



November 30, 2011

CF #12-0785

**Mar Vista  
Community Council**

P.O. Box 66871  
Mar Vista, CA 90066

**Board of Directors  
2011-2012**

**Chair**

Albert Olson  
albert@marvista.org

**1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair**

Sharon Commins  
smcommins@marvista.org

**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair**

Bill Koontz  
billk@marvista.org

**Secretary**

Laura Bodensteiner  
laura@marvista.org

**Treasurer**

Alex Thompson  
alex@marvista.org

**Zone Directors**

**Zone 1**

Babak Nahid

**Zone 2**

Bill Koontz

**Zone 3**

Kate Anderson

**Zone 4**

Tara Mulski

**Zone 5**

Maritza Przekop

**Zone 6**

Marilyn Marble

**At-Large Directors**

Laura Bodensteiner  
Sharon Commins  
Geoffrey Forgione  
Albert Olson  
Chuck Ray  
Bill Scheduling

**Community Director**

Alex Thompson



Certified Neighborhood Council  
August 13, 2002

To Whom it may Concern:

The Mar Vista Community Council recently helped conduct an Urban Beekeeping Feasibility Study.

The Study concludes that there is a strong community interest in supporting beekeeping efforts and that doing so would result in positive changes that permit the healthy growth of honey bee colonies and increase the production and quality of fruits, vegetables and flowers in Mar Vista's organic home gardens while providing a community service as a resource for the removal of feral (wild) hives.

Research indicates that such a program would be cost neutral to the city of LA.

The MVCC Board therefore recommends the implementation of a Beekeeping Pilot Program in to test safety and develop best practices for future expansion.

We urge the City of LA to adopt a policy that includes conditions relating to maintenance, location, registration and notification to assure for the safety of all residents which may result in the continued preservation of quality of life and preservation of single-family residential districts.

Thank you for your consideration,

Sharon Commins,  
Acting Chair  
Mar Vista Community Council



CF# 12-0785

December 20, 2011

RE: Letter of Support for Urban Beekeeping Pilot Program

To Whom It May Concern:

On December 8, 2011, the Del Rey Neighborhood Council (DRNC), a board of elected community leaders chartered by the City of Los Angeles, voted to recommend support of the implementation of an Urban Beekeeping Pilot Program. Based on the outcomes of the Urban Beekeeping Feasibility Study conducted, this council supports urban beekeeping efforts that will result in a positive increase of honey bee colonies while providing a resource for the removal of feral wild hives.

We emphasize to you the deeply shared conviction of our elected council to take into consideration the good faith of our Mar Vista neighbors to reach out to the Del Rey neighboring community prior to finalizing their project.

Feel free to reach us if you should have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eric DeSobe".

Eric DeSobe, President  
Del Rey Neighborhood Council  
edesobe@gmail.com

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Elizabeth Zamora".

Elizabeth Zamora, Vice President  
Del Rey Neighborhood Council  
elizabeth.zamora@gmail.com

cc:

Bill Rosendahl, Councilmember CD 11, City of Los Angeles  
Mike Bonin, Chief of Staff, CD 11, City of Los Angeles  
Whitney Blumenfeld, Planning Deputy, CD 11, City of Los Angeles  
Cecilia Castillo, Field Deputy for Del Rey, CD 11, City of Los Angeles  
Mark Ridley-Thomas, Supervisor Second District, County of Los Angeles  
Dan Rosenfeld, Senior Deputy, Second District, County of Los Angeles

West Los Angeles Neighborhood Council  
Certified by Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment: 2005  
Chairman: Jay Handal



**To:** CD11, Planning Dept.  
**Fr:** Jay Handal, Chair, Board of Directors  
**Date:** Jun. 27, 2012  
**Re:** Resolution: Support for zoning to accommodate urban beekeeping

CF#12-0785

Resolution: The Board voted, 10-1, to support revision to the Zoning Code to allow limited beekeeping in Residential zones.

1. Zoning Code to be clarified to allow two hives in R1 zones.
2. Educational program to be established that will notify residents to relocate hives instead of exterminating them.

Applicant: Chelsea McFarland of HoneyLove (424) 625-8233, Chelsea@HoneyLove.org.

Facts and background:

1. The number of bees has decreased significantly in recent years, due to pesticides, farming techniques and urban development.
2. City's response to hives found on property is to exterminate them.
3. Agriculture, which is California's largest economic activity, depends on bees for pollination of fruits and vegetables.
4. Zoning Code neither explicitly allows nor prohibits beekeeping in Residential zones.
5. Zoning Code allows beekeeping in Agricultural and Industrial zones.
6. Several NCs voted to approve pilot program to allow beekeeping in limited areas (Mar Vista, Del Rey, South Robertson, Griffith Park, Silverlake, Hollywood, Atwater).
7. Several cities in southern California and in the western United States allow for similar urban beekeeping (Santa Monica, San Francisco, Portland, Seattle, Vancouver, Denver, Spokane, Chicago, New York, Atlanta, Toronto).
8. CD11 Rosendahl office introduced a resolution to study the issue.

Findings and justification:

1. Colony Collapse Disorder and large-scale reduction in bees would result in harm to agriculture industry and food sources.
2. Public health threats (stings) are considered low-risk.
3. Urban environments with diverse ecology are conducive to bee health.
4. An option to relocate unwanted hives would be more practical if they were allowed in residential areas. In current structure, all hives are destroyed and bees are killed.

Submitted for your consideration,

Jay Handal, Chair



## Lake Balboa Neighborhood Council

P.O. Box 7720  
Lake Balboa, CA 91409-7720  
Voice-mail/FAX 818-779-9026  
[www.LakeBalboaNC.org](http://www.LakeBalboaNC.org)



Neighborhood Council

August 12, 2012

Council Member Labonge  
Council Member Rosendahl  
Los Angeles City Council  
Los Angeles City Hall  
200 S. Spring St  
LA, CA 90012

Via E-Mail: [councilmember.labonge@lacity.org](mailto:councilmember.labonge@lacity.org)

Via E-Mail: [councilmember.rosendahl@lacity.org](mailto:councilmember.rosendahl@lacity.org)

Re: **URBAN BEEKEEPING INITIATIVE**  
Council File # 12-0785

Councilmembers,

On August 6<sup>th</sup>, 2012, the Lake Balboa Neighborhood Council Board passed the following motion:

The Board of the Lake Balboa Neighborhood Council urges the City of Los Angeles to legalize urban beekeeping in Los Angeles and encourages the City Planning Department to initiate an ordinance that would allow residents to raise their own honeybees, a practice that helps boost struggling honeybee populations and benefits the environment.

The motion was passed by a vote of 9-0.

Thank you for your consideration of our Neighborhood Council's position on this citywide issue.

Sincerely,

Cynthia Weichelt  
President, Lake Balboa Neighborhood Council

CC: Chelsea McFarland

