

Let's let the Chicks Rule

So, was anyone else wondering what was up with those giant, clucking chickens strolling down Main Street during the Snowdown parade? I called my sources on all things poultry to see if any birds had recently flown the coop. You know, a coordinated cage-break, feathered fugitives on the run from the Foster Farm cops. It turns out that city councilman Michael Rendon was the person who hatched the plan.

It just so happens that getting poultry in the parade is chicken feed compared to the larger issue: allowing residents to keep hens inside city limits. Rendon sees chickens as contributing to sustainability by producing eggs for local consumption. He says in a recession people need to produce their own food and chickens also provide bug control and free fertilizer. Rendon was the former coordinator of the Environmental Center, but during the parade he was dressed as Moses, "...leading the chickens into the Holy Land of Durango, just as Moses led the Jewish people" out of Egypt and into the Promised Land.

The Durango Herald recently did a poll on the idea of local chickens that showed sixty percent favored the idea. Rendon said the biggest concern is noise. In response to those who fret about clucking from their neighbor's yard, he says that three to five chickens would not be any louder or any smellier than dogs. Dogs may be man best friend but as far as I know dogs can't lay you breakfast or provide those tasty nuggets. Most of the chickens we buy at the store never get out to stretch their legs and are shot through with growth hormones. By raising our own chickens we can make sure they're healthy and fairly treated while also being more self-sufficient. Rendon hopes others will join the cause for a march on city hall to end discriminatory poultry policies that separate people from their eggs. For those that stand in opposition, you have to ask "What are they afraid of?" Maybe they're just...

Devon Dey