



**CITY OF BURLINGTON
BOARD OF HEALTH**

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Memo to: Burlington City Council
From: David A. Casey, Burlington Board of Health
Date: 04/09/2013
Regarding: Proposed Urban Livestock Slaughter Ordinance

In response to the Burlington City Council Resolution Relating to Moving Urban Agriculture Issues Forward dated 11/26/2012 asking for a report from the Burlington Board of Health by April 15, 2013, the Board is pleased to report that it is working with the City Attorney's Office on drafting language for a proposed slaughtering ordinance that addresses the issues raised in section 5.5.3.4 of the Burlington Urban Agriculture Task Force report. This slaughtering ordinance will be provided to the Council within the next couple weeks as requested in this resolution.

Currently, Article III, Section 5-26 of the City of Burlington Code of Ordinances prohibits killing of animals within the City. At the same time, however, urban livestock husbandry continues to grow in the City, and with it, presumably, the slaughter of livestock animals.

It is the belief of the Burlington Board of Health that livestock slaughter is taking place within the City in spite of the City ordinance prohibiting the killing of live animals. As such, in the interest of protecting public health, the Burlington Board of Health has decided to work to control livestock slaughter by proposing a livestock slaughter ordinance which outlines exactly how and under what circumstances this activity may take place. The Board of Health proposes an exemption to the Code of City Ordinances, Article III, Section 5-26 to allow the slaughter of livestock animals strictly for the purposes of resource production and/or humane livestock euthanasia.

Numerous issues arise when allowing this sort of activity within the City. Chief among these issues are the public health challenges arising from live animal proximity to humans, blood borne pathogen exposure, exposure to contaminated waste, water and other resource contamination by animal remains, etc. Issues such as the humane

treatment of livestock; waste management of livestock remains; local disturbance and nuisance issues, etc. must be addressed as well. The proposed ordinance seeks to address these issues while not being overly encumbering for City residents, and remaining enforceable for City officials.

Pertinent Federal and State humane treatment, agricultural management, and waste management regulations were consulted as well as livestock slaughtering ordinances from other U.S. urban communities. The proposed ordinance will require all livestock slaughter, whether for commercial or personal use, to follow established Federal and State slaughter regulations. Additionally, all livestock slaughter will be required to take place out of sight and sound of other animals, tenants, neighbors, and passers-by out of respect for other and the Burlington community. We look forward to finishing our work with the City Attorney's Office and providing you an ordinance for first reading and referral to the Ordinance Committee at your April 29, 2013 meeting.