their ABC's of Urban Agriculture.

Prepared by the City of Revere Department of Public Health and the MGH Revere CARES coalition.

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URBAN FARMING

Urban agriculture is an umbrella term that describes a range of food-growing practices that may include the keeping of chickens and/or bees but does not include other livestock. Urban agriculture may also be referred to as urban farming.

The Revere Urban Agriculture Ordinance establishes rules and regulations for urban agriculture, accessory-use residential farms, community gardens, farms, and farming on municipal property.



From the Revere Urban Agriculture Ordinance:

"The City of Revere is committed to increasing access to fresh, locally grown, wholesome foods for all residents. As national leaders in innovative government practice, Revere on the Move and its local partners have established a wide and increasing variety of programs and resources for access to fresh food. State and national policies are also encouraging home gardeners to produce their own food. There is local interest in additional community gardens, community farms, and small commercial farms. Growing local foods eliminates both the need for fossil fuels in transporting food and the use of destructive chemicals that are part of large-scale food production operations. Urban agriculture at a residential scale provides a valuable supplement to a family's food budget and provides an invaluable opportunity for children to learn about nutrition and where food comes from." (O)

(O): Revere Urban Farming Ordinance.

BEEKEEPING



Did you know?

- ❖ Agriculture depends on the honeybee for pollination.
- ❖ Honeybees account for 80% of all insect pollination.
- ❖ Bees need a constant supply of fresh water.
- ❖ Beekeeping is a year-round commitment.
- ❖ A new bee colony needs time to build a hive and honeycomb. You may not have honey the first year.
- ❖ “Yellow jackets” are not honey bees. Honeybees are worker bees and will not usually sting. Honeybees are often blamed for all bad behavior attributed to “bees” in general.
- ❖ You cannot surrender your bees to Revere Animal Control.

State Laws

There are Massachusetts laws that govern the keeping of honey bees (*Apis mellifera*). They can be found in *330.CMR8.00 Chapter 128, Sect 30-36a, 38 Regulating Apiaries*.

All bee colonies should be registered with the Massachusetts Department of Agriculture.





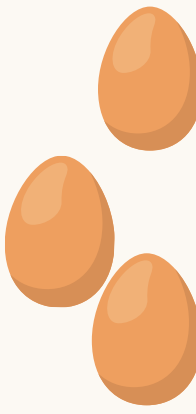
BEEKEEPING

You must have a permit from the Revere Board of Health to keep bees within the City of Revere. The following are some highlights from the Revere Board of Health regulations. Be sure to read and familiarize yourself with the full Revere Beekeeping regulations found in the appendix. A guide on how to find the beekeeping forms on Citizen Serve is also found in the appendix. See the Resources section of this guidebook for additional links that will help you get started.

Highlights from Beekeeping Regulations

- ❖ Any person applying for a license to keep bees in Revere shall demonstrate that he/she has completed a beekeeper training course with an area beekeeping club or association.
- ❖ No more than two (2) beehives are allowed on a lot.
- ❖ Hives must be in an owner-occupied or single-family rental property with owner's permission.
- ❖ An apiary must be located at least five (5) feet from any property line or may be closer to the property line if there is a solid fence or wall separating the apiary from an abutting property.
- ❖ The license application fee for the issuance of a license shall be \$50 and shall be due at the time the applicant submits the license application to the BOH. There is a \$25 fee for annual renewal with no modifications to the plan or keeper.
- ❖ All beehives should be marked with the beekeeper's name and contact information.
- ❖ The Board of Health will accept new applications until March 1st of each year.
- ❖ The beekeeper needs to write a statement that shall include: A guarantee not to abandon any beehive, including, but not limited to, in the event that the lot where the beehive is located is sold or the beekeeper is no longer entitled to use the lot; a plan to transfer ownership of all licensed apiaries to another beekeeper or sanctuary if necessary.

CHICKENS



Did you know?

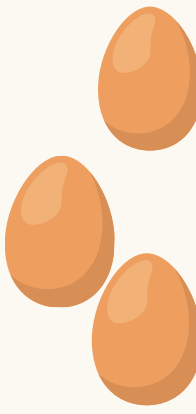
- ❖ Keeping hens provides fresh eggs, a great way to connect to your food source and entertainment.
- ❖ A healthy hen can lay an egg a day, depending on the season and the hen.
- ❖ Keeping hens requires daily feeding and maintenance.
- ❖ Hens only lay eggs for approximately 5 years, but they can live up to 10 years.
- ❖ If you order chicks online, it is difficult to be sure that they are all hens and no roosters.
- ❖ “Hens start to lay eggs when they are about 4-6 months old.
- ❖ Roosters are not allowed in Revere.
- ❖ You cannot surrender your hens, chicks, or roosters to Revere Animal Control.

Before keeping chickens in Revere, residents must first apply for a permit from the Board of Health. The following are highlights from the Revere Board of Health regulations. Be sure to familiarize yourself with all the regulations which are found in the appendix. A guide on how to find the chicken-keeping forms on Citizen Serve is also found in the appendix. See the Resources section of this guidebook for additional links that will help you get started.



CHICKENS

Highlights from Chicken Keeping Regulations



- ❖ No roosters or crowing hens are permitted.
- ❖ Persons who keep chickens shall not do so in a manner that would constitute a nuisance or result in any unsanitary condition.
- ❖ A coop must have a minimum interior floor surface of at least two (2) square feet per chicken.
- ❖ A run area is required and must have a minimum ground surface area of at least ten (10) square feet per chicken.
- ❖ Entire structure (coop and run) must be less than 120 square feet and must comply with all state and local building codes (including electrical and plumbing permits, if needed).
- ❖ Consistent with R.R.O. 17.16.260(F)(1), coop and run structure must be located at least two (2) feet from rear property line and five (5) feet from side property line and follow all municipal building and setback requirements.
- ❖ Coop and run structure is not permitted in front or side yards.
- ❖ Chicken bedding and waste must be discarded as per existing municipal waste regulations (R.R.O. 8.06.020) or composted on-site responsibly, in an appropriate composting container.
- ❖ Odors from chickens, manure, or other chicken-related substances shall not be perceptible at the property boundaries.
- ❖ Any person keeping chickens must always do so in a humane manner, including but not limited to access to fresh food and water, protection from predators, threats, and harm, and protection from elements as needed. Coop and run must be kept clean and well-maintained.
- ❖ Necessary measures must be taken to prevent a buildup of pest and rodent populations due to the presence of chickens on the property.

