

# PROCLAMATION



City and County of Denver

**Proclamation No. CP14-0917  
Encouraging the Establishment of Bee Safe Neighborhoods  
Introduced by Councilwoman Susan Shepherd**

**WHEREAS**, a significant decline in pollinators, including honey bees, native bees, birds and butterflies has occurred in recent decades creating threats to the sustainability of the food system and the health of the environment; and

**WHEREAS**, this loss of pollinator populations stems from complex circumstances including loss of habitat due to modern farming practices and the prevalence of systemic poisons, especially neonicotinoids, that become a part of the plant's pollen and nectar on which pollinators depend; and

**WHEREAS**, recently the plight of the bees has received extensive media coverage, such as a Time magazine cover story, as well as, political attention, including President Obama's June 20, 2014 memorandum Creating a Federal Strategy to Promote the Health of Honey Bees and Other Pollinators; and

**WHEREAS**, preserving healthy populations of pollinators and the genetic diversity of pollinators is necessary to preserve the capacity of the ecosystem to recover from habitat loss and environmental toxins and urban and suburban residential property owners can play a significant role in this preservation by hosting pollinator-friendly, toxin-free ecosystem habitats in their own backyards; and

**WHEREAS**, Living Systems Institute and Honeybee Keep, two organizations working with bees and habitat in the Denver Metro area, have programs to help residents become bee safe and to recognize bee safe neighborhoods (<http://livingsystemsinst.org/content/bee-safe-neighborhoods>); and

**WHEREAS**, three suburban neighborhoods are already on the bee-safe honor roll having demonstrated the feasibility of neighbors coming together to improve pollinator habitats and recognizing that humans also benefit from a toxin free habitat with a variety of flowering and fruiting plants and a full range of species, including predators of "so-called" pest species (<http://livingsystemsinst.org/content/bee-safe-honor-roll>).

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

**Section 1:** That neighborhoods are urged to come together to plan bee-safe and toxin-free landscapes recognizing that as more neighbors join the effort, outcomes will be that much more effective in preserving genetic diversity and healthy pollinator populations.

**Section 2:** That City departments are directed to encourage bee-safe landscapes and to consider the potential impact of residential properties in creating a diverse habitat when writing rules and fulfilling their regulatory duties.

**Section 3:** 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 and that copies be transmitted to the Office of Sustainability, Public Works, and Environmental Health for their continued partnership in conservation and sustainability efforts.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL 2014

\_\_\_\_\_ PRESIDENT

\_\_\_\_\_ SPONSOR