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SILVER LAKE
NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

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Community Since 2003

TELEPHONE: (323) 413-SLNC (7562)
FAX: (323) 661-7564
2658 Griffith Park Blvd #377
Los Angeles, CA 90039

**REQUEST FOR AGENDA ITEM SEEKING
APPROVAL OF FUNDING, PROGRAMS, OR EVENTS**

Date 2/16/2012

Name/Committee: Parks and Green Space Committee

CF # 12-0785

Text of Motion on the Agenda*:

The SLNC joins other Neighborhood Councils including Mar Vista, Del Rey, Greater Griffith Park and South Robertson, in support of the the legalization of urban beekeeping in Los Angeles and urges all City of Los Angeles Council Members to direct the City Planning Department to revise codes to allow residents to keep honeybees as part of an effort to ensure the survival of this vital species.

Describe the event/project in detail. Include as much supplemental information as possible (background information; supporting and opposing viewpoints, if available, etc.) Attach additional sheets as necessary

Honeybees are responsible for pollinating 80% of all food crops, including citrus and other fruit trees in backyards all over Los Angeles. Yet, in recent years, populations of honeybees have been decimated by disease. Urban beekeepers can play an important role in restoring the health of honeybees. If we want food we need honeybees. Currently city codes forbid urban beekeeping outside of agricultural zones. Many cities around the globe, including Santa Monica, New York, Denver and London have recently legalized beekeeping in recognition of the important role urban beekeepers can play in both providing food security and the health of honeybees and other pollinators. (see attached material)

The Mar Vista, Del Rey, Greater Griffith Park and South Robertson Neighborhood Councils have already endorsed the legalization of beekeeping in the city of Los Angeles.

What is the perceived/potential impact on the community if we adopt the motion (pro and con)?

Pro: Increased pollination of backyard fruit trees, a healthier environment and a microbusiness opportunity for Los Angeles residents.

Con: Approximately 2 percent of the population has the susceptibility to anaphylactic shock caused by bee venom which can be life threatening and necessitate emergency treatment.

What is the total budget for the project? How much is the SLNC asked to commit? Are there alternate funding sources? (Please attach itemized budget.)

N/A

What is the timeline for the project? (Be sure to include deadline for Board action, major dates, etc.)

Immediately

From which budget line(s) are the funds to be drawn?

N/A

How will this motion be implemented, and by whom?

The suggested attached letter signed by the SLNC Co-Chairs will be sent to all Council Members by Secretary, and a copy will be provided to Honeylove for their files.

*If motion is approved, please be sure to see the Treasurer to fill out a Demand Warrant so that payment may be issued promptly.

Dear City of Los Angeles Council Members:

The Silver Lake Neighborhood Council supports efforts to legalize beekeeping in the City of Los Angeles. To that end, the SLNC requests that the City Council direct the Planning Department to begin efforts to revise the municipal code to permit beekeeping in all zones.

An urban beekeeping feasibility study recently conducted by the The Mar Vista Community Council concluded 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." Their research also concludes that beekeeping would be cost neutral to the city of Los Angeles. (Please see attached documents)

The SLNC Board therefore recommends that beekeeping should be legalized in Los Angeles.

Thank you for your consideration,