

# COUNTY OF YORK

## MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** March 10, 2025

**TO:** York County Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** Mark L. Bellamy, Jr., County Administrator 

**SUBJECT:** Recommendation to continue Application No. ZT-204-25, Accessory chicken/duck-keeping on residential properties

### ISSUE

Application ZT-204-25 proposes amendments to the Zoning Ordinance regarding accessory chicken-keeping on residential properties, and is scheduled to be considered at a public hearing at the Board's regular meeting on March 18, 2025.

These changes would end the current process where residents can apply for a Special Use Permit requesting to place chicken coops closer to property lines than the regulations require. Instead, residents would need to file a variance request with the Board of Subdivision and Zoning Appeals, similar to other requests for smaller setbacks.

However, a timing issue has emerged that warrants your attention. A local couple has already applied for a Special Use Permit under the current rules. The Planning Commission reviewed their application on March 12. If the Board approves the proposed text amendments before considering their application, their request would become invalid.

I recommend that the Board:

1. Open the public hearing for ZT-204-25 during the March 18, 2025 meeting (as the public hearing notice has already been published);
2. Continue the public hearing until the April 15, 2025 meeting;
3. Consider the couple's application first on April 15, 2025; and
4. Then consider the proposed text amendments to the chicken-keeping ordinance (ZT-204-25) during the same meeting.

This approach gives the couple a fair chance to have their request reviewed under the current rules since they have already gone through much of the application process. If you have further questions, please contact Jeanne Sgroi or Caitlin Aubut.

Sgroi/6689