

Aaron Meyer

From: Rita Binstock
Sent: Monday, April 20, 2026 10:35 AM
To: Aaron Meyer
Subject: FW: Position on quail ban to be added to packet
Attachments: Screenshot_20260415_152121_Gallery.jpg; Screenshot_20260408_105139_Samsung Notes.jpg

ADMIN. ASST. TO CITY ADMIN.
ADMINISTRATION

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From: msisneros20 <msisneros20@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, April 20, 2026 10:22 AM
To: Rita Binstock <rita.binstock@dickinsongov.com>
Subject: Position on quail ban to be added to packet

Position Statement Opposing the Proposed Ban on Quail in City Limits

This statement is submitted for inclusion in the public record and review by the City Commission regarding the proposed ordinance to ban quail within city limits.

The proposed ban is not supported by clear, substantiated evidence demonstrating that quail pose a legitimate or widespread issue within the community. Quail are widely recognized as one of the quietest domesticated bird species. They do not produce disruptive noise levels and, when properly maintained, have minimal impact on neighboring properties. From a nuisance and public disturbance standpoint, quail do not present a measurable concern that would justify a full prohibition.

Further, there is a lack of verified complaints directly related to quail that would warrant such action. Evidence exists showing that no formal, substantiated complaints specific to quail have been documented. Moving forward with a city-wide ban in the absence of documented issues raises concerns about the basis for this ordinance and whether it reflects actual community needs.

Additionally, the letter submitted by the Southwestern District Health Unit in support of the ban contains statements that appear to reflect extreme or worst-case scenarios rather than typical, everyday quail ownership. While any animal can present issues if neglected, the claims outlined—such as excessive aggression, unmanageable conditions, or significant environmental impact—are not representative of standard, responsible practices.

In reality, quail are low-maintenance animals that are commonly and successfully kept in controlled environments. Routine care, including proper enclosure, sanitation, and basic husbandry, effectively addresses concerns related to waste, odor, and animal behavior. The assertions presented in the letter do not adequately distinguish between improper care and normal ownership, and as such, risk overstating potential concerns.

Policy decisions of this nature should be grounded in accurate, balanced, and evidence-based information. Relying on generalized or exaggerated claims to justify a full ban does not provide a sound or equitable foundation for regulation. If concerns exist, they should be addressed through reasonable guidelines or enforcement of existing standards rather than an outright prohibition.

There are also broader concerns regarding fairness and process. Implementing a ban without clear evidence of harm or widespread issues creates the appearance of reactive or selective policymaking. Ordinances should be developed through transparent evaluation of facts, applied consistently, and designed to address legitimate public concerns—not hypothetical or isolated scenarios.

Quail ownership provides benefits to residents, including small-scale food production, educational opportunities, and responsible engagement in agriculture within city limits. These benefits come with minimal impact when proper care standards are followed.

For these reasons, it is respectfully requested that the City Commission reconsider the proposed ban and instead evaluate whether existing regulations or reasonable alternatives would more appropriately address any concerns. Any action taken should be based on verifiable evidence, proportional response, and fair consideration of all residents. Submitted for the record.