

CITY of ALBUQUERQUE

TWENTY SECOND COUNCIL

COUNCIL BILL NO. R-16-77 ENACTMENT NO. _____

SPONSORED BY: Isaac Benton and Brad Winter

1 RESOLUTION
2 ACCEPTING THE DESIGNATION AND COMMITTING TO THE STANDARDS OF
3 BEE CITY USA

4 WHEREAS, the goal of Bee City USA is to promote healthy, sustainable
5 habitats and communities for bees and other pollinators; and

6 WHEREAS, thanks to the tremendous diversity of wild native bees, along
7 with the honey bees that were brought here from Europe in the 1700s, we have
8 very diverse dietary choices rich in fruits, nuts and vegetables; and

9 WHEREAS, One in every three bites of food we eat is courtesy of insect
10 pollination, and even our meat and milk trace back to insects that pollinate
11 alfalfa and other feed for beef cattle; and

12 WHEREAS, bees and other pollinators around the globe have experienced
13 dramatic declines due to a combination of habitat loss, use of pesticides, and
14 the spread of pests and diseases, with grave implications for the future health
15 of flora and fauna; and

16 WHEREAS, communities have the opportunity to support bees and other
17 pollinators on both public and private land through pesticide free zones;
18 working in collaboration with city officials to manage and increase healthy
19 native habitat for pollinators— including, but not limited to roadsides,
20 medians, open spaces and parks; and

21 WHEREAS, supporting pollinators fosters environmental awareness and
22 sustainability, increasing interactions among community stewards such as
23 commercial and backyard beekeepers, farmers, children, educators, Master
24 Naturalists, Master Gardeners, plant nurseries, municipalities, neighborhoods,
25 and garden suppliers and clubs; and

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1 WHEREAS, the economic benefits of (native and honey) bee-friendliness
2 include healthy ecosystems--insect pollinators are required for reproduction
3 of about 85% of flowering plants globally, increased vegetable and fruit crop
4 yields due to bee pollination, increased habitat for natural enemies of crop
5 pests and therefore reduced need for and costs associated with pesticides,
6 increased demand for pollinator-friendly plant materials from local nurseries,
7 income for beekeepers and others through the sale of bee products and
8 equipment, hive rentals for pollination, heightened prestige and premium
9 asking prices for place-based honey that enhances the visibility and
10 reputation of its community of origin, increased economic vitality and
11 destination tourism; and

12 WHEREAS, Albuquerque and New Mexico have a thriving bee keeping
13 community, offering accountability within the beekeeping community and
14 teaching fundamentals of beekeeping for both backyard and commercial
15 beekeepers, and a multitude of allied organizations in the public and non-
16 profit sectors collaborate toward these same goals; and

17 WHEREAS, the City continues to strive for the highest compliance in
18 certified sprayers and Integrated Pest Management in accordance with EPA
19 standards; and

20 WHEREAS, ideal pollinator-friendly habitat provides diverse and abundant
21 nectar and pollen from plants blooming in succession, provides clean water
22 for drinking, nest-building, cooling, diluting stored honey, and butterfly
23 puddling, provides pesticide-free zones and best practices for pest
24 management, is comprised of mostly native species of plants native
25 pollinators prefer or depend on the native plants with which they co-evolved,
26 designated pollinator zones in public spaces with signage to educate the
27 public, and provides for safe and humane removal of bees when required; and

28 WHEREAS, in order to enhance understanding among municipal staff and
29 the public about the vital role that pollinators play and what each of us can do
30 to sustain them the City of Albuquerque agrees to meet the commitments
31 required of Bee City USA communities as stated below.

32 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL, THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF
33 ALBUQUERQUE:

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1 Section 1. That the City of Albuquerque accepts the designation and
2 commits to the standards of Bee City USA (BCUSA) and designates the Parks
3 and Recreation Department as the City's BCUSA sponsor; Parks and
4 Recreation Department shall designate a representative from that department.

5 Section 2. That NMBKA will provide a BCUSA liaison to encourage and
6 coordinate local pollinator habitat and awareness activities.

7 Section 3. That the designee from the Parks and Recreation Department,
8 City Council, and NMBKA will work together to serve as the intermediary
9 between the citizenry and the City on matters of enhancing pollinator
10 awareness, health and habitat, fulfilling the following commitments:

11 (A.) To annually celebrate National Pollinator Week (third week of
12 June) or some other appropriate occasion with educational events,
13 pollinator habitat plantings or restoration, proclamations or promotions
14 that showcase the City's commitment to enhancing pollinator health and
15 habitat.

16 (B.) Work annually in collaboration with the non-profit New Mexico
17 Beekeeping Association (NMBKA) and City Council to create a progress
18 report and shall report to the Council annually by the end of the fiscal year.

19 (C.) Annually apply for renewal of the community's designation and
20 submit a report of the previous year's BEE CITY USA activities following
21 the format provided.

22 Section 4. That the City will publicly acknowledge its commitment by
23 installing and maintaining at least one authorized BEE CITY USA street sign in
24 a prominent location, and creating/maintaining links on appropriate pages of
25 the municipal website which includes, at minimum, links to this enacted
26 Resolution and the national BEE CITY USA website, contact information for
27 the municipality's BEE CITY USA liaison and designated facilitator
28 commission or non-profit organization committee, and reports of the
29 pollinator-friendly activities the municipality has accomplished the previous
30 year(s).

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