

**From:** Aaron Rosenzweig aaron@chatnbike.com  
**Subject:** Re: Internal Investigation  
**Date:** March 23, 2015 at 5:09 PM  
**To:** Tony Tomasello TTomasello@gaitthersburgmd.gov  
**Cc:** Jud Ashman - External jud.ashman@gmail.com, Ryan Spiegel rspiegel@gaitthersburgmd.gov  
**Bcc:** Jen-Lien Fang zeelandia@cocoanutstech.com

---

Hello Tony, Mayor Ashman, Council member Spiegel,

Below are the records I kept for your reference. Tony requested explicit dates. I marked in bold the visits from Animal Control. In all, Animal Control came out five times. One time should have been enough. You can also see the dates of issues with the Rosemans.

=====

Monday June 16, 2014 - Faith Roseman asked us "what is that?" I repeated for her 3 times that they were chickens because she kept saying "what?" - Then she said "I didn't know we lived in a farm community!" I asked if she liked them... she said "Not in the front yard! Not in the front yard!"

**Tue. June 17, 2014** - animal control arrived. Sylvester said we are not allowed to have chickens. Then he said we cannot have chickens in the front yard. Then he said they had to be 200 feet away from any residence and asked me for a measuring tool. I asked them to show me where that is written. It is not written anywhere. They called out the supervisor, "Lisa." She said it was all good and she had never seen anything so wonderful. She told me if anyone had problems, tell them to talk to her. It is totally fine to have chickens in the front yard. **Because of all the trouble (several hours) I made sure to ask for the paperwork, the written codes on pink paper, by which I would be judged.** They handed it to me. I studied it like the bible. That's when I found that roosters are allowed, they just can't crow, which is reasonable. Besides, I had purchased all hens but it's good to know.

**Approximately 1 week later, June 24, 2014**, animal control came again, this time it was Jorge. I told him to speak with Lisa and that was the end of that conversation.

Tue. Nov. 4, 2014 approx. 10:00 am - David Roseman honked his horn three times in front of my house for no reason

Wed. Nov. 5, 2014 approx. 10:00 am - David Roseman stopped his car and rolled down the window and yelled "Put those things in a pen." I walked over to his car and he repeated those words. He then went on to tell me how they belong in the country and not here and that this is not a third world country. He then went on to say that they should at least be in the back yard. He then drove away while I was in mid sentence responding to him.

Thur. Nov. 6, 2014 approx. 10:00 am - David Roseman stopped his car and started taking photographs from inside the vehicle. I stood with the chickens, waved, and smiled.

Tue. Nov. 11, 2014 approx. 10:00 am - Faith Roseman stopped her car and got out of the vehicle. She asked why the chickens are in the front yard. I gave her two reasons: 1) For the benefit of the community - adults and children alike enjoy them 2) It's safer. She said her real estate agent says that because of the chickens our housing prices will not appreciate. Then she said twice "just think about that" as she walked away and into her car and drove off.

Wed. Nov. 12, 2014 we got an anonymous letter that read:

Just so you are aware, it is against City of Gaithersburg regulations and laws to keep pets in the front yard of a home.

Chickens are great pets but belong in a backyard.

If you do not consider them PETS, it is ILLEGAL to have farm or livestock within city limits.

Please also be aware of HISTOPLASMOSIS. A disease spread by chicken poop.

— A concerned neighbor

Th. Nov. 13, 2014 - Animal control came to the house and said that the chickens were not allowed in the front yard.

**Thur. Nov. 13, 2014** - Animal control came today about a complaint that chickens are running wild. They saw Coco and Luna and believe they are roosters. They took pictures and will decide if they really are roosters and let us know what to do. Even though they don't crow, the rules are no roosters period. Jorge came out first and later called his colleague (Sylvester) who came in a second van. Sylvester asked to hold Sophie the silkie so we let them all out. He loved holding her and said she was so warm and snuggly... would like to cuddle up with her at night. Jorge seemed impressed that the chickens just stayed around us and didn't wander off.

A few things Jorge said that I do not agree with:

1. He said he was from Guatemala so he knows chickens and that to have fresh eggs you must have roosters. — That's magical thinking. Coming from Guatemala does not make you an expert on chickens, studying them does. Also, chickens lay eggs as long as they get 14 hours of light per day. That's it, they need no man. Just like a human woman goes through menstruation without a man. If you want to "fertilize" the egg then you need a man.
2. He said "Nobody likes your chickens. You are the only person in Gaithersburg who tries to have chickens. Why don't you move to Damascus?" - that's not the point... we live here and we aren't in violation.
3. He said "you are lucky the rules allow you to do this and that they aren't changing soon." - I am not lucky... I read the rules before we moved here. It is one of the reasons we moved here along with the good schools.
4. He said "it's just like if you had a junk car in your driveway, the city would make you take it away." - I don't understand the analogy...
5. He said one bird was a rooster, the other 5 he doesn't know for sure. Jorge said he could take Coco now or give us a citation. When he brought a colleague over in another van, named Sylvester, his colleague said a different bird was a rooster so now they think 2 are roosters. But they don't crow. Who is to say? When I asked Jorge to interview the neighbors about the crowing he said "I'm not going to waste my time." When I asked him to read the pink code book with me where it says plainly that non-crowing roosters are legal in Gaithersburg, he refused. He wanted to take Coco right on the spot but because I protested he asked Sylvester to come.