CHICKENS

Highlights from Chicken Keeping Regulations

Chicken feed must be kept stored in pest-proof containers and/or kept within the pest proof coop and run structure at all times.

The license application fee for the issuance of a license shall be fifty (\$50) dollars and shall be due at the time the applicant submits the license application to the BOH. The application fee for a license renewal shall be twenty-five (\$25) dollars and shall be due at the time the applicant submits the application to the BOH.

12 inch hardware cloth is highly recommended for use throughout the coop and run structure for pest and predator prevention. Bury hardware cloth around the entire perimeter of the structure for further pest prevention.

When composting bedding and manure, plan ahead. Often the volume of these materials will be too large for a typical urban compost bin. Become familiar with urban compost providers in the area. Become familiar with appropriate methods of composting.

If you are a tenant, you will need written permission from the property owner.

All licenses to keep chickens may be renewed annually. A person seeking to renew a license to keep chickens shall submit an application for renewal to the BOH no later than March 1st of each year. The applicant shall apply for a renewal on a form provided by the BOH. Failure to timely apply for a renewal of the license shall result in the termination of the license.

Familiarize yourself with the best practices and methods for backyard chicken keeping. Because hens are social creatures, it is not recommended that you keep only one. Before getting hens, think through where and how you will keep them, including what to do when they stop laying eggs, die or if you get a rooster by mistake, etc. Chicken waste is an excellent garden fertilizer, but it must be composted first.



GROWING FOOD FOR PERSONAL CONSUMPTION

Yard Garden

"An accessory use on a residential lot to grow plants for consumption, beautification, or recreation for personal use. The garden may be outdoors, in an accessory greenhouse or on the roof of a structure. The ownership, care and control is the responsibility of a resident of the dwelling on the lot. Sales are prohibited except at Farmers Markets." (O)



Raised Bed Gardening

Consider getting your soil tested before planting directly in the ground. Many cities and towns have found that their soil has been contaminated by a variety of different contaminants: lead from paint, arsenic from pressure-treated wood, and other industrial waste. Some vegetables can absorb metals from contaminated soil. A raised bed provides an opportunity to bring new soil that has not been exposed to contaminants to create your garden. Raised bed gardening provides a space for new, nutrient-rich soil to allow for growing fruits and vegetables in your yard or community garden space.



Benefits of Raised Beds

- Superb drainage because the soil mixture hasn't been compacted.
- The garden can be taken care of from the edges making for easy access and no need to step and compact the soil.
- Soil mixture will be loose and fertile, ideal for growing vegetables, fruits, and herbs.
- The soil warms up faster in the spring, which allows for earlier planting.
- Loose soil makes planting, transplanting, and weeding easier. Plants like loose soil because it gives them plenty of space for their roots to grow.
- Few garden tools are needed to plant and care for your garden.

See the Resource section
for links to full Raised Bed
Gardening Guides

COMMUNITY GARDENS

"Land that is gardened by a group of individuals sharing responsibility for the site either independently or under the auspices of the City of Revere or nonprofit organization with a primary purpose of providing space for members of the community to grow plants for beautification, education, and recreation for personal use. Sales, processing and storage of plants or plant products are prohibited on-site, except at farmers market. In all zones, community gardens on all public and private lands are subject to compliance with all applicable provisions of the garden rules set forth by the City of Revere and adapted by each community garden space and its leadership team." (O)



Revere High School Community Garden

The City of Revere currently has four community gardens for residents to use.

Corey Abrams Garden in Beachmont
133 Broadsound Ave

Gibson Garden
Located in the Riverside and Point of Pines
neighborhood of Revere.

McKinley School
65 Yeamans St

Revere High School
Located at the corner of
East Mountain Ave and School Street.

For more information on the community gardens, the rules, and to access the waiting list form visit:
<https://www.revere.org/departments/community-health-and-engagement/community-gardens>



Gibson Community Garden



COMPOSTING



"Composting: means a process of accelerated biodegradation and stabilization of organic material under controlled conditions yielding a product that can be safely used as fertilization."
(O)

Currently, the city of Revere does not offer a separate composting bin during waste pick-up. Residents are encouraged to consider services like Bootstrap Compost. If residents wish to compost, it is recommended that they use a secure composting tumbler that will deter rodents.



Keeping Rodents Out of Compositing

For rodent-proofing, the City recommends that you buy an enclosed "tumbler" composter or implement the following tips:

- ❖ Install a metal hardware cloth on the ground (available at hardware stores) and place the composter on it. This prevents animals from burrowing under and into your composter.
- ❖ Site your composter at least 18" away from all structures and keep tall vegetation trimmed or mowed.
- ❖ Keep the doors/lids closed at all times.
- ❖ Compost properly by alternating layers of organic materials (greens) and dried materials- leaves, twigs, newspaper, etc. (browns) AND stirring the compost (see the Resources section of this guide). You can compost ALL garden waste, including fallen or rotting fruits and vegetables, dried plants and twigs, etc.
- ❖ DO NOT COMPOST anything with fat or odor, including meat, dairy, bread, butter, oils or prepared foods. All large-scale or commercial composting operations must follow local, state and federal laws.



RAINWATER

The benefits of using a rain barrel

- ❖ Reduce run-off and erosion on your property.
- ❖ Provide an alternative water source for landscape plants.
- ❖ Reduce use of municipal water to water plants, which may lower your water bill.
- ❖ Rainwater is slightly acidic and may contain minerals that benefit plants.

Is rain barrel water safe to use on fruits, herbs, and vegetables?



Water collected in a rain barrel is not considered a potable water source, meaning it is not drinkable and has not been tested to meet microbial water quality standards to protect public health. Because the water from a rain barrel is not potable, it should NOT touch the edible part of any plant such as greens, fruit, root vegetables, herbs and edible flowers.

Municipal and well-water sources are tested to make sure they are free from detectable levels of harmful pathogens like E. coli and other fecal pathogens that can make people sick if ingested.

Water from a rain barrel may have fecal contamination from roofs or from wherever it has been collected from. Roofing materials may also contain heavy metals and chemical contaminants that can be dangerous to ingest.

