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# LEGALIZATION

Urban Beekeeping in Los Angeles



# EDUCATE THE COMMUNITY

Build local support!



Community Council Presentation



Outreach & Petition Signatures

# EDUCATE THE COMMUNITY

Why keep bees in the city?

pesticides



forage



local food



local honey



# EDUCATE THE COMMUNITY

Address the fears and ignorance



## Safety

The most common concern about honeybees is bee stings. Honeybees are not aggressive by nature and are unlikely to sting. Only 0.4% of Americans report an allergy to insect stings in the U.S., and almost none of these are caused by honeybees. In addition, less than 1% of the US population is at risk of systemic reaction to stings by honeybees. Severe reactions from the sting of any one insect in a year are 1 in 5,555,556. The chance that someone will be hit by a car is 59.3% higher.

# EDUCATE THE COMMUNITY

The bees are already here!





# GATHER SUPPORT

Contact other cities



LA

Davis, DianeC <DianeC.Davis@seattle.gov>  
To: Chelsea McFarland <chelsea@honeylove.org>

Mon, Aug 22, 2011 at 2:01 PM

Hi Chelsea:

Here are the code provisions concerning beekeeping in Seattle.

We receive very very few complaints about bees or beekeeping in this department. I personally cannot recall any, over the ten years or so that I've been associated with Code Compliance. My colleague, who is a supervisor and before that was an inspector, could remember only one case, 6 or 7 years ago, involving the location of the bee hives up against the neighbor's fence. Once the hives were moved, that case was closed.

In other words, from the point of view of code enforcement, beekeeping has been a non-issue.

Good luck with your efforts in LA.

Sincerely,

**Diane C. Davis**

Code Compliance Manager

City of Seattle

Dept of Planning & Development

# GATHER SUPPORT

Compile the information

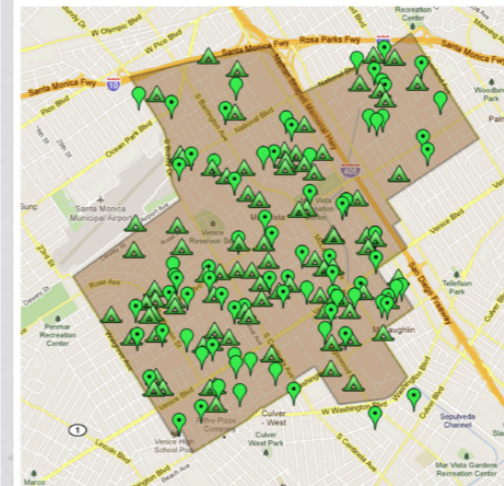
## FEASIBILITY STUDY URBAN BEEKEEPING IN MAR VISTA

MVCC GREEN COMMITTEE  
MVCC COMMUNITY OUTREACH

OCTOBER 26, 2011



### MVCC Stakeholder Survey: Urban Beekeeping Pilot Program TOTAL = 213 (MVCC Stakeholder Responses)



● = Yes / I would like to participate in other ways (volunteer, donate etc.)  
▲ = Yes / I would like to participate in the project as a beekeeper  
▲ = Yes / I support the project, but do not want to participate

**MVCC Yes = 81.2% (173)**

I support the project, but do not want to participate  
 = 51% of Yes (89)  
  
 I would like to participate in the project as a beekeeper  
 = 30% of Yes (51)  
  
 I would like to participate in other ways  
 (volunteer, donate etc.)  
 = 19% of Yes (32)  
  
 I do not want this pilot project in Mar Vista  
 = 0% of Yes (1)



● = No / I do not want this pilot project in Mar Vista  
● = Not Sure / I do not want this pilot project in Mar Vista  
● = Not Sure / I support the project but do not want to participate

**MVCC No = 13.6% (29)**

I do not want this pilot project in Mar Vista  
= 100% of No (29)

**MVCC Not Sure = 5.2% (11)**

I support the project, but do not want to participate  
 = 73% of Not Sure (8)  
  
 I do not want this pilot project in Mar Vista =  
 = 18% of Not Sure (2)  
  
 I would like to participate in other ways  
 (volunteer, donate etc.)  
 = 9% of Not Sure (1)



# GATHER SUPPORT

## Community Council to City Council



**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  
shcommins@marvista.org

**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair**  
Bill Koontz  
bill@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 Fargione  
Albert Olson  
Chuck Ray  
Bill Scheduling

**Community Director**  
Alex Thompson



November 30, 2011

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

### MOTION

The Los Angeles Municipal Code (LAMC) currently disallows "beekeeping" in Single Family residential (R1) zones. The definition of "beekeeping" is to allow for the care and maintenance of bee hives; the managed production of honey bee by-products such as honey and wax; the enhanced pollination of local gardens; the enhanced quality of fruits, vegetables and flowers; and to allow honey bee by-products for on-site consumption in conjunction with existing Truck Gardening practices that already permit the growing of fruits and vegetables in R1 districts.

