



# CITY OF DECATUR ILLINOIS

#1 GARY K. ANDERSON PLAZA

DECATUR, ILLINOIS 62523-1196

December 6, 2019

Mary Moore  
2500 Carolyn Ave.  
Decatur, IL 62526

Dear Mrs. Moore:

This letter is a follow-up to our December 4, 2019 meeting with you and your neighbors that own property in the unincorporated area northwest of Greenswitch and Mound Roads. The city plans to annex this tract of land into the city and you have requested that the city provide clarification and assurances about what activities and land uses will be legal following annexation. We are pleased to provide this clarification. The City can accommodate most of your lifestyle concerns with minimal disruption.

Current City Code allows the following uses:

1. The keeping of animals like chickens, horses, and more is allowed by Chapter 47.
2. Commercial vehicles such as a semi-tractor are not permitted to park on the City streets, but there is no prohibition of one such vehicle from parking on an improved surface in a private driveway or in a garage.
3. Any accessory buildings that are larger than the house or principal use would be considered to be legal non-conforming and "grandfathered" when annexed into the City.
4. Recreational fires are permitted pursuant to Chapter 48 and Chapter 44.

Uses of property that are legal in unincorporated Macon County would be considered legal, non-conforming and "grandfathered" when they come into the city. This will include:

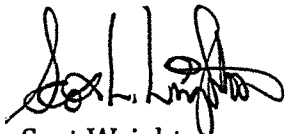
1. Existing animal pens and enclosures, by Zoning Code section XXIII.
2. Existing paved go-cart track.
3. All other existing land uses so long as they do not create a threat to public safety.

Additionally, following annexation into the city, the Decatur Code includes a process to obtain approval of future land uses which you may not be able to anticipate today for keeping of animals, small home-based businesses, and other uses. Depending on the proposed use, a conditional use permit, a special use permit, a variance or code amendment could be issued. The city regularly uses these tools to grant exceptions where it is warranted.

While large open fires and the discharge of firearms are not permitted inside the city limits, following annexation city staff is willing to meet with you and your neighbors again to address other issues should they arise. With this annexation, you can expect in time, to receive higher service levels from fire, police, animal control, street maintenance and more.

In an effort to, keep this process moving, we are transmitting this letter to you electronically with the understanding that you will share this with your neighbors in this affected area. Please get back to me by next Wednesday, December 10<sup>th</sup> if you believe we have left out anything. We hope that you will find this letter sufficient to protect your rights and potential futures uses.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scot Wrighton", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Scot Wrighton  
City Manager