

Beekeeping Ordinance

Whereas, honey bees are of benefit to mankind and to Wisconsin in particular, by providing agriculture, fruit, and garden pollination services and by furnishing honey, wax, and other useful products; and

Whereas, the honey bee has been designated as the official Wisconsin insect; and

Whereas, domestic strains of honey bees have been selectively bred for desirable traits, including honey production, tendency not to swarm, and non-aggressive behavior, and,

Whereas, honey bees can be maintained within populated areas in reasonable densities without causing a nuisance if the honey bees are properly located, carefully managed, and maintained:

Now, Therefore, Be It Ordained and Enacted By

The City of Milwaukee

Section 1. That the findings contained in the preamble of this ordinance are hereby adopted as part of this ordinance.

Section 2. That Chapter 78-5.2. of the Code of Ordinances, County of Milwaukee, City of Milwaukee, is hereby amended by a new article No. ____, which reads as follows:

DEFINITIONS

The following words, terms and phrases, when used in this section, shall have meanings ascribed to them in this section:

- (1) "Apiary" shall mean a place where honey bee colonies are kept.
- (2) "Honey Bee" shall mean any life stage of the common domestic honey bee, *Apis Mellifera* species.
- (3) "Colony" shall mean a hive and its equipment and appurtenances, including, honey bees, comb, honey pollen and brood.
- (4) "Hive" shall mean a structure intended for the housing of a honey bee colony.
- (5) "Tract" shall mean a contiguous parcel of land under common ownership.

CERTAIN CONDUCT DECLARED UNLAWFUL

- (a) The purpose of this article is to establish certain requirements of sound beekeeping practices, which are intended to avoid problems that may otherwise be associated with the keeping of honey bees in populated areas

(b) The keeping by any person of honey bee colonies in the municipality not in compliance with this section is prohibited.

HIVE TYPE

All honey bee colonies shall be kept in inspectable type hives with removable combs, which shall be kept in sound and usable condition.

FENCING OF FLYWAYS

In each instance in which any colony is situated within twenty-five (25) feet of a developed public or private property line of the tract upon which the apiary is situated, as measured from the nearest point on the hive to the property line, the beekeeper shall establish and maintain a flyway barrier at least six (6) feet in height consisting of a solid wall, dense vegetation or combination thereof that is parallel to the property line and extending ten (10) feet beyond the colony in each direction so that all honey bees are forced to fly at an elevation of at least six (6) feet above ground level over the property lines in the vicinity of the apiary.

WATER

Each beekeeper shall ensure that a convenient source of water is available at all times to the honey bees so that the honey bees are discouraged from congregating at swimming pools, bibcock, pet water bowls, birdbaths or other water sources where they may cause human, or domestic pet contact.

PROHIBITED

Any honey bee colony not residing in a hive structure intended for beekeeping, or any swarm of honey bees or colony residing in a standard or homemade hive which, by virtue of its condition, has obviously been abandoned by the beekeeper, is unlawful and may be summarily destroyed or removed from the municipality by an appropriate designee, such as WHP member, etc. The beekeeper will have 30 days from the time of the complaint to bring the hive/hives into compliance.

Section 3. That all ordinances or parts of ordinances of the municipality in conflict herewith are expressly repealed.