Be sure to have a filter to prevent mosquitos from laying eggs in standing water!

SOIL SAFETY

The most common contaminant in urban soil is lead (Pb). It has been deposited on the soil from years of industrial pollution, lead in gasoline and flaking leaded paint. Young children are the most vulnerable when it comes to lead because their brain is still developing. Children can be hurt by lead in soil if they eat fruits and vegetables grown in soil with high levels of lead. If you will be growing directly on the ground instead of providing clean soil on a raised bed, consider getting your soil tested.

UMASS Amherst Extension Services offers an affordable “Routine Soil Test” that includes Lead.

To learn more, visit:

http://www.umass.edu/soiltest/list_of_services.htm

The US EPA also recommends that soils used for gardening fall below 100 ppm total lead. In Massachusetts, the regulatory safety threshold is 200 ppm total lead. Requirements and recommendations vary by state, and consumers should seek current and local information as appropriate. To reduce your risk of lead poisoning, the following is advised:

Good Gardening Practices to Reduce Lead Exposure

1. Locate gardens away from old painted structures and heavily travelled roads.
2. Give planting preferences to fruiting crops (tomatoes, squash, peas, sunflowers, corn, etc.).
3. Incorporate organic materials such as high quality compost, humus, and peat moss.
4. Lime soil as recommended by soil test (a soil pH of 6.5 to 7.0 will minimize lead availability).
5. Wash hands immediately after gardening and prior to eating.
6. Discard outer leaves before eating leafy vegetables. Peel root crops. Wash all produce thoroughly.
7. Protect garden from airborne particulates using a fence or hedge.
8. Fine dust has the highest lead concentration.
9. Keep dust in the garden to a minimum by maintaining a well-mulched, vegetated, and/or moist soil surface.



REQUIREMENTS FOR THE SALE OF FARM PRODUCTS



In order to sell farm products, such as backyard produce, eggs, and honey you must apply for a Temporary Food Service License from the Inspectional Services Department. Sales will only be allowed at the Farmer's Market.

What You Can Sell

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health Food Protection Program's (FPP) interpretation of farm products currently includes:

1. Fresh Produce (fresh uncut fruits and vegetables), see soil test requirements below.
2. Unprocessed honey (Raw honey as defined by the National Honey Board: Honey as it exists in the beehive or as obtained by extraction, settling or straining without added heat.)*
3. Maple syrup
4. Farm fresh eggs (must be stored and maintained at 45°F (7.2°C).*)

See SAFE EGG HANDLING FOR BACKYARD EGG PRODUCERS under resources.

For the sale of ALL other food products, you need a license as a retail food operation.

Where and How You Can Sell

Farm Stand: A temporary structure such as a table, stall or tent, for the display and sale of clean, whole, unprocessed produce, eggs, or honey, grown on-site." (O)

(15) On-site sale of products from these users are allowed subject to the following provisions:

1. Sales of products shall be permitted between the hours of 9:00am and 6:00pm, May 1 - Oct. 31 of each year;
2. Sales of products shall be permitted Not more than (3) days per week and Not more than (25) days per year;
3. Retail sales display areas shall not exceed fifty (50) square feet;
4. One farmstand is allowed per lot; however, NO sales display or structure shall be located on a public sidewalk, street or block vehicle and pedestrian flow;
5. Sales display, structure, and signage must be stored out of site while Not in use;
6. Signage shall be limited to one (1) sign and not exceed six (6) square feet; and
7. Proof of annual soil testing must be posted during all sales of products. (O)

Please read the Recommendations about Soil Safety in this guide.

RESOURCES

Bees

Massachusetts Beekeepers Association: Find links to Bee Schools, Best Management, Practices, etc.

www.massbee.org

Boston Area Beekeepers Association: Local Bee School

www.bostonbeekeepers.org

Massachusetts State Regulations: State Requirements, State Registration

www.mass.gov/apiary-program-honey-bees

If you see a swarm:

www.bostonbeekeepers.org/swarm-catching/

Chickens

Backyard Chickens: Educational Resource

<http://www.yarbirdsbackyardchickens.com>

Eggs

Safe Egg Handling for Backyard Egg Producers

<https://www.mass.gov/doc/safe-egg-handling-for-backyard-egg-producers/download>

Composting

Bootstrap Compost

<https://bootstrapcompost.com/>

LINK TO BEE AND CHICKEN APPLICATION FORMS

<https://www5.citizenserve.com/Portal/PortalController?>

Action=showHomePage&ctzPagePrefix=Portal_&installationID=258&original_iid=O&original_contactID=O

RESOURCES

Rain Water

Rain barrels in the Home Landscape

<https://extension.umn.edu/water-wisely-start-your-own-backyard/rain-barrels#how-to-clean-and-care-for-a-rain-barrel-2188711>

Soil Testing and Safety

UMASS Amherst Extension Services offers an affordable “Routine Soil Test” that includes Lead:

http://www.umass.edu/soiltest/list_of_services.html

Protecting Children from High Levels of Lead in Soil

<https://www.mass.gov/doc/protecting-children-from-high-levels-of-lead-in-soil/download>

Department of Environmental Protection, Lead Contamination in Your Yard:

<https://www.mass.gov/doc/lead-contamination-in-your-yard-reducing-the-risks/download>

How to Build a Raise Bed

The Food Project’s Do-It-Yourself Raised Bed Building Manual

<https://thefoodproject.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/DIY-bag-manual.pdf>

Revere Gardening Guides-Square Foot Method

The Revere Gardening Guides is available in English, Spanish, Portuguese, and Arabic and covers gardening basics, as well as the square foot method to maximize a raised bed space.

<https://bit.ly/3MF4eKE>

APPENDIX

1. Guide to completing the beekeeping and chicken-keeping application
2. Complete City of Revere beekeeping application
3. Complete City of Revere chicken keeping ordinance

APPENDIX



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Sorry, you cannot access this page

Please visit our [Help Center](#) for more information. Error code:
[871b849df8d81750]

[Go back to the Canva homepage](#)

Step 2: Click on **Beekeeper**



Site Plan Review



Bee Keeper



Body Art



Chicken



Dumpster



Food & Tobacco



Mobile Food

Step 3: Create an account.



CITY OF
REVERE



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LOGIN

[Home](#) / [My Account](#) / [Login](#)

Translate:  Select Language ▼

Already have an account?

