



WESTSIDE NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
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May 10, 2013

Councilmember Paul Koretz
 200 No. Spring St.
 Los Angeles, CA 90012

CF # 12-0785

Re: Council File 12-0785 Beekeeping in R-1 Zone

Dear Councilmember Koretz:

I am writing on behalf of the Westside Neighborhood Council (WNC) representing approximately 80,000 stakeholders in the Century City, Cheviot Hills and Rancho Park area.

Cees Bailey, a WNC stakeholder, gave a presentation on the importance of permitting Beekeeping in R-1 Zone at our May 9th meeting.

The board feels that the bees population decline is a very serious issue that needs to be addressed. More than two-thirds of the 100 crops providing 90 percent of food worldwide depend on bee pollination. In the United States, bee pollination is involved in producing one-third of the food that Americans eat. California almond growers alone use more than 60% of all managed colonies.

There is also an economical concern. Since 2006, when colony collapse disorder emerged, an estimated 10 million bee hives, worth about \$2 billion, have been lost. During that period, about 30% of colonies have died every year.

There are many factors that have caused the bees decline. The parasitic Varroa mite was cited as a major threat to bee health. Other damaging factors included poor nutrition -- partly because of a lack of good bee forage -- and exposure to pesticides such as neonicotinoids and pyrethroids.

Permitting Beekeeping in R-1 zone will not solve the severe impacts of the declining bee population, but it is an excellent first step to making the public aware of the problem while playing a small part in helping the bees to pollinate and produce honey in a safe environment.

We urge you to join the WNC and the many other Neighborhood Councils and community groups in supporting legalizing Beekeeping in R-1 Zone.

Sincerely,

Terri Tippit

Terri Tippit, Chair

Cc Bees Bailey

BY _____
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