

PETITION IN SUPPORT OF RESPONSIBLE PIGEON KEEPING IN CROTON

Complete current petition statement

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Dear Honorable Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Trustees, and Village Manager:

We, the undersigned residents of Croton-on-Hudson, respectfully urge the Board to reject a village-wide ban on pigeon keeping and instead support reasonable, evidence-based regulation. Aviculture is a long-standing, well-managed hobby that poses no meaningful risk to the community - and a permanent, Village-wide ban is a disproportionate response to what the record shows is a single household's flock.

- **Trained Birds Stay Home - Brief Exceptions Aren't a Pattern:** Kept pigeons are trained by daily feeding to return to their loft and reliably do so once settled. Young birds may briefly land nearby during initial training, but these rare incidents are temporary and self-correcting. A managed loft of 20-30 birds creates no more disturbance than a standard backyard bird feeder, which the Village does not ban.
- **Minimal Health & Safety Risk:** Secure, well-maintained lofts keep droppings contained and feed sealed against pests, posing no greater fire, disease, or predator risk than a standard backyard coop or bird feeder. Pigeons are not vectors of bird flu.
- **Fair Treatment, Not Retroactive Punishment:** Neighboring Tarrytown bans new pigeon keeping but grandfathers in existing keepers. Croton should do the same, rather than legislate a dispute between neighbors and potentially force out a resident who followed every rule the Village gave him.
- **Animal Welfare:** Pigeons are intelligent, social animals that form real bonds with each other and their keepers. Dispersing an established flock has real welfare consequences for these beloved pets.
- **If the Village Acts at All, It Must Not Regulate Pigeon Keeping Out of Existence:** At its core, this is a dispute between two neighbors, not a Village-wide problem requiring a new law. If the Board nonetheless decides standards are warranted, those standards must be genuinely workable, not a ban dressed up as regulation. We support sensible rules - loft size limits, setbacks, and sanitation standards - that address legitimate concerns.

We ask the Board to reject a ban, grandfather existing keepers, and protect the rights of responsible pet owners in Croton.

Sincerely,