User Name:

Password:

Remember my username and password

[FORGOT YOUR USERNAME →](#)

[FORGOT YOUR PASSWORD →](#)

LOGIN

New to our Portal?

If this is your first time using our portal you'll need to register first. Registering is quick, click the link below to get started.

[REGISTER NOW →](#)

Step 4: Click on Apply for Beekeeping License



CITY OF
REVERE



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APPLY FOR A LICENSE

[Home](#) / [Services](#) / [Licensing](#) / [Apply for a License](#)

Health Licensing for Food and Tobacco Establishments and Dumpsters is now live in the Health Department. For all renewals due May 31, 2019, you should have received a renewal notice from the Health Department, with your login and temporary password. If you are attempting to renew and do not have a login or password, email revere311@revere.org, or call 781-286-8311.

Incomplete Health License Applications cannot be saved. We recommend that you hold off on filling out the Application Details until you have all the documentation available for upload. We apologize for this, however it is a matter that we are unable to control.

These are the documents you will need to have available electronically (scan or photo) for upload to successfully submit this application, including (for Food establishments):

- ServSafe Certificate
- Allergen Certificate
- Menu
- Workers' Comp Affidavit (also for Tobacco establishments, not necessary for Farmers market licenses)
- Hawkers and Peddler's License (for Mobile Food Vendors)
- DCR Permit (for Mobile Food Vendors)
- Commissary Agreement (for Mobile Food Vendors)

indicates a required field

Application Type:

Sub Type:

COMPLETE BEEKEEPING REGULATIONS

REVERE BOARD OF HEALTH REGULATION FOR THE KEEPING OF BEES

WHEREAS, honey bees are a critical part of flowering plant pollination and reproduction, and a necessary element in pollination of crops that make up a healthy food supply; and

WHEREAS, the Revere Board of Health seeks to promote the creation of urban agriculture initiatives to support local access to healthy food; and

WHEREAS, keeping domestic honey bees is a means of promoting local honey production and local food access and security; and

WHEREAS, keeping domestic honey bees fosters bee populations outside of the commercial beekeeping industry; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Health for the city of Revere promulgates the following regulation to protect the health of Revere residents, workers, students, and visitors.

.....

Section 1. Purpose

The purpose of this regulation is to protect the public health of Revere residents, workers, students, and visitors while promoting healthy and safe local food access through regulation of the keeping of honey bees.

Section 2. Authority

This regulation is adopted under the authority of M.G.L. ch. 111, §§ 31 and 122, and pursuant to any other authority conferred by state or local laws on the Revere Board of Health. Pursuant to this authority, the Board of Health designates the City of Revere's Department of Public Health and Department of Municipal Inspections (a/k/a Inspectional Services Department) and its Inspectors to carry out its role in the administration and enforcement of this regulation.

Section 3. Definitions

Abandoned Beehive: Shall mean any unattended, occupied, or unoccupied Beehive exposed to occupancy by Bee Swarms.

Abutters: Shall mean owners of land directly adjacent to the property where Beekeeping is proposed as well as any property which is directly opposite of such property on any public or private street or way, and abutters to the abutters within three hundred feet of the property line of the petition as they appear on the most recent applicable tax list.

Apiary: Shall mean a location or structure on a lot containing one or more Beehives and associated bee equipment.

Bee: Shall mean any life stage of the common domestic honey bee, *Apis mellifera*.

Bee Colony: Shall mean an aggregate of workers bees, drones, a single queen, and brood living together as one social unit.

Beehive: Shall mean a structure intended for the housing of one bee colony.

Beehive Flyway: Shall mean the direction in which bees fly when exiting a hive.

Beehive Flyway Barrier: Shall mean a solid wall, fence, or other barrier provided for the purpose of causing bees to fly on an upward trajectory or in an opposing direction from the beehive.

Beekeeper: Shall mean any person responsible for the keeping of bees.

Beekeeping: Shall mean the housing of one or more bee colonies on a lot for the purpose of collecting products including honey, beeswax, propolis, pollen, and royal jell, and/or to support the ecological benefits of pollination.

BOH: Shall mean the city of Revere Board of Health.

Flight Area: Shall mean a three (3) foot radius surrounding the entrance to a beehive. This are surrounding the beehive entrance is the site of heightened bee movement as bees enter and exit the beehive.

Honey: Shall mean the natural food product made by bees from nectar collected from a flower's nectarines or a plant's extrafloral nectarines.

Pests: Shall refer to rodents, vermin, and insects, including vectors that transmit diseases to humans, such as flies and mosquitoes.

Property Owner: Shall mean every person who has legal title or the right to occupy or control any parcel of land, whether built upon, vacant or otherwise.

Swarm: Shall mean a bee colony in search of shelter.

Section 4. Requirements

a. All persons keeping bees in Revere shall do so in compliance with all applicable federal, state, and local laws, rules and regulations including, but not limited to R.R.O. Title 17, Section 16.470.

b. Beekeepers shall not keep bees in a manner that would constitute a nuisance as set forth in M.G.L. ch. 111, § 122 or result in any unsanitary condition.

c. Any person keeping bees in Revere shall comply with the requirements of 330 CMR 8.00 et seq. (Massachusetts Apiary Inspection Regulations).

d. Any person keeping Bees in Revere shall follow the Massachusetts Beekeeper's Associations' Best Management Practices, as amended.

e. Any person applying for a license to keep bees in Revere shall demonstrate that he/she has completed a beekeeper training course with an area beekeeping club or association. Membership and active participation with a beekeeping association is strongly recommended.

f. Apiaries shall be registered with the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources. ([https://www.mass.gov/apiary-program-honey-bees.](https://www.mass.gov/apiary-program-honey-bees))

Section 5. Standards for Beekeeping

a. Standards

i. Number of Beehives.

