

**Ann Machado - Peaks Island zoning question / health and welfare issue**

---

**From:** Debbie Jordan <dpjonpeaks@gmail.com>  
**To:** <amachado@portlandmaine.gov>  
**Date:** 6/4/2015 1:53 PM  
**Subject:** Peaks Island zoning question / health and welfare issue

---

Dear Ms. Machado,

Mike Murray directed me to you with this question. Can you tell me if Covey Johnson is legally allowed to raise pigs on his property on Peaks Island? Two years ago, we were told by Ms. Marge Schmuckel (who was the City's Zoning Administrator at the time) that City of Portland Zoning, including Peaks Island, does not allow for pigs. Mr. Johnson is now telling people that the law has changed, he is now allowed to keep pigs, and there is nothing that anyone can do about it.

When Mr. Johnson previously raised pigs on his property, the odor became so bad that it seriously impacted the health and welfare of his neighbors. On warm days, we were forced to keep all our windows closed due to the foul smell, and it was extremely unpleasant going outside into our yard. I was told that a neighbor's tenant left part-way through their week and demanded their rental money back because of the unbearable odor. While I can't confirm the truth of that story, I can say that I would have done the same if I rented my home instead of being its year-round owner. I am very concerned that this situation will happen again this summer.

Thank you in advance for your assistance.

Best wishes.

Deborah P. Jordan