

13-1660

# MOTION

Although bees can sometimes pose a nuisance or a potential threat, it is in the City's best interest to support a healthy bee population. Bees have been reported to be in steep decline and there is great concern because of the important role of bees as pollinators of California's substantial agricultural industry and the local economy.

While the County of Los Angeles is the appropriate governmental agency to respond to concerns regarding unwanted bee colonies, various City Departments respond to nuisance, unwanted or aggressive bees, including: Bureau of Street Services, Urban Forestry Division; Department of Water and Power; Department of Animal Services; Department of Building and Safety; and Recreation and Parks Department.

Private groups, such as Backward Beekeeping, offer bee rescue and relocation services at little or no cost. In addition, the growing interest in urban beekeeping offers a constructive outlet for the relocation of otherwise unwanted bees.

As an example, the City of Austin's website, which provides bee relocation information, could be ported to the City's website to educate the public and advocate for the rescue and relocation of bees as preferable to extermination.

Given the usefulness of bees to California's agricultural industry and the growing popularity of urban beekeeping, the City should implement and promote the humane and non-lethal treatment of bee colonies.

I THEREFORE MOVE the Bureau of Street Services, Urban Forestry Division, with the assistance and cooperation of other affected departments, to report on best practices with respect to the humane, non-lethal treatment of nuisance bee colonies, including rescue and relocation practices, as an alternative to colony extermination, and to promote such alternatives on the Bureau's website and in their published materials.

I FURTHER MOVE that the Bureau of Street Services be instructed to work with the County of Los Angeles to encourage the County's prioritization of humane and non-lethal bee treatment/removal practices.

PRESENTED BY:   
JOSE HUIZAR  
Councilmember, 14th District

SECONDED BY: 

  
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