It is in the interest of the City's residents to promote the growth of healthier honey bee colonies, to harvest honey bee by-products such as honey and wax, to increase pollination of local trees, vines and plants, and to decrease the inhumane removal of honey bees in the City.

**I THEREFORE MOVE** that the Council instruct the Planning Department to prepare a report, in consultation with the Department of Animal Services, relative to the feasibility of allowing beekeeping in R1 zones as a practice to foster a healthier bee population.

PRESENTED BY:

BILL ROSENDAHL  
Councilmember, 11<sup>th</sup> District

SECONDED BY:

Mar Vista Letter

Motion from Councilmember

# GATHER SUPPORT

Get some press!

**Los Angeles Times** | LOCAL

U.S. WORLD BUSINESS SPORTS ENTERTAINMENT HEALTH LIVING TRAVEL OPINION

LA NOW POLITICS CRIME EDUCATION GO. WORKING NEIGHBORHOODS ENVIRONMENT OUTREACH

### Bee fans try to get Los Angeles to allow hives in residential areas

Rob and Chelsea McFarland are on a PR mission for bees. So far, they've gotten the support of 8 L.A. neighborhood councils and city Councilman Bill Rosendahl. Sweet.



Rob and Chelsea McFarland are leading an effort to make beekeeping legal in Los Angeles. They have won the support of Councilman Bill Rosendahl and eight neighborhood councils so far. (Gary Friedman / Los Angeles Times / April 21, 2012)

**AP Associated Press**

### LA abuzz about push for urban beekeeping



McFarland formed a group called HoneyLove.org to advocate for backyard beekeeping. | AP Photo



**BEE FEVER**

Compelled by their love of the hive, the Backwards Beekeepers want to turn Los Angeles into a honey-bee mecca

BY GENDY ALMORING  
PHOTOGRAPHY BY ANNE FISHER

**Los Angeles Times** | LOCAL

### Beekeepers urge L.A. council to allow backyard hives

Comments | Email | Share | 188 | Tweet | 106 | Like | 10 | +1 | 1



A bee sits on the finger of HoneyLove founder and beekeeper Rob McFarland, who keeps a hive on the roof of his DMI Bay Home. (Christina Demargation / Associated Press / January 26, 2014)

HoneyLove on the *Disney Channel* - October 2013



Pass the Plate: Urban Bee Keepers

**ABC News**



**THE CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR**

WORLD | PEOPLE MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Difference Maker

### Chelsea and Rob McFarland lure people into a sweet science: urban beekeeping

Honeybee populations are under attack but the founders of nonprofit HoneyLove believe bees' best future is in cities.

By Daniel B. Wood, Staff Writer | OCTOBER 30, 2014



Rebecca Cabage/Special to The Christian Science Monitor | View Caption

# MAKE IT HAPPEN

KEEP THE HEAT ON

Try Dropbox Business | Honey Love

> LETTERS

Name	Modified	Shared with
ARC_Resolution.pdf	11/4/2013 11:32 AM	--
ArroyoSeco.pdf	8/22/2015 9:52 AM	--
AtwaterVillage.pdf	5/28/2013 7:21 PM	--
BelAirBeverlyCrest.pdf	9/4/2013 8:12 PM	--
BoyleHeights.pdf	8/15/2013 10:36 AM	--
Chatsworth.pdf	8/22/2015 1:57 PM	--
DelRey.pdf	3/3/2013 1:53 PM	--
EagleRock.pdf	8/22/2015 9:52 AM	--
Glassell.pdf	8/22/2015 9:52 AM	--
GreaterGriffithPark.pdf	3/7/2013 5:48 AM	--
HistoricHighlandPark.pdf	9/3/2013 2:12 PM	--
HollywoodUnited.pdf	8/22/2015 1:57 PM	--
Honey bees PLUM letter support.docx	12/5/2013 5:31 PM	--
LakeBalboa.pdf	3/3/2013 12:22 PM	--
MarVista.pdf	5/7/2012 9:37 AM	--
NC_Letters.pdf	8/22/2015 2:15 PM	--
Northridge.pdf	8/22/2015 9:52 AM	--
Palms.pdf	8/22/2015 2:00 PM	--
SanPedro.pdf	8/22/2015 9:52 AM	--
SantaMonica.pdf	4/21/2015 4:25 PM	--

Letters of support from Neighborhood Councils



KFPK 90.7 - Focus on Food



# MAKE IT HAPPEN

## Los Angeles Final Ordinance

ORDINANCE NO. 183920

An ordinance amending Sections 12.03, 12.07, 12.07.01, 12.07.1 and 12.08 of the Los Angeles Municipal Code to establish new regulations for backyard beekeeping on single-family residential zoned properties (RA, RE, RS, R1).