1. No more than two (2) beehives are allowed on a lot.
2. The maximum number of beehives may be increased to no more than four (4) on a temporary basis, for not more than twenty (20) days, for the purpose of rescuing a swarm or to accommodate the division of a bee colony into multiple bee colonies. The BOH must be alerted within 10 days to any increased number of beehives.

ii. Ground-level Beehives shall be constructed at least five (5) inches off the ground and use industry standard methods to exclude pests.

iii. All beehives shall be marked with the beekeeper's name and contact information.

iv. Eligibility of property

1. Must be an owner-occupied residence or single-family rental property with owner permission
2. Not allowed in non-owner occupied multi family dwelling

b. Flyway Control

i. No beehive flyway may be oriented toward any of the following positions, unless a beehive flyway barrier is provided to ensure that bees fly up and away vertically:

1. An entry door, functioning windows, or private outdoor space such as a deck, porch, or balcony located within ten (10) feet of a beehive, whether of a building on an adjoining lot, or of a dwelling unit located on the same lot as a beehive, unless the occupant of the dwelling unit grants permission.

2. A public street, park, school grounds, walkway, or bikeway located within ten (10) feet of a beehive.
 3. An access point to a shared porch, balcony, or rooftop on which a beehive is located within five (5) feet of such access point.
 - ii. Where provided, a beehive flyway barrier shall be located within three (3) feet of the entrance to the beehive flyway, and shall extend at least one (1) foot above the height of the beehive and at least two (2) feet in width on either side of the beehive.
- c. Apiary Placement
- i. An apiary must be located at least five (5) feet from any property line or may be closer to the property line if there is a solid fence or wall separating the apiary from an abutting property.
 - ii. An apiary may be located on an elevated surface such as a porch, balcony, deck, or rooftop, provided that it conforms to the standards set forth herein and is set back at least six (6) feet from the parapet, or may be closer to a parapet if it contains a protective barrier such as a railing, fence, or wall.
- d. Care and Maintenance of Bees and Beehives
- i. Spills of honey and beehive by-products shall be removed regularly from a beehive, to exclude pests.
 - ii. Bees shall have access to fresh potable water daily. Fresh water provided to bees shall be emptied and refilled on a constant basis to prevent stagnant water from serving as a breeding ground for mosquitoes.

Section 6. License Required

No person shall keep bees in Revere without obtaining a license to do so from the BOH. License holders must follow all local Public Health regulations and state public health Laws pertaining to beekeeping.

Section 7. License Application Requirements

Each person proposing to keep bees shall submit an application to the BOH that shall include the following:

- a. Applicant name and contact information;
- b. Name and contact information of backup beekeeper;
- c. A scale drawing (hand-drawn or electronic), which depicts:

- i. The proposed beehive location(s) and dimensions, and
 - ii. The number of beehives,
- d. Beehive structure design including entrances, flight area, beehive flyway, beehive flyway barriers, and the location of any other structures on the lot;
- e. A description of the beehive(s)' construction including measures utilized to exclude pests;
- f. Written consent of the property owner(s);
- g. A written statement from the beekeeper; which shall include:
- i. A guarantee not to abandon any beehive, including, but not limited to, in the event that the lot where the beehive is located is sold or the beekeeper is no longer entitled to use the lot;
 - ii. A plan to transfer ownership of all licensed apiaries to another beekeeper or sanctuary if necessary.
- h. The applicant shall apply for a license on the form to be provided by the BOH. All materials submitted in a license application shall be considered part of any license issued by the BOH.
- i. After a license to keep bees has been issued, no modifications to plans submitted in support of an application to obtain said license shall be made unless such modified plans have been approved by the BOH.
- j. Licenses issued by the BOH are personal to the licensee and shall not be transferable. A new license application must be submitted to the BOH whenever there is a new owner seeking to keep bees on said property. Any sale or transfer of the property that houses a beehive shall require immediate written notification by the beekeeper to the BOH. If the new property owner does not consent to the continued keeping of bees as the property, the licensee shall cease the keeping of bees at the property and promptly surrender any license to the BOH.
- k. The license application fee for the issuance of a license shall be fifty (\$50) dollars and shall be due at the time the applicant submits the license application to the BOH.
- l. The Board of Health will accept new applications until March 1st of each year.

Section 8. Variances

- a. The BOH may grant a request for a variance of the requirements of this regulation if the BOH determines that such a requirement would constitute a substantial hardship and provided that the granting of a variance request will not jeopardize public health or the environment and shall not conflict with the intent and spirit of this regulation.

b. A request for a variance shall be submitted in writing to the BOH. The applicant shall make a request for a variance on a form to be provided by the BOH. The BOH may ask for supporting evidence prior to consideration at a public hearing. The request shall not be deemed complete until all such requested evidence has been received by the BOH.

c. Any variance granted under this section may be subject to qualification, revocation, suspension, or expiration. A variance granted may be revoked, modified, or suspended in whole or in part, after the holder thereof has been notified in writing and has been given an opportunity to be heard by the BOH in accordance with this regulation.

d. Any variance granted by the BOH shall be in writing. A copy of any such variance, while it is in effect, shall be available to the public during business hours at the Health Department/Department of Municipal Inspections Office.

e. The fee for a request for a variance is twenty-five (\$25) dollars and shall be due at the time the applicant submits the application to the BOH.

Section 9. Renewals

a. All licenses to keep bees may be renewed annually. A person seeking to renew a license to keep bees shall submit an application for renewal to the BOH no later than March 1st of each year. The applicant shall apply for a renewal on a form to be provided by the BOH. Failure to timely apply for a renewal of license shall result in the termination of the license.

b. The application fee for a license renewal shall be twenty-five (\$25) dollars and shall be due at the time the applicant submits the application to the BOH.

Section 10. Notification

Upon receipt of a complete application for the issuance of a license for the keeping of bees or a request for a variance, the BOH shall provide written notification to the owner of the property where beekeeping is proposed. Such notice shall provide notice of the date and time of the public hearing of any such application or request. Such notification shall be made by certified mail, return receipt requested.

