

To: Benicia City Council
Re: Beekeeping Policy
Reference file: Benicia Municipal Code 6.32.060 Beekeeping

I am asking that you make the legalization of beekeeping in Benicia one of your top priorities.

Bees are an essential part of our food system. According to the USDA, bees are responsible for the production of about a third of our diet. In addition, bees are a boon to local gardeners and urban farmers. As you may be aware, honeybees worldwide are in crisis, falling prey to the mysterious Colony Collapse Disorder at an alarming rate, making beekeeping a serious food security issue.

Urban beekeeping has been gaining widespread attention especially since the President and First Lady of the United States began keeping two hives on the White House lawn and San Francisco, New York, Seattle, Portland, Denver, Chicago and most recently Napa have all taken decisive action and legalized urban beekeeping.

With all that in mind, I strongly urge you to support efforts to develop a new ordinance which will legalize beekeeping within the city.

Thank you for taking the time to consider this globally important issue.

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