

AGENDA



Recommendation for Council Action

Austin City Council - Commissioners Court Meeting	Item ID	36698	Agenda Number	12.
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Meeting Date:	10/2/2014	Department:	Health and Human Services
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Subject

Approve an ordinance amending City Code Chapter 3-6 related to beekeeping.
Amount and Source of Funding

Fiscal Note

A fiscal note is not required.

Purchasing Language:	
Prior Council Action:	Council approved an ordinance amending City Code Chapter 3-6 to provide for the relocation of wild or abandoned bees that do not threaten human or animal health or interfere with the normal use or enjoyment of public or private property. ORDINANCE NO. 20120322-019.
For More Information:	David B. Lopez, Assistant Director, Environmental Health Services Division, HHSD, 512-978-0303; Sabrina Vidaurri, Supervisor, Environmental Health Services Division, HHSD, 512-443-8416; Elena Shemilina, Agenda Coordinator, HHSD, 512-972-5010.
Boards and Commission Action:	
MBE / WBE:	
Related Items:	

Additional Backup Information

On November 10, 2011 the City Council approved a resolution directing the City Manager to work with the Central Texas Bee Rescue, relevant City departments and community stakeholders to identify the sections in City Code that might result in furthering the decline of honeybees in Austin.

City Health and Human Services Department (HHSD) held a stakeholders' meeting on Wednesday, January 18, 2012 to disseminate and review the Council Resolution and discuss the City's initiative to make removal and relocation of bee colonies and swarms within the City of Austin the priority over destruction, while also ensuring the public's health and safety. Stakeholders included representatives from the local beekeeping community and commercial pest control industry.

HHSD recommends that Sections 3-6-2, 3-6-3 and 3-6-4 of the City Code be amended to promote the Council's objective to maintain the honeybee population within the City and prevent its further decline by removing vague language and update section 3-6-2 with proper title, Chapter 3-6-3 to establish a hive location requirement and 3-6-4 to correct the spelling of apiary.

CONCLUSION: Amendments to Chapter 3-6 will promote the Council's objective to remove vague language, establish a hive location requirement and correct the spelling of apiary while keeping with the objective to maintain the honeybee population within the City of Austin.