Section 11. Hearings

a. The BOH shall conduct public a public hearing to consider the issuance, suspension and revocation of licenses, and requests for variances pursuant to this regulation.

b. The BOH shall conduct public hearings as needed. Two hearing officers shall constitute a quorum for the purpose of convening a hearing and of conducting the business of the BOH pursuant to this regulation.

c. The BOH shall not consider any application for a license or request for a variance unless the BOH has received applications or requests that are complete.

d. The BOH shall not issue a license or grant a request for variance if the BOH determines the keeping of bees poses a health risk or nuisance to the public or to a persons who lives directly adjacent to or at the property where beekeeping is proposed. In making its determination, the BOH shall consider evidence of such risk. "Health risk" shall mean the likely possibility of physical injury or harm to one or more persons caused by the keeping of bees.

e. Health Inspectors or other staff of the Department of Municipal Inspections (a/k/a Inspectional Services Department) shall present his or her recommendations to the BOH at a public hearing as to whether a license should be issued, suspended or revoked or whether any request for a variance should be granted or denied.

f. The BOH, in its sole discretion, may approve or reject the entirety or portions of an application for the issuance of a license or request for a variance or may require modifications to any of these before any such issuance or variance is approved.

g. An applicant for the issuance of a license or variance or any licensee subject to suspension or revocation shall have a right to be heard at a public hearing before the BOH prior to the BOH rendering a decision.

h. The BOH may promulgate guidelines for orderly procedure at hearings and for the proper implementation of the BOH's responsibilities under this regulation.

Section 12. Enforcement and Violations

a. Authority to enforce this Regulation shall be held by the BOH or its designees.

b. Any violation of this regulation may be enforced by the BOH through its designee Health Inspectors and/or inspectors of the Department of Municipal Inspections (a/k/a Inspectional Services Department), including any violation for noncompliance of any provisions of the State Sanitary Code (105 CMR 410), and may be subject to the penalties set forth in Revere Revised Ordinances 1.12, Article III, and 1.16, and/or in the manner provided in M.G.L. ch. 111, § 187.

c. Written notice of any violation of this regulation shall be sent to the beekeeper and property owner by the BOH, and shall:

- i. Specify the nature of the violation and the schedule for compliance;
- ii. Order any corrective actions that must be undertaken to remedy any violation of this regulation, and
- iii. Order any preventative measure necessary to avoid future violations.

d. Any licensee may request a hearing before the BOH after receiving a notice of a violation. Such request must be made in writing and submitted to the BOH within ten (10) days of receipt of written notice of any violations.

e. At a public hearing in response to a licensee's request for a hearing, the BOH may deny, uphold, or uphold or deny in part, the violation.

Section 13. Inspections

The BOH or its designees may inspect a beehive at any time to investigate whether there has been a violation of this regulation. The BOH or its designees shall conduct an inspection when any of the following apply:

a. The BOH has received a written or oral complaint about the keeping of bees; or

b. The BOH has received an application for the issuance of a license or a request for a variance or a request for the modification of any license. There may be one or more inspections conducted by the BOH or its designees during the application process.

Section 14. Imminent Health Hazards

If the BOH or its designees determines that a beehive causes an imminent health hazard, the BOH or its designees may require that the beehive be immediately removed at the beekeeper's expense without a hearing.

Section 15. Penalties

a. Any person who violates any provision of this regulation may be penalized by a non-criminal disposition process as provided in R.R.O. 1.12, Article III, and 1.16, including applicable fines.

b. Each day or portion thereof shall constitute a separate offense. If more than one, each condition violated shall constitute a separate offense.

c. Any person who violates any provision of this regulation may be penalized by a complaint brought in a court of competent jurisdiction as provided by M.G.L. ch. 218, § 26. Except as may be otherwise provided by law and as the court may see fit to impose, the maximum penalty for each violation, consistent R.R.O. 1.16, shall be three hundred (\$300) dollars. Each day or portion thereof shall constitute a separate offense. If more than one, each condition violated shall constitute a separate offense.

d. A beekeeper shall be wholly liable for any and all costs related to remediating any violation of this regulation as forth in M.G.L. ch. 111, § 124, including but not limited to any beehive, apiary, colony or swarm. Consistent with R.R.O. 1.16, Article III, and Chapter 497 of the Acts of 1991, a lien may be placed on the property of any person who has an outstanding balance due the city from any

penalties, fines, assessments or other charges resulting from violations of any city or state sanitary regulation or code.

Section 16. Severability

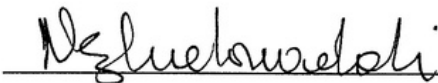
If any provision, clause, section, sentence, or paragraph of the above regulation shall be held to be invalid, such invalidity shall not affect the remaining provisions of this regulation. The valid part of any provision, clause, section, sentence, or paragraph shall be given independence from the invalid provisions, and to this end the provisions are hereby declared to be severable.

Section 17. Effective Date:

This regulation shall take effect on 12/7/21

Signatures of BOH members:







COMPLETE CHICKEN KEEPING REGULATIONS

REVERE BOARD OF HEALTH REGULATION FOR THE KEEPING OF CHICKENS

WHEREAS, the Revere Board of Health seeks to promote the creation of urban agriculture initiatives to support local access to healthy food; and

WHEREAS, the Revere Board of Health recognizes the benefits of local food sources as a sustainable practice capable of delivering food of high quality at low cost,

NOW THEREFORE, the Revere Board of Health promulgates the following regulation to protect the health of Revere residents, workers, and visitors.

.....

Section 1. Purpose

The purpose of this regulation is to protect the public health of Revere residents, workers, and visitors while promoting healthy and safe local food access through regulation of the keeping of chickens.

Section 2. Authority

This regulation is adopted under the authority of M.G.L. ch. 111, §§ 31 and 122, Revere Revised Ordinance 17.16.470, and pursuant to any other authority conferred by state or local laws on the Revere Board of Health. Pursuant to this authority, the Board of Health designates the city of Revere Health Department or the Department of Municipal Inspections (a/k/a Inspectional Services Department) and its Inspectors to carry out its role in the administration and enforcement of this regulation.

Section 3. Definitions

Accessory structure: Shall mean a structure incidental to and located on the same lot with a principal building.

BOH: Shall mean the city of Revere Board of Health.

Chicken: Shall mean the common domestic fowl - *Gallus gallus domesticus*.

Coop: Shall mean an enclosed structure with indoor area where chickens can roost and lay eggs.

Hen: Shall mean a mature female domestic chicken.

Run: Shall mean an outdoor enclosed area that chickens are confined to that is connected to a coop.

Pests: Shall refer to rodents, vermin, and insects, including vectors that transmit diseases to humans, such as flies and mosquitoes.

Person: Shall mean a person, persons, association, partnership trust, company, corporation, or other legal entity.

Predator: Shall mean any creature that would seek to harm or consume chickens, including but not limited to, dogs, cats, coyotes, birds of prey, racoons, and skunks.

