



Request for City Council Committee Action from the Department of

Date: April 6, 2009

To: Council Member Don Samuels, Chair of Public Safety and Regulatory Services Committee

Referral to: Council Member Paul Ostrow, Chair of Ways and Means 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:

Council consider amending Title 4 –

Chapter 74, Miscellaneous Regulations, permitting the keeping of honeybees.

Previous Directives: None

Department Information

Prepared by:

Lori Olson, Deputy Director, Environmental Management and Safety
Dan Niziolek, Manager Minneapolis Animal Care and Control
Joel Fussy, Assistant City Attorney

Approved by:

Burt Osborne, Director Regulatory Services

Lori Olson, Deputy Director Environmental Management and Safety

Presenters in Committee:

Lori Olson, Deputy Director, Environmental Management and Safety
Dan Niziolek, Manager Minneapolis Animal Care and Control
Joel Fussy, Assistant City Attorney

Reviews None

Financial Impact

- Action is within the Business Plan
- Other financial impact – New permit and renewal fees are intended to achieve cost recovery for permits issued and renewed.

Community Impact

- The proposed ordinance language was presented to the new Animal Care and Control Advisory Board for input.

Supporting Information

Minneapolis Animal Care and Control (MACC) was requested by Council to investigate the potential for permitting the keeping of honeybees in the City of Minneapolis.

Over the past 8 months, MACC has researched the topic and spoken with a number of individuals. In particular, University of Minnesota Professor Marla Spivak has provided significant information and feedback on the proposed ordinance. Professor Spivak is nationally recognized for her work with Honeybees. She will be present at the public hearing for questions.

In addition, MACC spoke with Bill Stephenson from St. Paul Animal Control. Currently the keeping of honeybees is permitted in St. Paul. Mr. Stephenson indicated the greatest investment of time is the initial permit, but after that they have seen few issues.

MACC drew upon St. Paul's Beekeeping Ordinance as well as the Model Honey Bee Ordinance from the Minnesota Hobby Bee Keepers Association (www.mnbeekeepers.com).

Specifically, the proposed ordinance language contains:

- Application process similar to that which is required for the keeping of chickens; with the exception that 100% of the immediate neighbors must approve the request.
- Application process includes satisfying an educational requirement prior to receiving a permit.
- Prescribed measures for location, standards of practice, construction, and density. For example: flyway barriers will be required when the hive entrance is less than 25 feet from a property line, hives must be surrounded by barrier, water must be provided, and the grounds surrounding the hive must be kept clean of wax comb or other material.
- Permit holder to indemnify the City of Minneapolis.
- Enforcement provisions.
- New permit fees are intended to achieve cost recovery - \$100 for a new permit and \$50 for renewal of a permit.

MACC believes that through the ordinance requirements and an efficient permit process, the permitting of honey bees should provide a minimal demand on staff. In addition, as with all work performed by MACC, it will be prioritized according to departmental priorities.