Sunday Nov. 16, 2014 - David Roseman stopped his car in front of our driveway and took pictures of my daughter who was standing in our front yard. He did not leave his car. He took the photos from inside with the window up. I came down to see what was going on and waved to him and smiled. He put down his camera, gave us the middle finger, then drove away. My 3rd grade son and 6th grade daughter were present as well as my wife.

Sunday Nov. 16, 2014 - reported the incident to the police.

**Fri. Nov. 21, 2014** - approx. 9:00 am - Faith Roseman drove by twice while we were cleaning the chicken coop and the chickens were in our front yard. Approx. 10:00 am - Jorge arrives and another car arrives with Sebastian and Stephen inside. I approach them but Jorge is talking with Sebastian and Steven so Jorge tells me "wait a few minutes" and wants me to leave them alone. When they do approach three men come together: Jorge, Sebastian and Steven. Jorge tells me that the other two men are going to take our "roosters." Sebastian and Steven say that animals are Jorge's responsibility. When I ask Jorge to read the pink code book with me he keeps refusing. Sebastian and Steven go on to tell us that it is illegal to have an extension cord outside. This cord is used to provide heat for the chicken's water and indoor temperature regulation. Without this they will die. I asked Sebastian and Stephen for the document that says in writing what the codes are. They refused to provide it. They said they'd come Monday with the document. Let's see if they keep their word. They made it sound like I could not have an extension cord at all. I thought for a moment and asked "What about holiday lights?" They then said "Oh, that's right, you can have a cord for 60 days." I then asked if that was consecutive days or what and why do they want to give me a citation now if it has not been 60 days yet? They mumbled and didn't give a straight answer, I asked again for the codes in writing. Jorge asked us why (what he thinks are roosters) aren't inside. He had told us before he would think about if they are roosters by taking pictures and let us know later. I showed him the document that said we are not allowed to have a "crowing rooster" and then he backed off. He said maybe we might be able to get a special exception but wait until Lisa comes back. He saw the writing in the document and realized that there are no complaints about noise so it is ok for now. We also discussed the sidewalk and showed him that by definition they are not

about noise so it is OK for now. We also discussed the sidewalk and showed him that by definition they are not "at large" but he was uncomfortable. He left on a relatively good note saying that he is glad we are building a fence and that should solve his problem... Sebastian and Stephen also said "if you put the chickens behind the fence we won't peek over to see that you are using an extension cord. Also you will make your neighbors happy."

Sunday Nov. 23rd we prepared four documents and started visiting our neighbors.

1. Letter to 6 Thorburn Road - everyone we met was offered a copy. We told them they don't have to do anything with it but if they want to sign it and drop it in the Roseman's mailbox at 6 Thorburn Road they could. At least it explains what is going on. It states that Gaithersburg is a "pro chicken" city, even Council Member Ryan Spiegel has chickens. It says a few words about why chickens are nice. It ends with "I do not condone" the photographs and the middle finger.
2. Names to call - lists Animal Control and Planning / Code commission contacts with names and numbers. It says they always get a call when people are upset, it would be nice for them to get a call about things you like such as the chickens.
3. No chicken noise - one page where people can sign and state that they have no issues with noise from the chickens - we gave this to our neighbors who live next door to us.
4. Like chickens in front yard - one page where people can sign and state that they enjoy the chickens, in the front yard, and out of the coop when they are supervised. We gave this to everyone we met.

**Friday Dec. 5, 2014 around 3:00 pm** phoned and spoke with Lisa Holland

It was a sad conversation. I phoned in the hopes of having a real discussion of the terrible things that occurred while she was on vacation so that we can plan for the future in a positive way. That didn't happen. Lisa was extremely neutral, very defensive, I would say almost "battle scarred." When I tried to talk to her about the pink packet of codes that she gave to me many months ago, she denied what was written in there and said "I guarantee I did not write that." When I said "If you are going to get nasty about it..." She said "You obviously don't know me very well, you haven't seen nasty yet." We talked briefly about roosters. She said roosters crow. I provided evidence to the contrary with both surgery and collars as options. She said roosters fight. I provided evidence to the contrary, only roosters trained to fight will... just like a pit bull. She said roosters will cause an uncontrollable rush of baby chicks unless we spay or neuter the chickens. I said these are not mammals, there can be no surprise births. I asked why Lisa is making big deal out of this, that I have signed statements from all of my immediate neighbors that there are no noise nor other issues. She says rules are rules and if she sees something, she must act on it even if nobody cares. So I asked her how to change the rules - she said show up on Mondays at 7:30 pm and to phone Doris Stokes ahead of time. I told Lisa that it feels like the Rosemans are abusing animal control to harass us. She said they've been used for much worse. Even squabbles over a parking spot. She asked if child services has visited us and that we should be thankful that they have not. What world is this? Since when did abuse of process become common and accepted? Months ago she told me that our coop was the coolest thing she'd ever seen and if any one has a problem with it, tell them to talk to her. I asked her today how she honestly felt about it, she said "If I lived across the street from you, I wouldn't have a problem with it." Then she added, "but it doesn't matter what I think." I said "it matters to me." If we don't stand for something, we'll fall for anything. If we lack moral fiber, how do we determine what is right and what is wrong? Somewhere in the conversation we talked about Stephen and Sebastian and the issue with the electric cord. I asked why do other people have holiday lighting and I'm being singled out? Lisa asked for addresses, I said that's not the point and that's not the kind of guy I am nor neighborhood I'd like to promote.

AARON ROSENZWEIG / Chat 'n Bike

e: [aaron@chatnbike.com](mailto:aaron@chatnbike.com) t: (301) 956-2319





[See More](#)