**THE PEOPLE OF THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES  
DO ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:**

Section 1. Section 12.03 of Article 2 of Chapter 1 of the Los Angeles Municipal Code is amended by adding the following definitions in proper alphabetical order to read as follows:

**APIARY.** The place where bees are kept and maintained, usually in a collection of hives or colonies.

**BEE.** Any stage of life of the common domestic honey bee. (*Apis Mellifera*).

**BEEKEEPING, BACKYARD.** The keeping or maintenance of an apiary in a hive as an accessory use.

**HIVE.** A structure that houses a bee colony.

Sec. 2. Subdivision 13 of Subsection A of Section 12.07 of Article 2 of Chapter 1 of the Los Angeles Municipal Code is amended to read as follows:

13. Backyard beekeeping, as an accessory use, provided that:

(a) The person who is the owner of or in possession of an apiary is registered as a beekeeper with the County of Los Angeles Agricultural Commission.

(b) The number of hives is limited to one for every 2,500 square feet of lot area.

(c) Hives are not located in the required front yard of a lot, including through lots.

(d) Hives are located a minimum of five feet from the front, side, and rear lot lines and a minimum of 20 feet from public rights-of-way or private streets.

(e) Hive entrances face away from, or parallel to, the nearest lot line adjacent to another lot.

(f) A six-foot wall, fence, or hedge is located between hives and adjacent lots, or hives are placed at a minimum of eight feet above ground level of the adjacent lot. The purpose of this provision is to provide a solid barrier to help direct bees over six feet above ground level when departing the lot to minimize interactions between bees and individuals in the vicinity.

(g) A water source for bees shall be provided at all times on the property where the bees are kept to discourage bee visitation at swimming pools, hose bibs and other water sources on adjacent public or surrounding property.

Sec. 3. A new Subdivision 10 is added to Subsection A of Section 12.07.01 of Article 2 of Chapter 1 of the Los Angeles Municipal Code to read as follows:

10. Backyard beekeeping, as an accessory use, provided that the activity complies with the performance standards established in Section 12.07 A.13 of this Code.

Sec. 4. A new Subdivision 10 is added to Subsection A of Section 12.07.1 of Article 2 of Chapter 1 of the Los Angeles Municipal Code to read as follows:

10. Backyard beekeeping, as an accessory use, provided that the activity complies with the performance standards established in Section 12.07 A.13 of this Code.

Sec. 5. A new Subdivision 10 is added to Subsection A of Section 12.08 of Article 2 of Chapter 1 of the Los Angeles Municipal Code to read as follows:

10. Backyard beekeeping, as an accessory use, provided that the activity complies with the performance standards established in Section 12.07 A.13 of this Code.

# MAKE IT HAPPEN

## Saving America's Pollinator Act

### RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, any official position of the City of Los Angeles with respect to legislation, rules, regulations, or policies proposed to or pending before a local, state, or federal governmental body or agency must first have been adopted in the form of a Resolution by the City Council with the concurrence of the Mayor; and

WHEREAS, in just the past few years, "colony collapse disorder" (CCD) has been plaguing bees across the country, leading to massive population die-offs. Between the end of 2012 and the end of 2013, U.S. beekeepers lost an average of 45 percent of their colonies, which threatens not only their livelihoods, but the very existence of one of the world's most vital pollinators and, by extension, the long-term security of our food supply; and

WHEREAS, pollination services are a huge component of U.S. agriculture worth \$20-30 billion annually. Bees, in particular, are absolutely necessary for the production of a third of the food produced in North America, including almonds, avocados, cranberries, apples and much more. Bee-pollinated crops provide nearly all of our dietary Vitamin A, Vitamin E and over half of the calcium and fluoride we consume. Additionally, about one-third of iron in our diets is provided by bee-pollinated crops, including fruits and nuts; and

WHEREAS, California's biggest agricultural export, its \$4 billion almond industry, depends on pollinators for the success of the crop which makes up 84 percent of global almond production. Without California's almonds, there would be a tremendous shortage of almonds worldwide; and

WHEREAS, scientists have linked the symptoms of CCD with the abundant use of pesticides, specifically the neonicotinoid class. Exposure to these systemic insecticides over time can lead to sublethal effects like impaired foraging and feeding, weakened immunity to diseases and pests and stunted development; and

WHEREAS, the European Union has enacted a ban on the major neonicotinoids in an effort to protect pollinators. The European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) concluded that neonicotinoids posed a "high acute risk" to pollinators and that more research must be conducted to explore precisely how these chemicals are connected to loss of bee colonies; and

WHEREAS, U.S. Representative John Conyers, Jr.'s "Saving America's Pollinators Act of 2013" (H.R. 2692) would require the EPA to suspend the use of four of the pesticides belonging to the neonicotinoids class (imidacloprid, clothianidin, thiamethoxam, dinotafuran) until their safety can be determined. The bill would also charge the EPA with monitoring bee health and preparing an annual report on the status of bees in the United States;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, with concurrence of the Mayor, that by adoption of this Resolution, the City of Los Angeles hereby includes in its 2013-2014 Federal Legislative Program SPONSORSHIP/SUPPORT for the "Saving America's Pollinators Act of 2013" (H.R. 2692) in order to protect the health of America's pollinators and, by extension, our food supply.



# MAKE IT HAPPEN

Yay Bees!