Property Owner: Shall mean every person who has legal title or the right to occupy or control any parcel of land, whether built upon, vacant or otherwise.

Rooster: Shall mean a male domestic chicken.

Section 4. General Requirements

- a. All persons keeping chickens in Revere shall do so in compliance with all applicable federal, state, and local laws, rules and regulations including, but not limited to R.R.O. Title 17, Section 16.470.
- b. Persons who keep chickens shall not do so in a manner that would constitute a nuisance as set forth in M.G.L. ch. 111, § 122 or result in any unsanitary condition.
- c. No roosters or crowing hens are permitted.
- d. The number of hens shall be limited to six (6).
- e. The BOH or its agent may order the removal of the chickens upon a determination that the chickens pose a health risk or nuisance.

Section 5. Structure Requirements for Keeping Chickens

- a. A coop must have a minimum interior floor surface of at least two (2) square feet per chicken.
- b. A run area is required and must have a minimum ground surface area of at least ten (10) square feet per chicken.
- c. Structure can have a maximum height (at the highest point of structure) of eight (8) feet.
- d. Entire structure (coop and run) must be less than 120 square feet and must comply with all state and local building codes (including electrical and plumbing permits, if needed).
- e. Consistent with R.R.O. 17.16.260(F)(1), coop and run structure must be located at least two (2) feet from rear property line and five (5) feet from side property line and follow all municipal building and setback requirements.
- f. Coop and run structure is not permitted in front or side yards.

g. Coop and run structure shall be located more than 200 feet from the high-water mark of any known source of drinking water supply or any tributary thereof, and more than 50 feet from any well.

h. Coop and run structure must be constructed securely to exclude pests and predators and must be completely enclosed.

Section 6. Management Requirements for Keeping Chickens

a. Perceptible noise from chickens at the property boundary must conform to the existing noise ordinance, R.R.O. 9.08.050 – 090.

b. Chicken bedding and waste must be discarded as per existing municipal waste regulations (R.R.O 8.06.020) or composted on-site responsibly, in an appropriate composting container.

c. Odors from chickens, manure, or other chicken-related substances shall not be perceptible at the property boundaries.

d. Any person keeping chickens must always do so in a humane manner, including but not limited to, access to fresh food and water, protection from predators, threats, and harm, and protection from elements as needed. Coop and run must be kept clean and well maintained.

e. All chickens shall be confined to the license holder's property at all times.

f. Necessary measures must be taken to prevent a buildup of pest and rodent populations due to the presence of chickens on the property.

g. Hens may not be kept in the home unless on a temporary basis for health or safety reasons, so long as hens are kept in a suitable "hospital" or "quarantine" cage setup.

h. Chicken feed must be kept stored in pest-proof containers and/or kept within the pest-proof coop and run structure at all times.

i. Chickens shall not be butchered within sight of neighbors and meat must not be sold.

j. When a chicken dies it must be disposed of in a sanitary manner:

i. Secured in a triple-layered plastic wrap or bags and disposed of with municipal waste as per regulations, or

ii. Taken to veterinarian for disposal, or

iii. Buried in backyard, at least two (2) feet deep, not within 50 feet of water drinking water source including a well, with heavy objects placed on top of burial site

k. In the event of unexpected die off of more than one (1) chicken in the flock within two (2) weeks of each other, licensee must report event to the BOH within two (2) business days.

Section 7. License Required

No person shall keep chickens in Revere without obtaining a license to do so from the BOH.

Section 8. License Application Requirements

Each person proposing to keep chickens shall submit an application to the BOH that shall include the following:

- a. Applicant name, address, and contact information.
- b. A scale drawing (hand-drawn or electronic) of the property, which depicts the proposed coop and run location, dimensions of each, and proximity to property lines and accessory structures.
- c. Written consent of the property owner(s), if applicant is not the property owner.
- d. Written verification of all immediate abutters to the address on application stating they have been notified of the applicant's intent and informed that they have the right to express concerns to the BOH at public hearing where application is being considered for issuance or renewal.
- e. Application must also include
 - i. Detailed waste management plan that includes cleaning practices for coop and run structure, feed and water containers, and
 - ii. Detailed plan for dealing with sick chickens including plan for veterinary care, and
 - iii. Detailed emergency plan in event chickens need to be evacuated or temporarily relocated.
- f. The applicant shall apply for a license on the form to be provided by the BOH. All materials submitted in a license application shall be considered part of any license issued by the BOH.
- g. After a license to keep chickens has been issued, no modifications to plans submitted in support of an application to obtain said license shall be made unless such modified plans have been approved by the BOH.
- h. Licenses issued by the BOH are personal to the licensee and shall not be transferable. A new license application must be submitted to the BOH whenever there is a new owner seeking to keep chickens on said property. Any sale or transfer of the property that houses chickens shall require immediate written notification by the person to the BOH. If the new property owner does not consent to the continued keeping of chickens at the property, the licensee shall cease the keeping of chickens at the property and promptly surrender any license to the BOH.
- i. The license application fee for the issuance of a license shall be fifty (\$50) dollars and shall be due at the time the applicant submits the license application to the BOH.

Section 9. Renewals

a. All licenses to keep chickens may be renewed annually. A person seeking to renew a license to keep chickens shall submit an application for renewal to the BOH no later than March 1st of each year. The applicant shall apply for a renewal on a form provided by the BOH. Failure to timely apply for a renewal of license shall result in the termination of the license

b. The application fee for a license renewal shall be twenty-five (\$25) dollars and shall be due at the time the applicant submits the application to the BOH.

Section 10. Notification

Upon receipt of a complete application for the issuance of a license for the keeping of chickens, the BOH shall provide written notification to the applicant and the owner of the property where the chicken keeping is proposed. Such notice shall provide the date and time of the public hearing of any such application or request. Such notification shall be made by certified mail, return receipt requested.

