

# PROCLAMATION



City and County of Denver

## Proclamation No. 18-0678

### Recognizing the Importance of Protecting and Supporting Pollinators

**WHEREAS**, pollinators of all kinds, including native bees, flies, beetles, birds, butterflies and European honey bees, are a critically important part of our agricultural and food systems, and their pollination of a significant amount of our food supply is extremely important to food production and is valued at \$20 to \$30 billion annually in the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, many of the trees and plants that beautify our landscapes and form key elements of our ecosystems rely on pollinators to propagate and to contribute to ecological services, and

**WHEREAS**, declines in the populations of pollinators, including commercial European honeybees, native bees, butterflies and birds as well as invertebrates in soil and water systems, is of serious concern; and

**WHEREAS**, the improper use of pesticides, changes in land use, and continued land development all contribute to the loss of habitat and food supply for pollinators, and U.S. cities and counties have taken steps to raise awareness of this issue and review their policies and practices; and

**WHEREAS**, scientific studies indicate that the most widely used classes of insecticides may adversely impact beneficial soil invertebrates and avian and aquatic organisms, contaminate water resources and soils, and translocate throughout all parts of plants including the pollen and nectar that is gathered by pollinators; and

**WHEREAS**, natural stressors such as parasites, pathogens (bacterial, viral and fungal diseases), poor nutrition, and habitat loss combined with improper or excessive application of chemical pesticides can endanger pollinators; and

**WHEREAS**, since labeling is not required for some treated plant materials, their introduction into the environment may be unintentional; and

**WHEREAS**, the public has concerns regarding the loss of habitat, development, and other negative environmental impacts, and desires to protect and support pollinators to ensure robust food production and natural ecosystems; and

**WHEREAS**, City of Denver agencies who are tasked with creating and maintaining our parks and open space have committed to using pollinator friendly plants, banned the use of pollinator harming neonicotinoids on all turf and landscape areas, installed pollinator gardens in multiple locations around the city and, and converted at least twenty percent of annual beds to perennials, and native perennials when feasible; and

**WHEREAS**, Denver has distributed pollinator plants during the "Purge the Spurge" program, and the City of Denver Horticultural Program has distributed 1900 milkweed plants over the past three years to benefit monarch butterflies.

### **NOW THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF DENVER:**

**Section 1.** That the Council of the City and County of Denver recognizes June as Pollinator Month and thanks the People and Pollinators Action Network for all their work to elevate awareness and action around pollinator issues.

**Section 2.** That the Clerk of the City and County of Denver shall attest and affix the seal of the City and County of Denver to this proclamation.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL June 18, 2018

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Alvin B. B. B.", written over a horizontal line.

PRESIDENT