

Resolution No. 20110804-025

WHEREAS, Austin prides itself as an animal-friendly city, and believes that the welfare of animals raised for food is a matter of social importance; and

WHEREAS, According to the Pew Commission on Industrial Farm Production, farm animals who are treated well and provided with at least minimum accommodation of their natural behaviors and physical needs are healthier and by extension improves food safety; and

WHEREAS, The City of Austin supports the Sustainable Communities Initiative (SCI) which exists to help the greater Austin region achieve ecological health and considers the purchasing of food a key component to achieving this goal; and

WHEREAS, In July 2011, the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) and the United Egg Producers (UEP) trade association—the largest animal protection organization and the largest egg industry trade association—reached an agreement which would improve the living conditions of more than 250 million egg-laying hens used each year in U.S.; and

WHEREAS, The HSUS and UEP have agreed to work together to advocate for federal legislation that would require the following:

1. Moratorium at the end of 2011 on new construction of barren battery cages;
2. Nationwide elimination of barren battery cages through a phase out period;
3. All new housing systems provide each egg-laying hen nearly double the amount of space currently allotted to caged hens;
4. Labeling of all egg cartons to inform consumers of the method used to produce the eggs;
5. Prohibition on forced molting through starvation, which involves withholding all food from birds for up to two weeks in order to manipulate the laying cycle;
6. Adoption of euthanasia standards for spent egg-laying hens;
7. Prohibition on excessive ammonia levels in henhouses; and
8. Prohibition on the sale of eggs and egg products nationwide that don't meet these requirements; **NOW, THEREFORE,**

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:

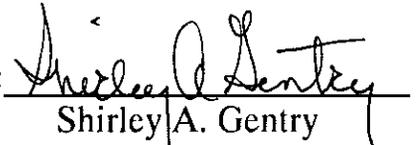
The Austin City Council urges the United States Congress to introduce and pass legislation to codify the agreement between the HSUS and UEP to afford specific protections to all United States egg laying hens; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED

The City Manager is directed to cause copies of this Resolution to be sent to the President and Vice President of the United States, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the Majority Leader of the United States Senate, each member of the Texas delegation in the United States Congress, and the Secretary of the United States Food and Drug Administration.

ADOPTED: August 4, 2011

ATTEST:


Shirley A. Gentry
City Clerk