

CITY of ALBUQUERQUE

TWENTY FIFTH COUNCIL

COUNCIL BILL NO. R-23-127 ENACTMENT NO. _____

SPONSORED BY: Tammy Fiebelkorn

1 RESOLUTION
2 TO SUPPORT POLLINATOR CONSERVATION EFFORTS AND TO RECOMMIT
3 TO BEE CITY USA STANDARDS.

4 WHEREAS, almost all pollinators are insects that visit flowers to feed on
5 nectar and/or pollen, with the major groups of pollinators being butterflies,
6 moths, beetles, flies, wasps, and bees; and

7 WHEREAS, more than three-fourths of all native plants require pollination
8 by an animal, most often an insect; and

9 WHEREAS, bees and other pollinators around the globe are experiencing
10 dramatic declines due to a combination of habitat loss, use of pesticides, the
11 spread of pests and diseases, and the effects of climate change; and

12 WHEREAS, the decline of pollinator communities threatens agricultural
13 production, the maintenance of natural plant communities, and important
14 services provided by those ecosystems, such as carbon cycling and flood and
15 erosion control; and

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

18 WHEREAS, the City Council accepted the designation and committed to the
19 standards of Bee City USA by council resolution in 2016 (R-16-77) making
20 Albuquerque the first Bee City USA (BCUSA) in the Southwest, and the City
21 has since undertaken activities that promote the goals of BCUSA; and

22 WHEREAS, in order to enhance understanding among municipal staff and
23 the public about the vital role that pollinators play, the ecosystem services
24 that pollinators provide, and the role that each of us have in sustaining healthy
25 pollinators and their habitats, the City of Albuquerque agrees to meet the
26 commitments required of Bee City USA communities; and

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1 WHEREAS, the Mayor committed to the National Wildlife Federation
2 Mayor’s Monarch Pledge in 2022 to raise awareness and community support
3 for the conservation of monarch butterflies and other pollinators; and

4 WHEREAS, the City is committed to complying with EPA standards and
5 recommended best practices in the application of pesticides; and

6 WHEREAS, ideal pollinator-friendly habitat provides diverse and abundant
7 nectar and pollen from plants blooming in succession; provides clean water
8 for drinking, nest-building, cooling, diluting stored honey, and butterfly
9 puddling; provides pesticide-free zones and best practices for pest
10 management; and is comprised of mostly native plant species that are
11 preferred by or are essential for native pollinators; and

12 WHEREAS, scientific research supports the benefits of restoring and
13 reconnecting isolated patches of habitat through the creation of pollinator
14 pathways connecting multiple features through permanent, high-quality,
15 wildflower-rich habitats that provide nutrition and habitat for pollinators and
16 help them disperse into new habitats; and

17 WHEREAS, communities have the opportunity to support bees and other
18 pollinators on both public and private land through restoring, increasing, and
19 enhancing native habitat for pollinators—including, but not limited to
20 roadsides, medians, parks, and open spaces; and through appropriate and
21 responsible use of pesticides; and

22 WHEREAS, supporting pollinators fosters environmental awareness and
23 sustainability and increases interactions among community stewards such as
24 Master Gardeners, Master Naturalists, garden clubs, plant nurseries, farmers,
25 commercial and backyard bee keepers, educators, conservation
26 organizations, and other community groups; and

27 WHEREAS, the City supports the efforts of the ABQ Backyard Refuge
28 Program, organized by the Friends of Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge, to
29 enhance wildlife habitat throughout the community; and recognizes that
30 pockets of pollinator habitat can act as way stations for species to move
31 across larger areas; and

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1 WHEREAS, the City is developing a Pollinator Conservation Strategy that
2 outlines objectives, identifies action items, and involves coordination between
3 city departments.