Section 11. Hearings

a. The BOH shall conduct a public hearing to consider the issuance, suspension, and revocation of licenses.

b. The BOH shall conduct public hearings as needed. Two hearing officers shall constitute a quorum for the purpose of convening a hearing and of conducting the business of the BOH pursuant to this regulation.

c. The BOH shall not consider any application for a license or renewal of a license unless the BOH has received applications that are complete.

d. The BOH shall not issue a license if the BOH determines the keeping of chickens poses a health risk of nuisance to the public or to a person(s) who lives directly adjacent to or at the property where chicken keeping is proposed. In making its determination, the BOH shall provide evidence of such risk. "Health risk" shall mean the likely possibility of physical injury or harm to one or more person(s) caused by the keeping of chickens.

e. Health Inspectors or other staff of the Department of Municipal Inspections (a/k/a Inspectional Services) or Public Health Department shall present his or her recommendations to the BOH at a public hearing as to whether a license should be issued, suspended or revoked.

f. The BOH, in its sole discretion, may approve or reject the entirety or portions of an application for the issuance of a license or may require modifications to any of these before any such issuance is approved.

g. An applicant for the issuance of a license or any licensee subject to suspension or revocation shall have a right to be heard at a public hearing before the BOH prior to the BOH rendering a decision.

h. The BOH may promulgate guidance for orderly procedure at hearings and for the proper implementation of the BOH's responsibilities under this regulation.

Section 12. Enforcement and Violations

a. Authority to enforce this Regulation shall be held by the BOH or its designee.

b. Any violation of this regulation may be enforced by the BOH through its designee Health Inspectors and or Director of Public Health, including any violation for noncompliance of any provisions of the State Sanitary Code (105 CMR 410), and may be subject to the penalties set forth in R.R.O. 1.12 Article III, and 1.16 and/or in the manner provided in M.G.L. ch. 111 § 187.

c. Written notice of any violation of this regulation shall be sent to the chicken keeper and property owner by the BOH, and shall:

- i. Specify the nature of the violation and the schedule for compliance;
- ii. Order any corrective actions that must be undertaken to remedy any violation of this regulation, and
- iii. Order any preventative measures necessary to avoid future violations.

d. Any licensee may request a hearing before the BOH after receiving a notice of a violation. Such request must be made in writing and submitted to the BOH within ten (10) days of receipt of written notice of any violations.

e. At a public hearing in response to a licensee's request for a hearing, the BOH may deny, uphold, or uphold or deny in part, the violation.

Section 13. Inspections

The BOH or its designee may inspect a chicken coop at any time to investigate whether there has been a violation of this regulation. The BOH or its designee shall conduct an inspection when any of the following apply:

a. The BOH has received a written or oral complaint about the keeping of chickens; or

b. The BOH has received an application for the issuance of a license or a request for the modification of any license. There may be one or more inspections conducted by the BOH or its designees during the application process.

Section 14. Imminent Health Hazards

If the BOH or its designees determines that a chicken flock causes an imminent health hazard, the BOH or its designees may require that the chickens be immediately removed at the chicken keeper's expense without a hearing.

Section 15. Penalties

- a. Any person who violates any provision of this regulation may be penalized by a non-criminal disposition process as provided in R.R.O. 1.12, Article III, and 1.16, including applicable fines.
- b. Each day or portion thereof shall constitute a separate offense. If more than one, each condition violated shall constitute a separate offense.
- c. Any person who violates any provision of this regulation may be penalized by a complaint brought in a court of competent jurisdiction as provided by M.G.L. ch. 218, § 26. Except as may otherwise be provided by law and as the court may see fit to impose, the maximum penalty for each violation, consistent with R.R.O. 1.16, shall be three hundred (\$300) dollars. Each day or portion thereof shall constitute a separate offense. If more than one, each condition violated shall constitute a separate offense.
- d. A person who keeps chickens shall be wholly liable for any and all costs related to remediating any violation of this regulation as set forth in M.G.L. ch. 111, § 123. Consistent with R.R.O. 1.16, Article III, and Chapter 497 of the Acts of 1991, a lien may be placed on the property of any person who has an outstanding balance due the city from any penalties, fines, assessments, or other charges resulting from violations of any city or state sanitary regulation or code.

Section 16. Severability

If any provision, clause, section, sentence, or paragraph of the above regulation shall be held to be invalid, such invalidity shall not affect the remaining provisions of this regulation. The valid part of any provision, clause, section, sentence, or paragraph shall be given independence from the invalid provisions, and to this end the provisions are hereby declared to be severable.

Section 17. Recommendations

The following section details recommendations and best practices for chicken keeping. These recommendations are meant to help applicants be successful in the keeping of chickens and comply with the above regulations.

- Applicant should familiarize his/herself with educational materials and best practice methods for backyard chicken keeping. Some resources are listed below
 - o www.yardbirdsbackyardchickens.com
 - o www.backyardchickens.com
- If utilizing a pre-fabricated coop and run structure ensure that it meets the minimum size requirements outlined above before purchase.
- Learn about veterinarians in the area who handle chickens. Become familiar with office hours and contact information.
- If keeping non-mature hens in anticipation that replacement of some of the current mature flock is necessary, no more than 12 hens in total should be kept.

- Ensure easy access to an appropriate amount of pet carriers for entire flock if emergency removal is necessary.
- A coop and run structure with a completely rain-proof roof is highly recommended.
- ½ inch hardware cloth is highly recommended for use throughout the coop and run structure for pest and predator prevention. Bury hardware cloth around the entire perimeter of the structure for further pest prevention.
- ¾ - 1 inch lath screws are recommended when attaching hardware cloth to structure.
- Ensure coop has appropriate natural light and ventilation for both summer heat and winter cold. This includes hardware cloth-covered windows, doors, or other ventilation openings on all 4 walls of structure that open and close completely.
- To ensure appropriate setback requirements are met, request property line assessment from City of Revere Assessor's office. Do not assume that current fence lines or assumed property divisions are correct.
- Use pine shavings for coop floor and nesting boxes instead of straw or hay.
- Wash hands appropriately after handling chickens, bedding, waste and after collecting and cleaning eggs.
- Collect eggs daily.
- Ensure that entire flock has access to clean water and food on a daily basis.
- Rinse and scrub water delivery system and large messes inside coop and run on a weekly or biweekly schedule.
- Clean out all shavings in the coop and nest boxes and replace with fresh shavings on a monthly basis.
- When composting bedding and manure, plan ahead. Often the volume of these materials will be too large for a typical urban compost bin. Become familiar with urban compost providers in the area. Become familiar with appropriate methods of composting.

Section 18. Effective Date:

This regulation shall take effect on March 24, 2022

Signatures of BOH members:

Mehmet Ali

Craig A. Postanza
