

BEE SAFE ALLIANCE

Advocates for safe and responsible beekeeping in Los Angeles

C.F.

12-0785

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CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

2015 SEP 11 PM 3:40



TO ALL Neighborhood and Community Councils
RE: Inadequate, Dangerous Bee Ordinance "AS PROPOSED", CIS need to reflect concerns
DATE: September 11, 2015

As you might know or not be aware of, the Bee Ordinance is on a "Rush Track" for Full council vote and is not what was presented to Neighborhood and Community Councils to elicit your support for a "Pilot Program" as most councils submitted CIS support letters. The majority of Councils saw the value of a pilot program in order to address concerns, and gather information before making a citywide ordinance.

This is of great concern for the BEE SAFE Alliance, comprised of a growing number Beekeeping Professionals, Community and Neighborhood Council officers, parents, teachers, and residents.

Currently the Proposed Ordinance:

- ALLOWS Beekeeping with 5 feet of Schools, Churches, Parks, and other Public Spaces
- ALLOWS AGGRESSIVE AFRICANIZED Bees
- DENIES a say or recourse from ALLERGIC Neighbors or Children or those who don't want bees 5' away
- DOES NOT ADDRESS Abandoned Hives
- DOES NOT Regulate the SIZE of a Hive
- DOES NOT Require Education, Insurance, Age Requirements, OR Property Owner be the registrant
- NO REPORTING of hives on public list so Police, Fire, or Medical responders are aware of hives
- NO CITY OVERSIGHT in compliance, management, review, or even application process
- ONLY ALLOWS beekeepers to keep "Non-Native" Honeybees (*apis mellifera*) and excludes native pollinators such as the common BumbleBee, the docile Mason Bee, or *Osmia* which many keep now.

We are encouraging each Council to revisit its CIS previously submitted and compare it to the Proposed Ordinance (attached) and see how it fails to address the concerns of previously submitted CIS and that submissions were not just a "blank check" for the City to approve any faulty legislation affecting public health and safety.

This "rushed" Ordinance which did not have a "Noticed Hearing" as reported by the City Clerk has already been approved by CPC, PLUM, City Council, and is now in City Attorney's office for "form and legality", then City Council will vote for FINAL APPROVAL within as little as a 24 hr notice for Special Meetings, once received back from City Attorney's office.

Please meet with your council and agendaize this issue and provide the attached letters to attendees so an informed decision can be made. If not, NON-ACTIVY is a SAME VOTE AS "FOR" this dangerous Ordinance - As Proposed. A "For, with amendments", or an "Against unless amended" helps tell your Council member to take this Proposed Ordinance off the Fast Track and amend ordinance as necessary. ALSO, a "neutral" or "no position" stand is the same as a "FOR" vote since this is already in motion at this point.

We encourage you to contact us so we might be able to provide you with those familiar with the this ordinance history, and beekeeping professionals who can help you through understanding the inadequacies of the current Ordinance.

Please visit our sponsor's website at www.BeesOfTheCity.org and view a 5 min video published by the RIM REPORT featuring Marcia Rozelle, mother of 2 anaphylactic children, and her dilemma at city hall

Dael Wilcox

Spokesperson
BEE SAFE ALLIANCE

BeeSafeAlliance@gmail.com

**THE PEOPLE OF THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES
DO ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:**

Section 1. Section 12.03 of Article 2 of Chapter 1 of the Los Angeles Municipal Code is amended by adding the definitions of "Apiary", "Backyard Beekeeping", "Bee", and "Hive" in proper alphabetical order to read:

APIARY. The keeping or maintenance of Bees in a collection of Hives or colonies.

BEE. Any stage of the common domestic honey bee (*Apis Mellifera*).

BEEKEEPING, BACKYARD. The keeping or maintenance of an Apiary in a Hive as an accessory use.

HIVE. A structure for the housing of a Bee colony.

Section 2. Subdivision 13 of Subsection A of Section 12.07 of Article 2 of Chapter 1 of the Los Angeles Municipal Code is amended to read as follows:

Backyard Beekeeping, as an accessory use, provided that:

- (a) Applicant is registered as a beekeeper with the County of Los Angeles Agricultural Commission.
- (b) Number of Hives is limited to one for every 2,500 square feet of Lot Area.
- (c) Not located in the required Front Yard of a Lot, including Through Lots.
- (d) Hives are located a minimum of five feet from the Front, Side, and Rear Lot Lines and a minimum of 20 feet from public rights-of-way or private street.
- (e) Hive entrances face away from, or parallel to, the nearest Lot Line adjacent to another Lot.
- (f) A six-foot wall, fence, or hedge located between hives and adjacent lots, or hives are placed at a minimum of eight feet above ground level of the adjacent lot. The purpose of this provision is to provide a solid barrier to help direct bees over six feet above ground level when departing the Lot to minimize interactions between bees and individuals in the vicinity.
- (g) Maintain a viable water source.