

From: Lisa Caruso

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Date: August 4, 2019 at 11:48 AM

Subject: Caruso 1620 Rochester Rd.

Dear Treasurer Langlois, Clerk Reilly and Supervisor Bailey,

Thank You for meeting with me earlier last week at office hours. It's great that a resident can just drop in like that and discuss a concern with members of the board.

Last Thursday the 1st, I came home from work to discover 20 of my neighbors birds in my back yard eating and destroying my lawn as well as my garden, shrubs and raspberry bushes. We had planned on picking the berries and had worked hard in anticipation of their harvest. Our raspberries were devoured by the birds. Not only that, but I discovered they had been in my yard for some time leaving a mess of poop around my yard.

This blatant disregard for my personal property by my adjoining neighbor to the South at 1700 Rochester Rd. has been an ongoing issue.

An Oakland County Sheriff Deputy was dispatched at my request only to be told once again that there is nothing they could do and there is no fines for birds being at large.

Although it's never my intention to deprive anyone of their property rights it is my intention to protect my property, civil rights, the enjoyment and repose of my residence and the health and well being of my family.

In June of 2018 I made a formal complaint with the Charter Township of Oakland concerning zoning violations performed by the owner of the adjoining property to the South at 1700 Rochester Road for keeping hundreds of class 3 animals that were being contained by them in their back yard 150 feet from my house.

A citation was issued and a case was brought to court in which it was dismissed by the judge.

I was disappointed that neither myself or my family were not notified beforehand or had a chance to be heard at this court hearing.

I still feel that zoning ordinances and environmental concerns remain in violation and am concerned with the health and well being of myself, my family and the environment. There are hundreds of birds being kept by my adjoining neighbor in a small and poorly drained area 150 feet from my bedroom window. the noise and smell create a nuisance and myself and my family are sometimes forced inside with the windows closed.

Since I live in a highly residential area of Oakland Township, I do not have the expectation that a commercial poultry farm keeping hundreds of birds in a small poorly drained area should be allowed to be located at my property line and 150 feet from my home. it's a nuisance and a health and environmental hazard.

- *There is no setback.*
- *The smell and noise cause a nuisance. Sometimes odors are so unbearable we end up going inside and closing the windows.*
- *The keeping of hundreds of birds in a small poorly drained area within 150 feet of my home are causing unsanitary conditions. Also, the Center for Disease Control and prevention has recently reported that 52 people in states including Michigan have contracted salmonella from backyard poultry.*
- *The new commercial poultry farm has been located within a wellhead protection area as recognized by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality in which this area also contains Oakland Township's Fire Station #2, Twin Lakes Golf Club and community and our neighborhood.*
- *The new commercial poultry farm has been located within a nationally recognized wetland. The owners of the commercial poultry farm have altered grades and buried drain tiles and there is animal waste sitting in the poorly drained yard and being washed and drained into the adjoining wetlands.*
- *The property owner allows the birds to "free range" and run at large throughout our property – Oakland Township Deputies from Goodison Substation have responded to many of our complaints.*
- *The new Commercial poultry farm has been located on 6 acres of a narrow deep parcel which is cut in half by wetlands making over half of it un accessible. This means all the hundreds of poultry livestock animals are being kept on the front 2-3 acres which includes the house and yard.*
- *The hundreds of birds have attracted predators such as coyotes, raccoons and possums and the predators are killing off the birds and carrying them off into our yard which we have documented dozens of leftover chicken pieces and carcasses and eggshells strewn about our backyard creating un sanitary conditions.*
- *The owner of the new commercial poultry farm at 1700 Rochester Rd. is raising and selling poultry and eggs for profit and is advertising to the public as the "Rainbow Basket Egg Farm" as well as posting advertisement within the road right of way in front of their property.*

Did the Michigan Department of Agriculture do proper research or consideration when they sited this new category 3 commercial poultry farm in a small, poorly drained area right next to my house and in the middle of a highly residential and environmentally sensitive neighborhood allowing them to contain up to 5,000 birds?

- *How will this affect my family's health?*
- *Will the excessive manure waste from the small, poorly drained yard containing hundreds of birds affect my well 150 feet away?*
- *There are more than 13 non farm residences within 1/4 mile of the new commercial poultry facility.*

- *There are 3 non farm residences within 250 feet of the new commercial poultry facility.*
- *How this will affect my property value?*
- *How will this affect other neighbors and Township Residents?*

Does the Charter Township of Oakland have the ability and the right to enforce these animal zoning and environmental issues and ordinances within the township?

I am asking you to please look into these matters as it affects the overall township and It's residents as well as myself.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if anyone has any questions or needs clarification. I myself along with my wife have done many hours of research and have documentation and information on many of these concerns.

I highly appreciate your attention to these matters.

Respectfully,

Douglas Caruso 1620 N. Rochester Road."