

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