4 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL, THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF
5 ALBUQUERQUE:

6 Section 1. That the City of Albuquerque reaffirms the designation and
7 recommits to the standards of Bee City USA and designates the Parks and
8 Recreation Department as the City’s BCUSA sponsor; Parks and Recreation
9 Department shall designate a representative from that department to serve as
10 the BCUSA liaison.

11 Section 2. That the City, through coordinated efforts of its departments, will
12 increase plantings and maintenance of native plant species along roadsides
13 and trails, and in roadway medians, parks, and open spaces, and generally
14 strive to improve pollinator habitat.

15 Section 3. That the Parks and Recreation Department, ABQ BioPark, and
16 Environmental Health Department will coordinate with other city departments,
17 other entities, and stakeholders to conduct outreach and education efforts to
18 enhance pollinator awareness, health, and habitat.

19 Section 4. That the City, through coordinated efforts of its departments, will
20 encourage and participate in studies and research on the health of native
21 pollinators and their habitats.

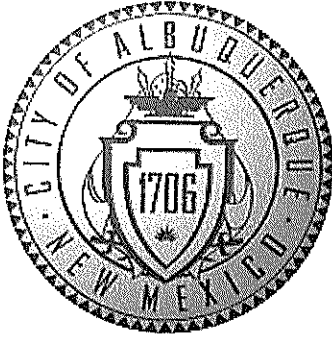
22 Section 5. That the City, through coordinated efforts of its departments, will
23 develop a plan for mapping pollinator habitats throughout the city with the
24 intention of identifying opportunities to create and enhance pollinator
25 pathways.

26 Section 6. That the City will utilize integrated pest management techniques
27 and best management practices that comply with industry standards set by
28 agencies such as the Environmental Protection Agency, Centers for Disease
29 Control, and American Mosquito Control Association; and will follow best
30 practices related to pollinator conservation in creating Integrated Pest and
31 Pollinator Management Plans.

1 Section 7. That the City will report annually to the City Council on
2 community efforts that have been accomplished in the previous year to
3 enhance pollinator awareness, health, and habitat.

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CITY OF ALBUQUERQUE
Albuquerque, New Mexico
Office of the Mayor

Mayor Timothy M. Keller

INTER-OFFICE MEMORANDUM March 6, 2023

TO: Patrick Davis, President, City Council

FROM: Timothy M. Keller, Mayor *R*

SUBJECT: Resolution to Support Pollinator Conservation Efforts and to Recommit to Bee City USA Standards

The City of Albuquerque Parks and Recreation Department, Solid Waste Management Department, Environmental Health Department, ABQ BioPark, and other entities and stakeholders have recognized that coordinated education and management efforts can improve the health of pollinator populations in and around Albuquerque which are vital to ecosystem resiliency.

This Resolution commits to targeted outreach and education efforts, coordination in enhancing pollinator habitat, and following best practices in pesticide application. The Resolution is forwarded to City Council for approval.

Cover Analysis

1. **What is it?** A City resolution to support pollinator conservation efforts and to recommit to Bee City USA standards.
2. **What will this piece of legislation do?** It will ensure that City Departments and other entities will coordinate efforts to raise awareness of the importance of pollinators and the threats that they face, to enhance pollinator habitat, and to follow best practices in creating and implementing integrated pest and pollinator management plans.
3. **Why is this project needed?** The resolution signifies that the City understands the importance of a healthy pollinator populations and is committed to following best practices to promote diverse and healthy pollinator communities.
4. **How much will it cost and what is the funding source?** No additional funds are required. These activities can be conducted as part of normal operations and informed management.
5. **Is there a revenue source associated with this contract? If so, what level of income is projected?** Outside of normal operations, no additional revenue source is required.
6. **What will happen if the project is not approved?** Vital pollinator populations may continue to decline, along with ecosystem resiliency.
7. **Is this service already provided by another entity?** There are many individuals and entities already concerned with pollinator health, but coordinated efforts in outreach and education, habitat enhancement, connection of green spaces, and following best practices in pesticide application can significantly improve the overall health of pollinator communities.