



Request for City Council Committee Action from the Department of Regulatory Services

Date: April 3, 2013

To: Council Member Don Samuels, Chair – Public Safety, Civil Rights & Health Committee

Subject: Ordinance amending Title 4, Chapter 74 of the Minneapolis Code of Ordinances relating to Animals and Fowl: Miscellaneous Regulations - permitting the keeping of honeybees in the City of Minneapolis

Recommendation: Approval of the ordinance amendment

Previous Directives: 2009-Or-032: Amended ordinance allowing of honeybees hives

Department Information

Prepared by: Gayle Prest, Sustainability Director; Dan Niziolek, Manager of Minneapolis Animal Care and Control

Approved by:

Jay Stroebel, Interim Director of Regulatory Services

Presenters in Committee: Gayle Prest, Dan Niziolek

Financial Impact

- No financial impact

Community Impact

- City Goals - Eco-focused: Locally grown food available and chosen

Supporting Information

Minneapolis Animal Care and Control and the City Coordinators Office ask the council's consideration of ordinance amendments related to keeping of honeybees (MCO 74.80). The proposed changes will reduce significant hurdles for applicants and improve the environment while ensuring public safety.

Currently the City has 28 bee permits – none on rooftops. Bees on rooftops are common in other cities and provide critical, protected habitat—especially in commercial areas. Bees have a three mile forage distance. In the downtown area this covers a little over 28 square miles and includes all of Lake of the Isles, and portions of Lake Calhoun, Cedar Lake, Brownie Lake, approximately six miles of Mississippi shoreline, extensive city park land such as Loring Park and portions of the University of Minnesota - ensuring ample resources for a

flourishing hive. The Minneapolis Food Council and the Minneapolis Community Environmental Advocacy Commission sent letters in 2012 to Municipal Building Commission encouraging bees on City Hall and others in the City have also expressed interest in rooftop hives.

These few changes are specific targeted to honeybee hives on rooftops above one story. Zoning requirements of at least 20 feet from nearby buildings would remain in effect. University of Minnesota Bee Lab experts were consulted and requirements from other cities were also reviewed. Since honeybees tend to fly upward and then quickly disperse, the proposed amendment would remove consent requirement for bee hives located on roofs higher than one story. The latched fence requirement is replaced with language giving options and still ensuring public safety.