

1/21/2012

Dear Councilman,

I live in this community and I keep bees—elsewhere—because of the current ban on beekeeping contained within our municipal code. This code is archaic and no longer reflects the ecological and environmental needs of this community. I would like the bee ban to be removed and replaced with properly written restrictive code.

Bees are an integral part of an urban environment—and they are here already—in wild hives! It is just managed bee hives that are not allowed.

There are many benefits to allowing beekeeping in an urban setting:

- Increase in pollination resulting in an increase in plant diversity and food production.
- Increase in plant health and robustness.
- Increase in biodiversity.
- Promotion of local production of honey, beeswax and other hive products.
- Opportunities for education of the public regarding the environmental contribution of pollinators in general, and bees specifically.

There are several concerns that may be brought forth by the citizenry that should be anticipated and addressed with proper code.

- Possible increase in sting incidents.
- Possible increase in swarms.
- Minor costs associated with code enforcement.

Please consider this request. My local and State organizations are also available to provide support and code suggestions if need be.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Beekeeper